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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 14 October 2022

Subject	Page
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	2781
Tennis Queensland Display.....	2781
School Group Tours.....	2781
TABLED PAPER	2781
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	2781
Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control.....	2781
Integrity in Government.....	2782
Women in Leadership.....	2782
Anzac Day Trust, Grants.....	2783
Resources Community Infrastructure Fund, Grants.....	2783
Energy, Investment.....	2784
Education, Equity and Excellence.....	2785
Mental Health Week.....	2785
Coronavirus, Restrictions.....	2786
Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control.....	2786
Tourism and Events Queensland.....	2787
Energy and Jobs Plan.....	2788
African Community Reception.....	2788
Police Resources.....	2789
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	2790
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE	2790
Report.....	2790
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2022 and 16 August 2022.....	
	2790

Table of Contents – Friday, 14 October 2022

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	2790
Report	2790
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament— Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022	2790
STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE	2790
Report	2790
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system.	2790
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	2791
Ambulance Service, Response Times.....	2791
Ambulance Service, Response Times.....	2792
Torres Strait.....	2792
Ambulance Service, Response Times.....	2792
Job Creation	2793
Ambulance Service, Response Times.....	2794
Renewable Energy.....	2794
Ambulance Ramping.....	2795
Education, Equity and Excellence.....	2796
Ambulance Service, Response Times.....	2796
Women and Children, Safety	2797
Health System.....	2798
Energy and Jobs Plan	2798
Tully-Millstream Hydro-Electric Scheme.....	2799
Tourism Industry	2799
Crime and Corruption Commission, High Court	2800
Vulnerable Queenslanders, Support	2800
Trad, Ms J, Legal Costs; Crime and Corruption Commission, High Court Costs	2801
Community Partnership Innovation Grants	2801
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION (COMBATING COERCIVE CONTROL) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2802
Introduction	2802
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.	2802
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes.....	2802
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights.	2802
First Reading	2807
Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	2807
CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2807
Second Reading	2807
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , dated 14 October 2022, titled 'Keen to restore lost trust: New Star CEO's mission'.....	2807
PUBLIC SECTOR BILL	2816
Introduction	2816
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Sector Bill 2022.	2817
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Sector Bill 2022, explanatory notes.....	2817
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Sector Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights.	2817
First Reading	2818
Referral to Economics and Governance Committee.....	2818
INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2819
Message from Governor	2819
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 13 October 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.	2819
Introduction	2819
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.	2819
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes.....	2819
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights.....	2819
First Reading	2820
Referral to Economics and Governance Committee	2820
CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2820
Second Reading	2820
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	2822
Minister for Women.....	2822
Member for Whitsunday; Star Entertainment Group, Fundraiser.....	2822
Domestic and Family Violence	2823
National Week of Deaf People	2824
CFMEU, Labor Party Donations.....	2824
Redlands Housing Strategy.....	2825
Commercial Fishing Industry	2826
Liberal National Party, Integrity.....	2826
Department of Education	2827
Ferry Grove Electorate, Schools.....	2827

Table of Contents – Friday, 14 October 2022

Konnech	2828
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Attorney-General interview—06 October 2022'	
	2828
Ipswich State High School, Achievements	2829
Housing	2829
Frucor Suntory; Energy and Jobs Plan	2830
Housing	2830
Cape York Peninsula, Land	2831
Disaster Preparedness	2832
Mansfield Electorate, Community Events	2832
QPlas	2833
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 10 December 2021, from the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor MP, to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program	
	2833
Townsville University Hospital, Brighter Lives	2833
MENTAL HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE	2834
Report, Motion to Take Note	2834
CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2845
Second Reading	2845
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	2848
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates	2848
MOTIONS	2848
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders	2848
Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business	2848
CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2860
Second Reading	2860
Consideration in Detail	2863
Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to	2863
Clause 4—	2863
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Tim Nicholls's amendments	2863
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Tim Nicholls's amendments	2863
Division: Question put—That the amendments be agreed to	2864
Resolved in the negative	2865
Non-government amendments (Mr Nicholls) negatived	2865
Clause 4, as read, agreed to	2865
Clauses 5 to 8, as read, agreed to	2865
Clause 9—	2865
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendments	2867
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendments	2867
Amendments agreed to	2868
Clause 9, as amended, agreed to	2868
Clause 10—	2868
Amendments agreed to	2868
Clause 10, as amended, agreed to	2868
Clauses 11 to 17, as read, agreed to	2868
Insertion of new clause—	2868
Amendment agreed to	2868
Clauses 18 to 28, as read, agreed to	2868
Insertion of new clause—	2868
Amendment agreed to	2872
Clause 29—	2872
Amendments agreed to	2873
Clause 29, as amended, agreed to	2873
Clause 30, as read, agreed to	2873
Insertion of new clause—	2873
Amendment agreed to	2875
Clauses 31 and 32, as read, agreed to	2875
Clause 33—	2875
Amendments agreed to	2875
Clause 33, as amended, agreed to	2875
Clauses 34 to 116, as read, agreed to	2875
Third Reading	2876
Long Title	2876
RACING INTEGRITY AMENDMENT BILL	2876
Second Reading	2876
ADJOURNMENT	2880
Tallebudgera State School, Parking	2880
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Nonconforming petition titled 'Petition for better parking at Tallebudgera State School'	
	2880

Table of Contents – Friday, 14 October 2022

Resilient Homes Fund; Queensland Floods, IGEM Report.....	2881
Toowoomba South Electorate, Business Disability Awards	2881
DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	2882
Racing Integrity Amendment Bill, Debate.....	2882
ADJOURNMENT	2882
Redcliffe Area Youth Space; Anzac Day Trust Grants Program.....	2882
Seniors Month; Comments by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities	2883
Rockhampton, Racing Facilities.....	2883
Energy and Jobs Plan	2884
Queensland Greens; Logan Hospital, Nurses	2885
Theodore Electorate.....	2885
Greenslopes Electorate, Milestones	2886
ATTENDANCE	2886

FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2022



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Tennis Queensland Display



Mr SPEAKER: As part of the Tennis on the Speaker's Green event on 31 August, Tennis Queensland set up a tennis memorabilia display in the Annexe, in the level 3 concourse. The display reflects the 132-year history of organised tennis in our state. The display includes the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association Gentlemen's Trophy from 1890, the original 1961 Wimbledon draw from one of Rod Laver's many grass court championships and Pat Rafter's 1997 United States Open Trophy. A standout of the collection is a stunning photograph of Wendy Turnbull in full flight—a fine example of her sheer determination both on and off the court. Today is the last day the memorabilia will be on display in the level 3 concourse in the Annexe. I encourage all members who have not yet seen the display to pay a visit today.

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from: Nambour State College in the electorate of Nicklin; St James Primary School, Coorparoo in the electorate of Greenslopes; Nambour State College, in the electorate of Nicklin; and Mudgeeraba State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey)—

[1667](#) Transmax—Annual Report 2021-2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.32 am): Happy Friday to everyone.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Are you happy?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Through the chair and there is no muck-up day.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In May this year our government committed to introducing the most wide-ranging new laws to combat domestic and family violence, specifically targeting and making coercive control a criminal offence. Today we take the first important and significant step towards achieving that. Today we will introduce into parliament the first round of legislative reforms to strengthen Queensland's response to coercive control.

The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce was very clear: we must take the time to get it right. Therefore, the bill to be introduced today lays the foundation for the passage next year of a standalone offence of coercive control. In a moment the Attorney-General will outline the key elements of the legislation to be introduced today, the intent of which is to ensure our laws keep pace with modern technology and the nature of stalking, focus on changing our approach to domestic violence and, foremost, strengthen our systems to ensure the protection of those people most at risk while at the same time holding perpetrators to account.

Today is a historic day in terms of how we address the insidious scourge of domestic violence and coercive control. My government has listened to the hundreds if not thousands of voices of people right throughout our state who want us to do more and act to address this abhorrent and dangerous behaviour. It is a sad fact that coercive control is real and it is happening in our community. Tragically and frighteningly, many women are subject to daily intimidation, control of their lives and control of their every move. Often they are isolated from their families and their friends, and are subject to horrific psychological and emotional manipulation. Unfortunately, that behaviour is the most common factor leading to violence, often leading to homicide. It has to end.

My government's historic and wide-reaching reforms will protect victims. They will penalise offenders. The reforms we are introducing today will strengthen our state's response to coercive control before the introduction of a standalone offence by the end of next year.

Integrity in Government

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): As soon as Professor Peter Coaldrake handed down his public sector review, we went into action. I accepted his recommendations lock, stock and barrel. I set up a task force to implement the Coaldrake recommendations and today I will introduce the first tranche of integrity reform legislation.

The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Public Sector Bill 2022 deliver on my commitment to implement the recommendations from the Coaldrake review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector, Peter Bridgman's report *A fair and responsive public service for all*, as well as Kevin Yearbury's strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions. We commissioned them to enhance the best public sector in Australia. We are implementing them for the same reason.

The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is the first legislation in our reform plan to further strengthen the independence and authority of the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner. Queensland's new Integrity Commissioner is Ms Linda Waugh. Ms Waugh is currently the Merit Protection Commissioner for the Australian Public Service. She has prior experience as the Victorian Assistant Ombudsman and the New South Wales Deputy Ombudsman.

There will be more legislation as we go on, including the most revolutionary change in Australia to release cabinet documents after 30 days and not 30 years. The Public Sector Bill supports a workforce renewal that was envisaged by the Coaldrake report in terms of employment security, respect and inclusion. It implements the Bridgman recommendations for a new modern Public Sector Act so that Queensland has the most responsive, consistent and reliable Public Service possible—a Public Service that is fair, an employer of choice and a leader in public administration.

These two bills will help ensure we continue to have a great Public Service that gives fearless and frank advice. As I said when Professor Coaldrake handed down his report, we embrace it, we are going to implement it and we have hit the ground running.

Women in Leadership

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): I always say, you cannot be what you cannot see. As Premier of this state, I lead a government that is proud to support the achievements of women and girls and champion strong female leaders in an effort to achieve greater gender equality in this state. As I look around, I am surrounded by strong women in this House: ministers, assistant ministers and members of parliament who are all leaders of their communities and who are all inspiring the next generation of girls and women to have ambitions and to achieve their dreams.

Outside of the House we also have some amazing female leaders: Dr Jeannette Young, the 27th Governor of Queensland; the Chief Justice to the Queensland Supreme Court, the Hon. Chief Justice Helen Bowskill; the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the head of our Public Service, Rachel Hunter; and Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll. To have so many women in

so many key positions is a great achievement for our state. For it to be accepted as unremarkable today speaks volumes about how far we have come as a society. This is how it should be. We have also worked hard to get women on boards, smashing our 50 per cent target in 2019 and the figure has remained above that ever since.

I have some further great news on this front. Today I can announce three women into government leadership positions. In recent weeks a lot has been said about our landmark Energy and Jobs Plan and how we are transforming our energy future to a clean green renewable one. Today I am pleased to announce Sarah Zeljko has been appointed as the new Chair of Energy Queensland to help lead that transition. Ms Zeljko's experience across both private and public sectors and her roles in community groups make her an ideal person to lead Energy Queensland. She has previously held roles as general counsel and company secretary for G8 Education, the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal and Cement Australia. I thank the outgoing inaugural chair, Phil Garling, who has held the position since the merger of Energex and Ergon in 2016.

Today I can also announce that Patricia O'Callaghan is the new chief executive officer of Tourism and Events Queensland. Currently Ms O'Callaghan is the CEO of Destination Gold Coast and before that she was the CEO of Townsville Enterprise Ltd. She brings years of experience to the role. She will head up our state's lead tourism marketing organisation and will lead it through the post-COVID-19 tourism landscape, where we are well positioned to cement our reputation as Australia's best holiday destination. I put on the record my thanks to the outgoing CEO, Leanne Coddington, who will step down at the end of the year after nine years as CEO and more than 25 years with TEQ.

The third appointment is a new CEO for Screen Queensland who will continue to lead our industry success. Courtney Gibson brings more than 30 years of industry experience and has worked with commercial and public broadcasters as well as being the chief executive officer at two state screen agencies. Ms Gibson takes over from the outgoing Screen Queensland CEO Kylie Munnich. I would like to thank Ms Munnich for her contribution to the Queensland screen industry over the past three years. I would like to welcome all three esteemed and accomplished women to their roles and look forward to working with them to deliver for Queenslanders.

Anzac Day Trust, Grants

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): Our veterans and their families have made an enormous contribution to Queensland over the decades. They dedicated their lives to keeping Queenslanders safe and secure. We have the largest population of veterans in the country, with 163,000 ex or current service men and women. I am proud that my government will continue to contribute to their health and wellbeing.

In March we opened applications for two Anzac Day Trust grant programs, including for organisations impacted by the pandemic. I am pleased to announce today the recipients of the more than \$1.6 million in grants from those two programs to support over 200 ex-service organisations such as \$35,000 to Australian War Widows Queensland. As they celebrate their 75th anniversary, we will honour those left behind on the inaugural War Widows Day, next Wednesday, at an event I will host along with assistant minister Bart Mellish. Others include: \$23,000 to Legacy Bundaberg; \$100,000 to Legacy Club Brisbane; \$40,000 to Legacy Club Gold Coast; \$100,000 to Mates4Mates; \$40,000 to the RSL in Gympie; \$32,000 for the RSL in Hervey Bay; \$40,000 for the RSL in Redcliffe; \$27,000 for the RSL in Townsville; and \$40,000 for Young Veterans Australia.

The funding will ensure ongoing help to those who have served us so well. Many of the organisations operate on a voluntary basis, and the grants will assist veterans and their families with household and medical expenses and with welfare programs. Queenslanders are proud of their veterans. We must do what we can to ensure they are rewarded for their service. We will ensure their needs are met for them to look forward to a brighter future.

Resources Community Infrastructure Fund, Grants

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.41 am): The Palaszczuk government and the resources sector are giving back to the many local communities who support our state's resources projects. We are partners in the \$100 million Resources Community Infrastructure Fund, with the resources sector contributing \$70 million of that amount. Together, we are going above and beyond to provide community infrastructure for these towns, cities and communities because they go above and beyond for all of us. They are home to the families, workers and service providers who contribute to our resource industries.

I am pleased to announce that \$52.71 million from the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund is now approved for 20 new projects in 15 resources communities. This is the second and final round of project funding from the RCIF. I thank the resources sector for supporting this fantastic success story.

From Biloela in Central Queensland to Mapoon on the cape and west to Mount Isa, round 2 projects will soon be underway. Over \$6.92 million will help build the Royal Flying Doctor Service's new aeromedical base in Mount Isa. It will be located with the new LifeFlight base which will receive \$3.98 million from the RCIF; Collinsville Aerodrome will be upgraded with a contribution of over \$1.81 million; \$4.39 million will be invested in a new early learning childcare facility at Cloncurry; and over \$6.29 million in a new children's services hub at Julia Creek.

There will be aquatic facilities and splash parks too: \$5 million to help upgrade the Springsure Aquatic Centre; \$2.7 million for the Biloela splash park and playground; and over \$996,000 for a Mount Isa aqua play facility. Townsville will gain \$250,000 for a playroom at its Ronald McDonald House, a home away from home for families with seriously ill children receiving medical care. An investment of more than \$5.21 million will help redevelop the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland's Mackay Community Support Centre to facilitate the delivery of integrated housing and support services. I know that the member for Mackay has been a strong advocate for that project. On the cape, more than \$2.89 million will help upgrade the Cullen Point Campground and develop a historical walk of the mission village in the old Mapoon precinct. Weipa will receive \$3.33 million to help create a new youth precinct.

There are many more projects. It is a long list that goes a long way in showing our appreciation to Queensland resources communities. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Energy, Investment

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.44 am): Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan means affordable, reliable emissions-free energy for Queenslanders. It means more skilled, rewarding, secure jobs in traditional and emerging industries, but it means so much more than that as well. Our energy and jobs plan puts Queensland front and centre when it comes to international investment based on renewable energy.

It is something I had the opportunity to see firsthand on my recent Asian trade mission. Through its Townsville smelter, Korea Zinc has been a long-term investor in Queensland manufacturing. It has also been a leading exponent of the renewable energy transition, having built its own 125-megawatt solar farm. Now, through its subsidiary Ark Energy, Korea Zinc is developing the Collinsville Green Energy Hub and is looking for further Queensland investment opportunities in green hydrogen.

I also had the opportunity to talk to Korean Midland Power, Elecseed, Shinhan Bank and other companies about their plans for investing in hydrogen development in Queensland. Hydrogen was also on the agenda when I met with proponents of the CQ-H2 project in Osaka. These Japanese companies are working with our publicly owned generator Stanwell to build a hydrogen technology centre. Japanese company Idemitsu already has a presence in Queensland through its Ensham mine near Emerald. Idemitsu wants to expand its Queensland operations into mining critical new economy minerals and developing battery manufacturing.

The interest in Queensland was also evident at our inaugural investment showcase last Friday. That showcase was the culmination of a series of investment forums we held across Queensland this year as well as meetings I held with investors and potential investors in Asia and North America. The mood among the hundreds gathered at the convention centre was one of profound optimism about the promise and potential that Queensland presents.

Without exception, the 300 businesses and investors present recognised just how important our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is to Queensland's future. Spanish renewable giant Iberdrola highlighted the energy and jobs plan as a factor underpinning its investment decision. Iberdrola has the rights to build a one-gigawatt windfarm north of Hughenden.

It is not just international investors who are feeling confident. One of the companies attending the investor showcase was Brisbane's own Graphene Manufacturing Group. On Monday this week GMG announced a 93 per cent improvement in energy density in its aluminium ion batteries, a key step on the journey to commercialisation. A critical factor in GMG's success has been its ability to build a team of local engineers and scientists originating in the oil, gas, mining and chemicals industries.

The key to our ongoing prosperity is the coming green industrial revolution that will drive us to a carbon-free future. Our government has laid out our road map for our continued investment in the energy infrastructure that will drive that transformation. We have made it crystal clear that we will help facilitate private investment in our state. As we look to the golden decade ahead, Queensland will be increasingly recognised internationally as the place where innovation is invigorated and rewarded.

Education, Equity and Excellence

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.48 am): On Tuesday it was my pleasure to open the Queensland State School Principal Conference 2022. Around 1,400 state school principals and senior education leaders travelled from the Torres Strait, Townsville, Toowoomba—from right across Queensland—for the first in-person conference since 2019. It was an absolutely fantastic event. I want to place on record my thanks to all those involved in making it happen.

At the conference, I announced targeted consultation would begin on our exciting vision for the future of education in Queensland: Equity and Excellence, realising the potential of every student. Equity and Excellence is a vision of a high-performing contemporary education system that is unashamedly focused on learning outcomes and ensures that no child is left behind.

While this has always been our ambition, COVID meant the last few years have required a more reactive approach, focused on logistics, RATs and keeping our students and staff safe. This is an opportunity to refresh and refocus. The Palaszczuk government has always delivered record-breaking investment for our youngest Queenslanders, including \$1 billion to reduce the price of kindy, around \$10 billion into state school infrastructure since 2015—we have air-conditioned every school in Queensland—a game changing resourcing model for students with disability and a \$100 million wellbeing program bringing psychologists and GPs into our schools, to name just a few.

Equity and Excellence is all about building on these achievements and ensuring the best possible opportunities are offered to every single student in every single state school. Proposals include: educational precincts where schools can share resources and collaborate more closely; a virtual academy that beams specialist teaching expertise to even the most remote parts of our state; and the new Educational Futures Institute that elevates the professional development of our school leaders and teachers. Targeted consultation with principals, schools and stakeholders has now begun, and the Equity and Excellence strategy is expected to be finalised ahead of term 1, 2023.

At the conference I also announced the winners of our annual Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools. For more than 20 years these awards have celebrated the excellent teaching, leadership and educational practices occurring in Queensland state schools. The state winners, as well as the regional winners and commendation recipients, share \$166,000 in grants in 2022 to further support their initiatives. If members want to see the winners, they are on the website. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to them all, and thank them for the amazing things they do for our students every single day. I look forward to our vision for equity and excellence in Queensland state schools right across this great state.

Mental Health Week

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): This week is Queensland Mental Health Week. Hundreds of events, activities and conversations are occurring across the state, focusing on the importance of good mental health and wellbeing in leading a fulfilling life. The Palaszczuk government is deeply committed to improving the mental health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

In December 2021 I launched the inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders to understand the demands on our mental health, alcohol and other drug system and most importantly identify ways to enhance how we support people in need. That is why in June this year the Palaszczuk government announced the largest investment this state has ever seen in mental health, alcohol and other drug services—\$1.645 billion and \$28.5 million over the next five years—to enable implementation of the 57 recommendations from the inquiry. Implementation of the recommendations will ensure our mental health, alcohol and other drug service system delivers the right services at the right time to Queenslanders.

Today, I am pleased to launch two plans that articulate how our government will improve Queenslanders' access to equitable and effective mental health, alcohol and other drug support. Queensland Health's new five-year plan for mental health, alcohol and other drug services—

Better Care Together—focuses on building and enhancing state funded services across key priority areas identified through the inquiry, including: \$305 million to support children, adolescents and young people; \$365 million to support adult and older person mental health treatment services and facilities; \$217 million to support people experiencing problematic alcohol and other drug use; \$177 million to prioritise mental health crisis response and suicide prevention services; \$81 million to improve treatment, care and support for new parents and infants; \$63 million to deliver improved services for First Nations peoples; and \$33 million to enhance and expand services for people experiencing eating disorders.

Over the next five years these investments will cover every corner of our community, delivering high-quality, person-centred care, irrelevant of location. It will see the right mix of community and hospital-based services at the right time, and respond to the needs of individuals, their families and communities. More than 1,400 new staff will be required to operationalise the plan. We know that investments of this kind not only impacts those experiencing mental health issues but also their families, friends and loved ones. We are dedicated to making these services available both now and well into the future.

Today, I am also pleased to launch Achieving Balance, our whole-of-government plan for alcohol and other drugs developed by the Queensland Mental Health Commission. The inquiry highlighted for government to work across agencies and sectors to address the determinants of mental health and wellbeing which lie beyond the confines of the health system. Achieving Balance is a subplan of Shifting Minds, the Palaszczuk government's whole-of-government approach to mental health and wellbeing. Achieving Balance sets out a whole-of-government approach to guide Queensland's efforts and commitment to reducing and preventing the individual, family, social and economic impacts of problematic alcohol and other drug use. This is a critical moment in our state's mental health journey. I know the decisions and investments we are making now will help not only people today but also future generations.

Coronavirus, Restrictions

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): I advise that Queensland has, as of today, implemented National Cabinet's decision to remove the mandatory isolation period for COVID-positive individuals. This decision was based on the advice of the Commonwealth Chief Health Officer and marks a new phase of our management of the pandemic. With 90 COVID-19 inpatients across our hospital system today—down from a high of over 1,000 in July—now is the right time to take this step.

Queensland Health and the Chief Health Officer have advised that, rather than isolation being mandatory, it is now recommended if people are COVID-positive they remain at home until they no longer have any acute respiratory symptoms such as cough, breathing difficulty, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion or other symptoms like fatigue, nausea or fever, and if they are in a high-risk group they consult their GP for specialised advice and access to antiviral treatment if appropriate.

If people are COVID-19 positive but are well enough to re-enter the community it is recommended that they wear a mask indoors for seven days from when they received their positive test or until they are no longer symptomatic and that they do not visit an aged-care or disability facility or hospital. Remember, if people are sick they should still ensure they are testing themselves and registering that test. Queenslanders have done an exceptional job in protecting themselves and our community against this virus. I am sure we will continue this excellent work in the next phase of this pandemic.

Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.56 am): Today marks a significant milestone for Queensland and for women's safety. Today, I will introduce the first round of legislative reforms to come out of the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's *Hear her voice* report. These reforms will strengthen Queensland's response to coercive control before the introduction of a standalone criminal offence next year.

The task force made it very clear that system-wide reform was needed before any new coercive control offence came into effect. The bill to be introduced today is the first step in this system-wide reform. It will broaden the definition of domestic and family violence to refer to a pattern of behaviour. This is about shifting our approach to domestic violence to focus on the dangerous patterns of abusive behaviour that occur over time, rather than single incidents of violence.

It also proposes amendments to modernise and strengthen the definition of unlawful stalking in the Criminal Code to include intimidation, harassment or abuse. This is aimed at better capturing the way that modern technology is being used to control and harass victims. These reforms will further strengthen the court's consideration of previous domestic violence history and the court's response to cross application for protection orders. We have to make sure that it is the person most in need that we protect. The bill also includes amendments to the Criminal Code to modernise outdated terms which have been in place since 1899, including carnal knowledge and maintaining a sexual relationship with a child. We must ensure that the language of our laws do not trivialise or soften what are reprehensible actions.

These reforms come at a significant time. October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month and it is an opportunity for all Queenslanders to take a stand against sexual violence. Despite the devastating impact that sexual assault can have on a victim's life, it remains often a taboo, recklessly misunderstood topic. I have long championed this government's history of taking proactive steps to end the cycles of disrespect and inequality which drive sexual, domestic and family violence, and the legislation being introduced today is one more of those steps.

I want to thank the task force, and in particular the Hon. Margaret McMurdo, for all the work in this incredibly important space. I also want to thank the hundreds of women who made submissions to the task force. These reforms could not have happened without their bravery.

Finally, I want to thank all of the advocates who have been pushing for these changes. I want to pay tribute to Sue and Lloyd Clarke and the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation and women like Grace Tame who have been pushing for changes to criminal codes all around the country. Thank you and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you as we move to the next stages of these important reforms.

Tourism and Events Queensland

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (9.59 am): Mr Premier—sorry, Mr Speaker—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: As much fun as this is, order, members!

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, as the Premier has announced, the state's lead visitor experience and events marketing agency Tourism and Events Queensland has a new CEO. I am thrilled that Patricia O'Callaghan has grasped this opportunity at an exciting time for Queensland's domestic tourism recovery.

While there is more work to do on international tourism, we are seeing green shoots of recovery and big opportunities that Ms O'Callaghan has a good track record of delivering. I have worked closely with Trish in her previous role with Townsville Enterprise Ltd and now as CEO of Destination Gold Coast. Trish has been tireless in promoting the Gold Coast and, importantly, understands what makes regional Queensland tourism tick.

I also want to thank current CEO Leanne Coddington for her 25 years of service to tourism. Leanne's expertise has been of tremendous value in navigating the pandemic, and I wish her well in her next chapter.

The Palaszczuk government is backing tourism operators to develop eco-friendly solutions for the visitor economy. It is part of our commitment to renewable energy targets and a climate-positive 2032 games. The \$15 million Tourism Experience Development Fund is helping to fast-track new visitor attractions and enhance existing experiences. Among the 50 projects supported is Far North Queensland's first hybrid electric powered reef catamaran. We are contributing \$200,000 to the \$3.2 million cost of a 24-metre cat for Cairns Premier Reef & Island Tours. Construction supports 14 building jobs in Cairns, 18 operational jobs and \$3.5 million for the visitor economy.

The Tourism Experience Development Fund initiative has funded a quarter of total project costs up to \$200,000 to accelerate bright ideas in the tourism economy. More than 920 jobs and \$104.5 million in benefit for the visitor economy are predicted to be delivered across the 50 projects. Whether it is an underwater audiovisual for whale watching or a more accessible Capricorn Caves, we want Queensland to be a destination of choice for travellers seeking the world's best visitor experiences.

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.02 am): What a week of energy celebration it has been! You could say the atmosphere in here has been electric. The Premier was amped up on how our plan will deliver a new supergrid for Queensland. When the Deputy Premier backed in our manufacturing opportunities, he hit a circuit breaker on our overseas reliance.

Mr Stewart interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: I have more. The Treasurer gave us high-voltage news about General Motors—thank you, Treasurer. The Minister for Education was excited about the bright sparks at Queensland's solar schools—thank you, Minister. The Minister for Transport continued to flick the switches on Queensland's Electric Super Highway.

On this side of the House we all know that our Sunshine State is blessed with incredible natural resources. We know that it is our people—Queenslanders themselves—who are our greatest asset. That is why the first thing we did after launching the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan was to sign the Energy Workers' Charter. The first visit the Premier made was to one of Queensland's publicly owned generators, Stanwell. While the Premier and I were there, we outlined our plan to keep the gates open and invest in our publicly owned power stations. We will do that by converting them to clean energy hubs, keeping our electricity system secure and reliable.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will progressively convert all publicly owned coal-fired power stations into clean energy hubs by 2035. They will provide critical system services to the electricity grid—that can include new generation, storage, firming and renewable hydrogen assets as well. This will be done by reserving backup capacity so that Queensland has the power it needs as the system transforms, repurposing existing infrastructure and reinvesting in new generation.

In more high-voltage news today, I am pleased to announce that our power stations are charging up and our publicly owned generator Stanwell has reached a final investment decision on Queensland's latest large-scale battery project. This battery energy storage system at the Tarong Power Station will be grid connected, providing 150 megawatts for two hours. Critically, this battery will be able to charge and discharge several times each day. It will deliver cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy for Queenslanders.

Stanwell will now finalise contracts with the engineering, procurement and construction provider to build the battery. The project is scheduled to commence operation in mid-2024—more proof of our Premier's commitment to deliver more jobs and create clean, reliable and affordable energy to provide power for generations.

We were recently out at the Tarong West wind farm location with Stanwell announcing the largest publicly owned wind farm in the nation. This is all part of this government's plan to create 64,000 jobs in building the SuperGrid and a further 36,000 jobs across key sectors of the economy by 2040, mostly in regional Queensland.

We are writing a new chapter in Queensland's history. Under this Labor government, we are on our way to becoming a global renewable energy superpower.

African Community Reception

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): The many wonderful African communities that call Queensland home add significantly to our multicultural state. I am proud of and grateful for their significant contribution. There are more than 73,000 Queenslanders who either were born in Africa or have African heritage. I am passionate and deeply committed to promoting the contribution that they make every day to our community in fields including health, research, engineering, business, arts, education and sport.

To highlight this contribution and their rich cultural diversity, the Premier hosted the first ever Premier's African Community Reception at Parliament House with 300 community members this week. It was my privilege and great pleasure to attend and emcee the inaugural event to celebrate and acknowledge the significance of African culture in our multicultural Queensland.

I would like to acknowledge the Queensland African Communities Council's tremendous role in advocating for this event and for their community under the strong leadership of president Beny Bol OAM. Beny's dedication over the years to ensure all Queenslanders of an African background feel

safe, welcomed and valued, to calling out racism and the work yet to be done to address discrimination and disengagement, while honouring the strength and beauty and diversity of African culture, has for me—and I know for many others—been truly inspiring.

At the heart of how well people thrive is how they are supported to settle into the community. Having access to a place where they can connect with others, build trust and feel a sense of belonging is crucial. That is why I was honoured to join QACC last month to launch a new African community centre in Geebung. I know another has also opened in Moorooka, and both complement the African Youth Centre at Redbank Plains.

This unique space will be of great cultural and social significance for many Queenslanders from an African background, especially young people. This centre is already being used as a community hub for people of all ages. Young people are using it as a drop-in centre to relax in a safe place or get homework support after school. Mothers' groups are meeting here to build friendships and share stories about their experiences. Community groups are offering employment support or traditional dance and dialect language classes.

The centre is a perfect example of our shared goal, which is to ensure all community members are supported to connect, contribute and belong. I would like to take this opportunity to also acknowledge beautiful Mama Saba Abrahams who, alongside Beny Bol and the Premier, hosted the parliament's African reception this week. Mama Saba, 2022 Queensland Local Hero, has made a tremendous contribution through her social enterprise Mu'ooz welcoming refugees to the Queensland community.

I would like to also particularly acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Toohay who, alongside the Treasurer, is always a fierce and loyal advocate of the African and multicultural communities. Everyone deserves to feel included, and I am deeply committed to ensuring we achieve this outcome by building a truly inclusive society in Queensland.

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.09 am): The Palaszczuk government will always support the critical work of the Queensland Police Service with more personnel, new facilities, the latest resources and stronger laws. Last week we saw 106 new police officers graduate from the police academy. There are a further 292 recruits in our two academies right now.

Police officers put their lives on the line whenever they respond to highly volatile and dangerous situations, and they should be protected with the latest technology in officer safety. The government will never compromise on its commitment to the police officers of this state when it comes to their safety. Our record \$3 billion police budget supports the rollout of new state-of-the-art police equipment over five years from 1 July 2020 and includes: 12,200 of the newest integrated load-bearing ballistic vests; an additional 5,000 new QLITE tablet devices; an additional 4,500 new body worn cameras; and 250 new police vehicles. I am advised that the 12,200 new and replacement body worn cameras have already been received by the Queensland Police Service warehouse, with the rollout expected to be completed during this financial year. This is two years ahead of the election commitment schedule. I want to commend those in the Queensland Police Service who have been able to facilitate the early rollout of this very important equipment.

In a world-leading initiative, the new state-of-the-art body worn cameras now also have live streaming capability. In addition, this investment means that the Queensland Police Service will remain as a police service with one of the largest body worn camera fleets in the world. This live streaming body worn capability is already being used by police officers right across Queensland. For instance, at a siege situation on Magnetic Island the police negotiator coordinator managed to negotiate a response without having to travel to the island via ferry. The negotiator live streamed into the body worn cameras of first response officers. He was able to observe the demeanour of the subject and was then able to monitor the negotiators and assist as the siege unfolded. The negotiator said that he is a massive fan and will be using the live stream capability from now on. In another example, the district duty officer in Cairns said—

Today I had good reason to use the exceptional capability of the new body worn camera. I viewed multiple live recordings of a barricaded person incident I was about to take over police forward commander duties on. The live recordings gave me amazing situational awareness from the office, including listening to the on-scene DDO conduct briefings. From a DDO perspective, being able to view live from my QLITE is a game changer.

We will always support our police and we are doing so with more resources, more personnel and better facilities.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 25 October 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Report

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (10.13 am): As chair of the Community Support and Services Committee, I lay upon the table of the House report No. 21, 57th Parliament, *Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2022 and 16 August 2022*.

Tabled paper: Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2022 and 16 August 2022 [[1668](#)].

The committee considered seven items of subordinate legislation and was satisfied there were no significant issues regarding policy or lawfulness. I commend the report to the House.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.14 am): As chair the Health and Environment Committee, I lay upon the table of the House report No. 24, 57th Parliament, *Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill*.

Tabled paper: Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament—Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022 [[1669](#)].

The report presents a summary of the Health and Environment Committee's examination of the Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022. During the inquiry the committee heard the views of a range of stakeholders, including people in the healthcare sector. I would like to particularly acknowledge all workers and thank them for their dedication and professionalism in working to keep Queenslanders safe during the pandemic. The committee also noted the recent decision by National Cabinet with regard to ending mandatory isolation, which may impact some elements of the bill. The committee has recommended that the bill be passed. I commend the report to the House.

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.15 am): As chair of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, I lay upon the table of the House report No. 28, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system*.

Tabled paper: State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system [[1670](#)].

The report is the culmination of extensive consultation with the local government sector and months of nonpartisan committee collaborations with stakeholders. I thank all those involved, including the deputy chair and member for Lockyer, my fellow committee members and the committee secretariat for their valuable contributions.

Councillors play a fundamental role in their communities, and Queenslanders expect high standards of behaviour from their elected community leaders. An effective councillor complaints system is vital to maintaining public confidence in local government and building capacity across the sector. With over 35 years of collective local government experience on our committee, we embraced the opportunity to identify solutions to ensure the system is operating as intended. Accordingly, the committee made 40 recommendations to ensure that a simpler, streamlined and effective councillor complaints and conduct system is delivered for all Queenslanders. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Ambulance Service, Response Times

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. A Victoria Cross recipient said that waiting in agony for an ambulance on Tuesday was one of the worst experiences of his life. Does a Queenslanders waiting seven hours for an ambulance shock the minister?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do believe that the question seeks an opinion and I ask that it be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question, Minister, but I will give you latitude in terms of your response.

Mrs D'ATH: In relation to the reports overnight about Mr Keighran, I am glad to hear he is making a speedy recovery and I thank him for the positive feedback he gave regarding the QAS and Queensland Health staff who looked after him. The QAS is the busiest ambulance service in the country. We are one of only two ambulance services providing a free-of-charge service to all Queenslanders.

In relation to Mr Keighran's case, the QAS has advised that while he was waiting for the ambulance a senior paramedic from the QAS clinical hub made contact with him to monitor his condition and a review of his case was carried out by a QAS emergency physician. I am advised that the QAS reviewed the case and advised there were no coding or dispatch issues. I am further advised that when Mr Keighran was presented at the hospital via ambulance he was off stretcher within 30 minutes. I note the comments—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, I have been clear that the minister is providing a response which is answering the question and I would like to hear that answer.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders. I am giving a ruling.

Mrs D'ATH: I remind those opposite that it is the QAS—it is the clinical hub and the operational team—that decide the triage and priority of each and every case, as it should be.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right. Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: I note the comments reported in today's media from the QAS Assistant Commissioner David Harley, who reminded Queenslanders—

... if you call an ambulance because you need it and we deem it an emergency, we'll be there as soon as we can.

The days of putting more paramedics on the road to take more people to hospital are long gone, we need to do things smarter and put patients into the health care sphere more appropriately.

I want to acknowledge that a lot of new initiatives are being put in place at the Queensland Ambulance Service, including the clinical hub, that are seeing many people being diverted away from our emergency departments, including with the mental co-responder model. Despite all of the diversions we are putting in place, the reality is that we have seen a 10 per cent jump in the number of those most urgent code 1 cases and a 15 per cent increase in the most significant code 1A callouts.

I want to remind those opposite that we have delivered more than 1,000 new ambulance officers since coming into government and that at the last election we committed to another 475, which we have already delivered halfway through our term. In contrast, the LNP committed to 320. If they had come into government in 2020, we would have fewer additional paramedics into our system to service the community. We continue to build ambulance stations and invest in new paramedics and, importantly, we also invest in new pathways and diversion so that those who do not need to go to hospital can seek care elsewhere.

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. In June a code 1 or 2 patient in South Brisbane waited more than 23 hours for an ambulance and in North Brisbane a patient waited more than 24 hours. What does the minister say to Queenslanders waiting an entire day for an ambulance to arrive?

Mrs D'ATH: In relation to information we have provided with questions on notice and RTIs, members will see that there are some significant delays in some of these transfers and arrivals of an ambulance. I want to make it clear that some of these relate to interhospital transfers. In some of the worst times we have seen, QAS has advised me that there were floods and other disasters that impacted on those as well. It is really important in relation to identifying those times to realise that there are a number of factors as to why people would be waiting for ambulances. In some cases they are currently in hospital awaiting a transfer to another hospital. I want to put that into context because I know that those on the other side would never, ever seek to put any context or facts around the information they put out in the community.

Torres Strait

Ms LUI: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the cabinet's trip to the Torres Strait and the upcoming cost-of-living summit?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cook for the question. As part of the cabinet and the government that I lead, we take our cabinet out across Queensland. We were due to take the cabinet to the Torres Strait but then COVID happened so we had to delay that. We were very pleased to take the whole cabinet up there, and what a wonderful, warm reception we had. I thank the member for Cook for helping to facilitate that welcome. We met with the mayors and discussed the issues that pertain to the Torres Strait and we were also able to have 57 formal deputations. People were able to come and meet with any minister about any issue. This is once again a fundamental tenet of our government—where we go out there and we listen and then we deliver.

We were able to look at the construction of the Thursday Island Hospital redevelopment, where there is a total investment of more than \$52 million. I joined with the health minister and the member for Cook at that. It is close to completion. We announced a new CT scanner, worth \$2.1 million, which will be an added healthcare benefit for Thursday Island. I also had the opportunity to meet with Betty Mabo. I met her when she was undergoing dialysis, and we have added more dialysis chairs there as well. Once again, we are taking health care closer to where people live. After the whole cabinet travelled up there, I think everyone understands and appreciates the distances that are involved.

We had a formal reception at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre, where 140 community members came along. We also had the great opportunity to visit Tagai State College where our Queensland Academy of Sport was looking for prospective champions. We were very pleased to see two young people already running 11 seconds, and we will definitely be signing them up. I think the Cowboys have their eyes on one of them, and who can blame them.

On a serious note, we do acknowledge that cost of living is expensive not just on Thursday Island but also on the other islands. With that in mind, the member for Cook has asked that we hold a summit on Thursday Island, and I can now confirm to the House that that date will be 7 December. It will be led by the education minister, and Minister Bailey, Minister de Brenni and the Attorney-General will also be attending. It is important to continue the dialogue and look at those very important issues. One of the fundamental issues we want to address is freight charges. If we think cost of living is high down here—and I understand those cost-of-living pressures—it is even higher the more remote you get across our state. Minister Bailey is committed to looking at that.

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. A Sunshine Coast patient waited 68 hours—nearly three full days—for an ambulance. I ask: how is this acceptable in Queensland?

Mrs D'ATH: In response to the question from the member for Kawana and the previous question from the Leader of the Opposition, I can confirm that the questions are in relation to information we have provided in answer to a question on notice around the longest pending cases. Every one of those cases of greater than 20 hours was a transfer between hospitals. They were interfacility—

Mr Bleijie: Tricky. Pathetic.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to withdraw that comment.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mrs D'ATH: I can confirm that all of those, including the 68-hour—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is only one speaker who has the call and that is the Minister for Health. Interjections will cease from both sides.

Mrs D'ATH: I can clarify that all of those were interfacility transfers—

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH:—and at all times while waiting to be transferred the patients were in the care of Queensland Health clinicians. The previous question to me was in relation to one of those waits in June, and it is once again disappointing that I have to remind the opposition what was occurring in June. I know they like to pretend that COVID is over and we did not have any pressures, but that was when we were facing our third wave, which was the highest wave, and we saw significant demand on our hospitals and also our bed capacity.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: Transferring people from one hospital to another requires bed availability, and obviously we were under incredible pressure in June in relation to bed capacity because of COVID.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: I understand that a number of these were actually in regional Queensland.

Job Creation

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Palaszczuk government is securing the jobs of the future for Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Stafford for his question. I know he is as keen to see this Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan implemented as are all of us on this side of the House, because we know the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver lower emissions, it will deliver more renewables, it will increase jobs, it will guarantee the jobs of existing power workers, it will increase jobs in manufacturing, and it will allow us to dig up and export our critical minerals that the world needs for their decarbonisation journey. 95 per cent of the benefits of this \$62 billion plan will go to Queensland's regions, like the massive wind farm we visited on the Tablelands, and the SuperGrid, which will deliver incredible benefits to Townsville and to the north-west.

I was disappointed but perhaps not surprised to see the LNP federal leader out criticising our plan. It is not clear which bit of it the LNP disagrees with, whether it is the lower emissions they do not like, or the more jobs they do not like, or the lower power prices they do not like. This Leader of the Opposition does not want to say anything about it at all, but he is happy to get his federal leader to go out and criticise the plan. Nothing changes with the LNP at a state or federal level. On just about every single issue they are hypocrites.

Speaking of hypocrisy, I have been surprised to see remarks from the member for Clayfield regarding people attending fundraisers at Star casino venues. The member for Clayfield should know that both the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have continued to attend and host cash-for-access fundraisers at Star venues. I have been told both hosted a high-dollar fundraiser at the penthouse of the Darling. When? In June, while the casino inquiry was underway and just days before the donation caps came into effect.

Whether it is on energy, casinos or integrity, those opposite have no credibility whatsoever. They have no integrity on any of these issues. They are complete hypocrites. They continue to attend these cash-for-access events at Star venues during the inquiry, while the member for Clayfield criticises others for doing it years ago. It is an outrage!

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I warn you under the standing orders, for both directing your comments at other members and also not calling members by their correct title.

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Health. Does the Minister for Health accept that Queenslanders are dying while waiting for delayed ambulances?

Mrs D'ATH: I have to say I find that question quite appalling. In making that statement in a question, it is inferring that it is the Ambulance Service which has caused the person to have passed away. The reality is, as the member would appreciate, the work that the Queensland Ambulance Service does and should do is responding to our most critical cases in the community. Part of that job, the very distressing part of that job, is that sometimes people pass away due to a whole range of complex reasons, but they pass away. They pass away before the ambulance arrives, while the paramedics are there, in the back of the ambulances and when they arrive at hospitals.

The Ambulance Service does an amazing job. They do that each and every day. They deal with that trauma and what they have to face. To make that statement and ask that question is implying that the deaths occur because of the delays. Those opposite have tried this before; they have tried to make those links even when reports clearly state that it was not a contributing factor. When the length of time for the arrival of that ambulance was not a contributing factor to that person passing away, they still stood up in the media and said that it was. They still said they caused people's deaths. That is shameful. I find the member's question disgraceful.

Ms Bates: Patients die in their driveways waiting for an ambulance.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba.

Mrs D'ATH: I find the member for Mudgeeraba's interjections disgraceful and I ask that the member withdraw her comments. They are offensive.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Finding the comment disgraceful does not mean it needs to be withdrawn.

Mrs D'ATH: I find it personally offensive.

Mr SPEAKER: It is a broad statement. It was not directed at you personally, Minister, and I find it difficult for you to be personally offended.

Renewable Energy

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Last week Queensland Peter Dutton said, 'What else firms up renewables?' He went on to say, 'And I don't know the answer to that beyond nuclear.' I ask the Treasurer: what else firms up renewables?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Aspley for his question. He is paying close attention to the red-hot commitment by Peter Dutton to nuclear energy in this country. I do not think the answer will be a surprise to the member for Aspley or anyone on this side of the House that the answer is two words—pumped hydro. Pumped hydro firms up renewables. Pumped hydro is a safe, trusted, deep-storage technology and it is one of the cornerstones of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. However, as Queensland LNP MPs Ted O'Brien and Keith Pitt and federal LNP opposition leader Peter Dutton keep pointing out, the LNP have different ideas, and so does cosplay coalminer and part-time LNP senator for Queensland Matt Canavan, who, in the paper just today, called renewable energy 'madness'.

The federal LNP opposition does not have any policies but is absolutely committed to delivering a nuclear power system for Queensland. Ted O'Brien says nuclear power has a 'PR problem'. I am sure the people of Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima agree with him. To address this, Mr O'Brien will be hosting—and he said this publicly and he said this at the forum held by the Australian Financial Review this week—a series of nuclear energy forums across Australia to address nuclear energy's PR problem. Mr O'Brien should hold the first of those forums in his federal electorate of Fairfax. I suggest he should hold it in the state electorate of Maroochydore, at the Coolum Beach Bowls Club, at the Maroola Surf Club or the Pacific Paradise Bowls Club. Surely he could not expect to do it anywhere other than in his own electorate.

I will say one thing for Peter Dutton, and I do not say it often about him, at least he is being up-front with his commitment to nuclear power in Queensland. It is more than we have heard from the members opposite. Now is the time for the member for Maroochydore, the member for Kawana, the member for Buderim, the member for Ninderry and the member for Glass House to explain to their communities how the nuclear power industry will be implemented on the Sunshine Coast and how it will impact on their communities.

Karen Andrews, from the Gold Coast, is backing nuclear energy. It is clear now the state Leader of the Opposition needs to explain, given that Karen Andrews is part of the nuclear chorus, what he will say about nuclear power in Queensland. Will he support our renewable energy and jobs plan, or will he support his federal leader and his LNP state party's commitment to nuclear power in Queensland? What is the choice, Leader of the Opposition? What is your choice—nuclear power or renewable energy? You need to tell the people of Queensland today.

Mr SPEAKER: A reminder, Treasurer, that comments need to be directed through the chair and not at other members.

Ambulance Ramping

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the health minister. While ambulances are ramped at hospitals, Queenslanders are forced to wait during their hour of need. Given the Premier said hospitals are back to full capacity, when will ambulance ramping reach 15 per cent, the level it was when the government came to power?

Mrs D'ATH: I know those opposite have short memories, but there were plenty of ramping stories when they were in government—

Ms Grace: They didn't have COVID.

Mrs D'ATH:—and they did not have to deal with COVID. There was the over 104,000 extra long waits for elective surgery. There was no COVID to explain that. We know of the millions of dollars spent on the wait-time guarantee that did not result in any reduction in wait time.

Ms Grace: What about the waitlist for the waitlist?

Mrs D'ATH: There was the waitlist for the waitlist. They did not have anyone on the surgical waitlist because no-one could get to outpatients in the first place. That is an absolute fact; we know that.

We are continuing to invest in our health services. As I said yesterday—and I might do this a little bit slower for those on the opposite side: health system pressures include COVID but also we have significant population growth including in the regions, we have people not taking up private health insurance, we have private hospitals not providing the services so people still turn to the public system and we have people who should be in disability care or aged care taking up hospital beds. What are we doing? With the number of COVID patients in our hospital systems reducing—

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mrs D'ATH:—if the member would like to listen—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is giving a very instructive response to the question. After your direction and your instruction to members opposite they continue to interject and interrupt in order to disrupt.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order. I will wait for silence. In responding to the point of order I am listening to the response of the minister and I agree it is a response that is answering the question. However, I will ask members to my left to cease interjecting for the benefit of Hansard and for the order of the House.

Mrs D'ATH: As those beds become available with the reduction of COVID patients we are filling those beds with elective surgery patients. In that way we can deal with the backlog that occurred because elective surgery had to be suspended due to the waves of Omicron this year and also the National Cabinet decision to suspend elective surgery back in 2020.

For those opposite to compare the start of 2015 with now shows their absolute ignorance about what has been happening in the last three years. It is just extraordinary but not surprising, because it is the same party that comes in here and runs around the state comparing us to other jurisdictions and making false claims when we are outperforming—

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Warrego, you have asked the question.

Mrs D'ATH:—New South Wales and Victoria when it comes to our patient off-stretcher time. We are outperforming New South Wales and Victoria. We are all seeing pressures—every single state and territory. We will continue to put in place initiatives that will see us improve the pathways into EDs, hospital beds and discharges. We will work with the Commonwealth—and finally we have a

Commonwealth government that wants to work with us in the health sector, aged care and disability. We will continue to work with them. We will continue to invest in beds—our almost \$10 million investment in building extra beds.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Warrego, your interjections were designed to interrupt the minister. I was not going to do the same. You are warned under the standing orders. The member for Mudgeeraba is also warned under the standing orders.

Education, Equity and Excellence

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise the House on the Palaszczuk government's strong vision behind the Equity and Excellence Education Strategy released for consultation this week, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Mansfield. She is a former excellent school principal so I know how passionate she is about educating our young Queenslanders. I was delighted she was able to join me as well as the Assistant Minister for Education at the Principals Conference for this major announcement. I also say I really welcome the input not only from the member for Mansfield and my Assistant Minister for Education, but also other members in this House who have a teaching or a principal background who have had input into our strategy. Their inside knowledge and their expertise is second to none and I really welcome their feedback on what we have produced and what we have now put out for public consultation.

What is really exciting about this plan is that over the last few years we have really built up the foundations so we can now roll out a refocused and a real strategy which is the Equity and Excellence Strategy. We have air-conditioned classrooms. We have built classrooms. We have built new schools. We have health and wellbeing at the centre of school. We have invested in kindy. We invested in the early years. We have health professionals in our schools: GPs, psychologists, mental health professionals. We have set up training programs. We have had to go online for learning. We have learnt what that is like so we can do better and now we are going to benefit from that investment and we can do that because we have learnt—and not just through COVID—to be agile so we can ensure that no child is left behind. We are looking at the allocative model. We have agreements in place where we work with the unions to ensure our teacher aides, cleaners and teachers are all well supported in their workplace. That is something that those opposite were incapable of achieving while in government. All of this does not just happen overnight.

The other beauty about this is that the whole cabinet—this whole side of the House—is 100 per cent behind what we are doing. As well as that we now have a federal government that is also interested in equity and excellence. What a breath of fresh air. I have been education minister for four years and during that time there have been four federal ministers. We could not get anything cemented to improve education for students throughout Queensland. As Minister for Education, I am very proud that this government stands behind our Equity and Excellence Strategy which has educational achievements at its heart. We are recognising the wellbeing and engagement of students in school and placing culture and inclusion at the heart of everything we do. This is a great vision and I look forward to implementing it.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. On 18 September the minister told the media that the QAS was meeting all their response time targets. QAS performance update briefings to the health minister show this is not the case. Can the minister explain the difference between the data and her statement?

Mrs D'ATH: At the time I was commenting on that, I believe the September data was showing we were meeting our 90 per cent target in relation to code 1A. Those on the opposite side have spent all day asking and criticising this government about how we have been responding to the most intense pressures on our health system over the last three years and particularly throughout COVID. I heard the member for Warrego asking questions and comparing their record, saying that their record was great. I point out that an article in January 2014 states—

Lawrence Springborg, Queensland Health Minister says ambulance ramping is still a problem at Hervey Bay Hospital. The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service is responsible for fixing the problem.

Another article in June 2014 states—

Ramping at Cairns Hospital has reached crisis point after the region's only rescue helicopter was grounded for more than an hour last night. Paramedics say the chopper was forced to wait because there were not free beds available.

Another on 18 July 2014 states—

An internal briefing paper has revealed that some patients are being forced to stay in Cairns Hospital for in excess of 300 days whilst waiting for an opening in aged care facilities.

...

Ramping has emerged as a significant issue in recent months. Warren Entsch, Member for Leichhardt says he has approached the Federal Health Minister about a visit.

Mr Dick: He's still there. Warren's still there.

Mrs D'ATH: I suspect he is still waiting for a visit. In September 2012 it was reported: 'Patients left waiting for hours on stretchers. The system has let them down.' In August 2012 a headline read, 'Long delay for treatment leaves patients in agony.' Also in August 2012—

Lawrence Springborg says ramping will continue in Qld Hospitals, even after a ban on bypass starts next year. Springborg also admits that elective surgery has been postponed in some hospitals due to an increase in severe flu cases.

They were suspending elective surgeries due to severe flu cases, not a global health pandemic. It was reported in August 2012, 'Flu stretches hospital resources.' And 'Ramped patients should go to GPs, says minister.' Also in August 2012, speaking about the challenges of trying to reduce ramping—

Mr Springborg said significant numbers of patients arriving at Toowoomba, Maryborough, Gladstone and Bundaberg hospitals would be better off seeing a GP.

(Time expired)

Women and Children, Safety

Ms BOYD: 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 update the House on the work that she is doing to improve Queensland's justice system and keep women and children safe and is the Attorney-General aware of any other approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question. It was wonderful to join her last year as we announced much needed DV safety upgrades to the Pine Rivers Courthouse. It has been almost two years since the last election. We are almost halfway through the term and the Palaszczuk government has been working to improve the lives of Queenslanders each and every day. It has been a very busy two years in this portfolio: implementing the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, modernising our courts and modernising our laws. It has been busy, but that is the job.

Each of us has been elected to this place to legislate, not to play politics, not to grandstand for the cameras, so it is a fair assumption that members of this House would be spending their time working on legislation. After all, that is our job as members of parliament. Yet since the 2020 election, under the leadership of the member for Broadwater, those opposite have not introduced one private members' bill—not one. There have been some pretty lazy oppositions in this place over the last few years, but I think the member for Broadwater takes the cake.

Do not take my word for it. Let us have a look. When the member for Nanango was the opposition leader they managed to introduce eight private members' bills. Even the member for Clayfield managed two—two is better than none at all. If we go back to the member for Surfers Paradise, he had 10 private members' bills. Even the crossbench is putting the member for Broadwater to shame. Between the Katter's and the Greens they have had nine private members' bills. I will be the first to admit that I do not usually heap praise on the member for Clayfield, the member for Nanango and the member for Surfers Paradise, but they actually were doing their job. They were actually doing something.

This Leader of the Opposition is too busy misleading Queenslanders about raids and seizing laptops, not keeping his word about five-year terms for the CCC chair and hosting big business, cash-for-access fundraisers at the Star Casino while there is an independent inquiry happening. Even when we had seven members in opposition under our Premier we had seven private members' bills—one for each MP. We on this side have been talking hard about our fantastic energy plan. I think you might need a copy, member for Broadwater; you need some energy.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I will remind you to direct your comments through the chair.

Health System

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. These are the facts: people waiting days for an ambulance; ramping at 45 per cent; shocking allegations of malpractice at Mackay; Gladstone women unable to have a baby naturally in their home city; and claims that calls for a DNA lab inquiry were politicking. What more will it take for the health minister to be held accountable?

Ms PALASZCZUK: And these are the facts: over 4,000 health workers sacked by the LNP; over 1,800 nurses and midwives sacked by the LNP; over 12,000 public servants sacked; services slashed in regions; healthcare officer numbers slashed in the regions right across this state. These are the facts that those opposite do not want to acknowledge and do not understand had huge implications.

As the health minister said, these are the facts: if those opposite had won the last election there would be less paramedics. These are the facts: there would be less police on our beats. These are the facts: there would be less frontline health workers. These are the facts: this government is investing \$11 billion in the most comprehensive Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. These are the facts: on that side of the House there is no plan, no vision, no accountability, no apology—not one apology for wanting to sell our assets. These are the facts: not one ounce of an apology from those opposite when they accused people of allegedly seizing laptops, calling the public servants goons. Not one apology!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Transport and Main Roads, you will cease waving your laptop around. You are warned under the standing orders. It is not to be used as a prop.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are the facts: in their time they attacked the doctors, tearing up their contracts. The member for Moggill knows all about that. These are the facts: when those opposite were in office they cut funding to Vision Australia. These are the facts: they cut funding to Anglicare Central Queensland; they cut funding to the Australian Red Cross; they cut funding to Diabetes Australia; they cut funding to the Stroke Association of Queensland; they cut funding to Emergency Medicine Australasia; they cut funding to Family Planning Queensland; they cut funding to GP Links Wide Bay; they cut funding to the Toowoomba and District Division of General Practice; they cut funding to the Capricornia Division of General Practice; they cut funding to the General Practice of Queensland; and they cut funding to The Pyjama Foundation. The member for Clayfield was also going to cut funding to BreastScreen Queensland. These are the facts: on this side we will continue to keep Queenslanders safe and we will work hard each and every day.

Energy and Jobs Plan

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister please outline the benefits of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Lytton. I know that she backs the plan to build the Queensland SuperGrid, tackle climate change and grow the Queensland economy. In fact, anyone who accepts climate science, understands energy and supports jobs, backs the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. There has been a chorus of outspoken support for our plan to cut emissions, our new targets and job security guarantee and now we have even heard from the LNP. They have wheeled out their leading spokespeople, the LNP's thought leaders. Let us look at who the LNP has put up as their spokespeople to respond to the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

This week the former member for Callide, Colin Boyce, the LNP's lead spokesperson on climate, revealed his deep understanding of energy by pointing out that the sun goes down at night. Thank you, Mr Boyce. Then they rolled out Senator 'Cosplay' Canavan to argue against renewables. He is the economist who spent literally years arguing with the CSIRO about links between climate change and bushfires. I would not have thought we will see him pushing that theory in places such as Deepwater or Peregrine Beach any time soon. Then they wheeled out Peter Dutton, the man who delivered a net zero plan that did not get to net zero and was based on technology that even they said did not exist. That man had the audacity to criticise our plan and the proven technology of pumped hydro-electricity. They were literally the laughing-stock of the world when it came to energy policy. Before the election they misled voters on the costs of their nine years of inaction. They deliberately left this nation exposed to a despot who is waging an illegal war in Ukraine.

But wait! Then they rolled out the Queensland LNP's lead spokesperson: not the member for Broadwater but the new member for Callide. He was put up as the lead spokesperson to argue that farmers do not back renewable energy. He is the spokesperson for a party whose record is sacking

workers. I have some news for the members opposite. What did farmers say about our plan? They said, 'Canegrowers has welcomed today's announcement.' They also said, 'This is not only good for the environment, it's also good for the energy market.' Come on, how out of touch can the LNP be?

People such as those are speaking because the member for Broadwater is not. Queenslanders have a right to know why the member for Broadwater will not stand up to the conspiracy theorists in his party. Could it be that he does not believe in climate science? Could it be that he cannot manage the denialists in his own party room? Could it be that he does not support the job security guarantee for Queensland workers? Or could it be that he cowers at threats from bullies such as Peter Dutton? Queenslanders deserve to know whether the member for Broadwater will stand up to Boyce—

(Time expired)

Tully-Millstream Hydro-Electric Scheme

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen. The Tully-Millstream Hydro-electric Scheme was an approved project in 1988 and in 2017 a parliamentary motion agreed to proceed with construction. Will the minister prioritise this project, which would provide clean reliable power to over 100,000 homes, instead of persisting with unreliable wind farms that destroy natural habitat?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Hill for the question. I am unsure where to start having just explained how the energy system works. The member points out that renewable energy is important. It is terrific to see the Katter's Australian Party supporting renewable energy here in Queensland. The Greens support renewable energy, I am sure the Independent members of the House support renewable energy and we know that we on this side of the House support renewable energy. However, we also know who does not. It is the Liberal National Party that have resisted the renewable transformation of our state and our nation. The member for Hill talks about the 1980s, which is when the LNP's energy policy comes from. In fact, we have had nine years of inaction.

I have some good news for the member in relation to pumped hydro-electric storage. He talks about a project that he is a fan of from the 1980s. We have announced two of the largest pumped hydro-electric storage schemes in Australia's history. There is the two-gigawatt scheme that I know the member for Gympie is a big supporter of at Lake Borumba and the largest pumped hydro-electric scheme in the world west of Mackay, which is the most significant economic opportunity for North Queensland in this state's history.

You cannot be serious about wind farms and solar farms without storage. That is why we on this side of the House have delivered a comprehensive plan that has had almost universal support from climate scientists, energy sector specialists, the union movement, conservationists, local governments and workers right across the state who are keen to see cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy delivered by this government. It is only a Labor government that will deliver a bright future for Queenslanders with our Energy and Jobs Plan. There are projects right across the state. Since 2015, over 50 large-scale renewable energy projects have been delivered by this government, under the leadership of the Premier, not to mention the significant growth of the green hydrogen industry in Queensland that is delivering job opportunities in places like Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and even the Redlands. We are growing the energy sector here in Queensland and we have given a commitment to deliver 100,000 new jobs.

It is no wonder that investors are knocking down the door of the member for Hill. What global investors see here in Queensland is reliability and a considered and stable policy on energy, which is in stark contrast to the LNP. When they were in office in Queensland we had three years of inaction on renewables. We had a renewable energy drought under those opposite and nine years of inaction and dysfunction from their federal counterparts.

Tourism Industry

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. Can the minister update the House on Queensland's domestic tourism recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question and for his strong support for the Fraser Coast's growing tourism economy. The region is a great example of the great Queensland lifestyle where tourism is delivering more good secure jobs. The Fraser Coast is one of six Queensland tourism regions to achieve record results for domestic overnight visitor expenditure in the year to the

end of June 2022. Tourism Research Australia shows domestic overnight visitor expenditure on the Fraser Coast was up almost 14 per cent to a record \$554 million. Other records for domestic OVE include: Southern Queensland Country up 12 per cent on pre COVID results to \$895 million; Southern Great Barrier Reef, a record \$1.4 billion, up 14.6 per cent; Sunshine Coast, a record \$3 billion, up 8.4 per cent; Far North Queensland, a record \$3.1 billion, up more than 24 per cent; and the Whitsundays, a record \$1.3 billion, up 31 per cent on a three-year trend.

Interstate visitors and Queenslanders have turbocharged the state's tourism industry into national poll position. Queensland leads Australia on domestic OVE with a record \$19.6 billion, which is three per cent higher than New South Wales and 10 per cent better than Victoria. This is more great evidence of the state's domestic visitor economy bouncing back from COVID. During the pandemic, the Palaszczuk government invested more than \$1.1 billion to keep Queensland tourism operators not just on their feet but also prepared for the return and prepared for building back better after the impacts of the pandemic.

We continue to invest in national and global tourism campaigns and we are seeing that reflected in these nation-leading results. We welcome the first bright sparks, the first little element, of international tourism returning to pre-pandemic levels. We are nowhere near it at this point and 2024 is probably when we will get there, but that is important. It is the reason we, as a government, invest in campaigns and in the industry.

In contrast, at the same time as they were cutting from the health budget those opposite slashed \$188 million from the tourism budget. They cut 35 jobs from Tourism and Events Queensland, the state's tourism marketing organisation. The Leader of the Opposition was in the cabinet room when the LNP mortally wounded Queensland's brand and at that point we lost market share to southern states in a severe way. I am so pleased that we are building back better and I am so pleased that the—

(Time expired)

Crime and Corruption Commission, High Court

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. Why does the CCC need to go to the High Court over the Carne matter when the Attorney-General could simply change the laws to allow the CCC to report openly and transparently?

Ms FENTIMAN: The CCC have made it clear that they are going to apply for special leave to the High Court. It is a matter that is before the court and it is not appropriate that I comment further.

Vulnerable Queenslanders, Support

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting vulnerable Queenslanders?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question and her ongoing commitment to supporting people who need support in their time of absolute need. We know that Queenslanders are absolutely renowned for our resilience, whether through floods and other extreme weather events or, obviously, COVID. As we prepare for the next season of extreme weather we know that Queenslanders are preparing for that and preparing their resilience to be able to deal with the issues ahead of us.

We know that that has been pushed over into other areas including housing stress and the ability to stay cohesive as a community. That is why in the last state government budget the Treasurer announced, amongst other things, a \$115.8 million boost to the neighbourhood and community centre sector over four years. This saw an increase to neighbourhood and community centres' annual base operating funding being raised to \$230,000 a year, the biggest uplift in base funding for neighbourhood and community centres we have ever seen in Queensland. That has been incredibly welcomed.

Of course, some of that funding also goes to expand the neighbourhood and community centre worker program, supporting 20 workers in areas of greatest need. There is \$39 million to: redevelop and construct new neighbourhood and community centres—neighbourhood and community centres that play an important role in supporting people who need that extra support when they are vulnerable—and be able to respond to natural disasters, particularly around community recovery.

Of course, we are also doing other work with regards to supporting vulnerable Queenslanders. Since coming to government we have commenced 4,911 and completed 3,998 social and affordable homes across the state. This investment has supported more than 1,020 jobs. These new homes that

we built across Queensland—just in the last 12 months—are in such places as: \$3.9 million for a 12-unit complex completed in Harristown, Toowoomba; a \$3.5 million social housing complex in Brassall delivering homes for up to 12 Queensland households; a \$3.2 million project in Kedron delivering 10 new social housing homes; a \$3.5 million social housing complex in North Mackay delivering 10 new homes; the completion of another 17 new social homes in Cleveland, investing \$5.3 million; a \$6.5 million social housing complex in Kingston delivering homes for up to 16 new households; a \$5.2 million 16-unit complex completed in Nambour; \$4.7 million for a 13-unit social housing complex in Townsville; and the list goes on.

We are delivering more and more social homes. Next week the Premier will be hosting a housing summit. I can announce today—and I know that it has been announced by the federal minister—that the federal housing minister will also be attending that meeting. What a breath of fresh air! Since the new Albanese government came into office we have had two meetings of housing ministers after five years of nothing from the LNP.

Trad, Ms J, Legal Costs; Crime and Corruption Commission, High Court Costs

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney advise the cost today associated with the concealed Jackie Trad CCC report and the estimated cost for the CCC's recently commenced appeal to the High Court to improve transparency and openness in Queensland?

Ms FENTIMAN: As I have said in this House on many occasions, the government will wait until those matters are finalised. If the opposition are so interested in how much things cost, perhaps they should release how much money they raised at the Star Casino while there was an independent inquiry on foot.

Community Partnership Innovation Grants

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

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for Cairns for the question and for the constructive way that he continues to work with stakeholders in his beautiful electorate, his city and his region to address antisocial behaviour on behalf of young people. The member is an incredible advocate and without doubt we talk every single week about that issue and others happening in his beautiful city.

As I travel around the state engaging with local communities about children and young people, about intervening early and diverting young people from antisocial behaviour and offending, I repeatedly hear that communities want to be a part of the solution, that communities are often the first to see a young person disengage—whether it is from education, skills, work, family or community—and that they want their voices, ideas and initiatives heard. Of course, when it comes to preventing and reducing youth offending, individuals, families and communities play a critical role in regard to addressing the behaviours.

That is why this year I was very proud to announce an initiative from my department which enabled us to provide short-term, one-off grants for innovative projects that support communities. Through the Community Partnership Innovation Grants scheme we provided funds of up to \$250,000 for eight projects around the state, all designed by local communities to meet local needs. The first round of funding attracted over 100 applications, a strong indicator that individuals and organisations want to be part of the solution.

As a result of that fantastic response I am delighted to say that our government supported in this year's state budget a second round of Community Partnership Innovation Grants that will open in November. This time grants of up to \$300,000 will be available for individual projects as part of the \$3 million.

These projects will add to the ones already underway from the first round of funding which include: a program in Ipswich to help young people leaving detention to reintegrate into the community; elders or respected community members assisting police to conduct cautions in Brisbane; on country camps in Cairns that support young people who have left detention—and the member for Cairns and I were there just last week—a trial of a youth advocacy and justice intervention program on the Gold Coast—Minister Scanlon and I were there recently—that has demonstrated significant success overseas; a new culturally safe wraparound service for Pasifika young people in Logan—and the

member for Logan and I were there recently—a program designed to combine education and training in Townsville that I am looking forward to visiting soon in regard to dangerous driving; and our local services in Toowoomba providing wraparound supports and interventions, including Pulse Cafe where I met locals recently. Our government will always listen to local communities about the initiatives that they know will work for them.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION (COMBATING COERCIVE CONTROL) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.16 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coroners Act 2003, the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Oaths Act 1867, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [[1671](#)].

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [[1672](#)].

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1673](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The Palaszczuk government is committed to preventing domestic and family violence from occurring in our communities and that is why one of our election commitments was to legislate against coercive control. Coercive control is at the core of domestic and family violence. It is a pattern of deliberate behaviours perpetrated against a person to create a climate of fear, isolation, intimidation and humiliation. It robs an individual of their identity, independence and ability to seek help. All of it can be done without any physical contact.

I am proud that last year we established the independent Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce which brought together experts from various fields related to domestic and family violence led by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo. In its first report *Hear her voice*, the task force examined coercive control and reviewed the need for a specific offence. Many victim survivors described their experience of coercive control as the most harmful aspect of their abusive relationship. As one woman told the task force—

Coercive control is very exhausting, debilitating, emotional, scary and abusive. But it is very hard to explain the abuse that has taken place to an outside person as it makes me sound crazy. It is very hard to live through and heal from.

Over 700 submissions were made to the task force, over 500 of those by brave individuals sharing their lived experience. It is those voices of Queensland women that the Palaszczuk government has heard and acted on. Coercive control can be hard to detect, report and protect from—that is why we have to listen to the person experiencing it.

In introducing this bill, I acknowledge the extensive work undertaken by the task force and I extend my thanks to its members. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated stakeholders who contributed to this important work, some of whom are with us today in the public gallery. Thank you for your guidance in developing this bill, but also for your experience, knowledge and expertise which has informed the recommendations of the task force reports. I also want to acknowledge the incredible advocacy of Sue and Lloyd Clarke. Somehow, through their unimaginable pain of losing Hannah and her three beautiful children, they have been able to keep sharing her story and teaching the community about the dangerous signs of control.

In its first report, the task force found that simply making coercive control a criminal offence is not enough. They made 89 important recommendations for reforming domestic and family violence service and justice systems. While Queensland has made significant progress to reduce domestic and family violence, there is still much to do. These findings and recommendations build upon the government responses to previous landmark reports, including the *Not now, not ever* report.

The Palaszczuk government has indicated its support or support in principle for the recommendations of the task force in their first report and I am pleased that work is well underway to implement those recommendations. Noting the task force's extensive consideration of the justice system and their considerable consultation, the task force's work will function as a review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, as required under section 192 of that act.

The task force recommended that a standalone offence of coercive control be introduced. However, they were very clear that, prior to the introduction of a standalone offence, system-wide reform is necessary to ensure sufficient services and supports are in place across the domestic and family violence service and justice systems. Critical amendments to existing legislation, requiring immediate implementation, were also identified. This reform and critical amendments are required to ensure the coercive control offence will be effective in reducing domestic and family violence and also mitigating any unintended consequences, particularly as they relate to the misidentification of the primary aggressor and the experience of First Nations women and girls. Therefore, consistent with the task force's approach, this bill does not include the new offence of coercive control but sets the scene and lays the foundation.

The bill gives effect to those recommendations which the task force considered critical ahead of the introduction of the criminal offence. The bill implements recommendations 52 to 60 and 63 to 66 of the task force's first report. The bill's amendments to the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 will work towards combating coercive control by strengthening Queensland's current response and by laying the groundwork to criminalise coercive control. The Queensland government has committed to introducing a second stage of legislative reform that will include a coercive control offence by the end of 2023.

The bill also makes amendments unrelated to the task force recommendations to the Criminal Code, the Evidence Act, the Coroners Act 2003, the Oaths Act 1867 and the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009 which improve and update the operation of justice legislation. I will now briefly outline the bill's significant amendments.

The bill amends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 to include a reference to a 'pattern of behaviour' in the definition of domestic violence. Amendments will also make it clear that domestic violence includes behaviour that may occur over a period of time, including individual acts that, when considered cumulatively, are abusive, threatening, coercive or cause fear, and must be considered in the context of the relationship as a whole. These amendments seek to strengthen systems' responses to coercive control, through a shift from focusing on responding to single incidents of violence to focusing on the pattern of abusive behaviour that occurs over time.

Amendments are also made to clarify the intent and process for a court to hear and decide cross applications—to ensure the person most in need of protection is identified and protected. The task force heard that the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act is not operating as intended and cross applications are sometimes used by perpetrators as a means of continuing to control and intimidate victims, resulting in domestic violence orders being made against victims of domestic and family violence. As one victim told the task force—

My ex-husband has dragged me through months of court appearances, and not once been bothered to attend with any legal counsel ... My ex-husband has not shown one shred of proof, yet I have pages of proof on him and his actions.

The use of the courts to further domestic and family violence is not acceptable. The bill addresses this issue by: requiring applications and cross applications to be heard together; requiring the court to consider whether to make arrangements for the safety, protection or wellbeing of the person most in need of protection; requiring the court to identify the person most in need of protection in the context of a relationship as a whole; and only allowing the court to make one order unless there are exceptional circumstances. In response to feedback from domestic and family violence stakeholders, the bill also contains legislative guidance for magistrates to assist in determining the person most in need of protection.

Further, the bill will require the Queensland Police Service to provide a copy of the respondent's criminal history and domestic violence history to the court in all proceedings on private and police initiated applications for a domestic violence order. This will ensure that courts have a full picture of a respondent's criminal and domestic violence history to assess the risk posed to an aggrieved and assist the court in best tailoring conditions that will keep the victim safe. In practice, this means that the respondent's criminal history will outline all convictions of and charges made against the respondent

for a Queensland or interstate offence. The court will also be provided with all Queensland current and expired domestic violence orders and police protection notices between the respondent and any other person as well as interstate orders or New Zealand orders between the respondent and any other person that are in the possession of the Queensland Police Service.

The bill also amends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to allow substituted service, for a document ordinarily required to be served by a police officer, in limited circumstances. Importantly, the task force found that personal service by police should continue unless a substituted method of service would provide increased protection to the victim. In response to feedback from stakeholders, the bill also outlines limited circumstances in which a proceeding may be reopened where an order for substituted service has been made. This is intended to provide a respondent with procedural fairness in circumstances where the respondent genuinely has not been able to access the application despite it being served in an approved manner under a substituted service order.

The bill also makes amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to allow the court to award costs against an applicant if the court decides that the applicant has used the proceedings to intentionally engage in behaviour that is domestic violence.

The bill also amends the Criminal Code to modernise and strengthen the offence of unlawful stalking. Stalking is a well-known risk factor for intimate partner homicide and a significant form of abuse within controlling relationships. The task force heard many stories of perpetrators using electronic surveillance to facilitate their abuse, including social media, spyware and tracking devices. As one woman told the task force—

I was understandably always on edge—I would jump at the smallest sound and be scanning the street for his face every single time I was out in public.

Contrary to community perceptions that stalking only happens after a relationship has ended, for many victim survivors these behaviours occurred whilst they were in a relationship with the perpetrator.

The task force found that the offence of unlawful stalking is being underused by police and prosecutors to charge coercive controlling behaviour, particularly in a domestic violence context. In order to encourage greater use of the offence, the bill renames unlawful stalking as ‘unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse’. The bill also broadens the type of conduct which may be captured by the offence to better reflect the way an offender might use technology to facilitate unlawful conduct. The amendments to unlawful stalking include a new circumstance of aggravation which will apply where there exists or has existed a domestic relationship between the offender and the stalked person, with a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment for the aggravated form of the offence.

The Criminal Code already permits a court to make a restraining order in relation to a charge of unlawful stalking and provides an associated offence for contravening the restraining order. The bill increases the maximum penalty for contravening a restraining order to 120 penalty or three years imprisonment. The maximum penalty further increases to 240 penalty units or five years imprisonment if in the five years before the contravention of the restraining order the person has been convicted of a domestic violence offence.

The increases in these maximum penalties reflect the existing penalties under Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act which apply to contraventions of orders under that act. The duration of restraining orders made in relation to a charge of unlawful stalking is to be five years, as a default period, unless the court is satisfied that the safety of a person in relation to whom the restraining order is made is not compromised by a shorter period.

The task force also found that the offence of stalking uses outdated concepts and language and needs to be modernised to better reflect these contemporary tactics used by offenders. These amendments will help shift the mindset that this offending behaviour is only perpetrated by strangers or at the end of relationship. Importantly, these amendments will also better reflect the way technology can be used to facilitate intimidation, harassment or abuse in cases of cyberbullying and doxing.

Cyberbullying, like other forms of bullying, can cause severe harm to the victim and those around them. That is why the Palaszczuk government has been committed to tackling the prevalence of cyberbullying. In 2018 the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce developed a framework to address cyberbullying and in 2020 the government delivered on all the recommended community and government actions.

These legislative amendments today strengthen our response to cyberbullying and will capture conduct we know to be harmful, such as publishing an individual’s personal information online in a way that is threatening, humiliating or abusive. I want like to commend victim-survivors and families, such

as Mick and Tracey Clayton, the parents of Zaeden Clayton, who have advocated tirelessly for these enhancements. I thank the member for Toowoomba South for facilitating the opportunity for me to meet with the Claytons so I could hear their story firsthand.

Consistent with the task force recommendations, the bill amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to specifically provide that a history of a domestic violence order made or issued against an offender may be considered by a court for the purpose of determining the offender's character. Orders made or issued when the offender was a child will not be able to be used for that purpose. The bill also amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to require a court, when sentencing an offender who is a victim of domestic violence, to treat the effect and extent of the domestic violence as a mitigating factor. The bill makes similar amendments to the Youth Justice Act.

I note that the task force heard significant support for a mitigating sentencing factor from domestic and family violence and other stakeholders. The task force found that perpetrators of coercive control use dominating and oppressive behaviours to restrict their victim's freedom and deprive their autonomy. Victims themselves may commit offences because they violently resist their abuser or because they are manipulated at times into committing an offence. It is important that sentencing courts pay particular regard to these circumstances.

The bill also amends the Evidence Act to give effect to a number of other task force recommendations. Importantly, the bill amends the Evidence Act to include victims of domestic violence offences as protected witnesses. As a protected witness, they will be protected from direct cross-examination by a defendant, rather a lawyer will cross-examine them instead. Under the existing protected witness provisions, if a defendant refuses legal representation then they will lose their right to cross-examine the victim. That consequence for a defendant is preserved with the bill's amendments extending the protected witness provisions to victims of domestic violence offences.

The bill also extends protected witness status in certain circumstances to other witnesses of domestic violence who are not the complainant. The amendments further clarify that the protected witness provisions apply to criminal proceedings for contraventions of a protection order under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act.

The task force said that the prospect of being cross-examined directly by a perpetrator may be so frightening and intimidating for a victim that they may not be able to give their best evidence or may feel they are unable to give evidence altogether. The task force found that this is a form of systems abuse by perpetrators and it should not be allowed to happen. This amendment works to reduce trauma and suffering that may be experienced by a victim-survivor when giving evidence.

The confidence of the community that the courts can protect victim-survivors is vitally important. Section 132B of the Evidence Act allows for relevant evidence of the history of the domestic relationship between a defendant and complainant to be admitted in criminal proceedings. Under the current law, however, that provision only applies to offences in chapters 28 to 30 of the Criminal Code. The bill amends the Evidence Act to remove that restriction and make admissible evidence of domestic violence whether that evidence relates to the defendant, the person against whom the offence was committed, or another person connected with the proceeding.

The bill also amends the Evidence Act to allow for the admission of expert evidence in criminal proceedings about the nature and effects of domestic and family violence, both generally and on a particular person. The bill further amends the Evidence Act so that juries can be given directions by judges that address a number of misconceptions and stereotypes about domestic violence. Some things that the judge may tell a jury under the new Evidence Act provisions include that domestic violence is not limited to physical abuse, that it can consist of separate acts that form part of a pattern even though each in isolation appears minor or trivial, that there is no typical response to domestic violence, that it is not uncommon for victims to stay with an abusive partner or to leave and then return to them, and that it is not uncommon for victims not to go to the police or seek help.

The task force found that juries have difficulty understanding coercive control and domestic violence, and it can be difficult for prosecutors to demonstrate emotional and psychological harm suffered by complainants, and the prosecution might present evidence of acts by the perpetrator which seem innocuous but are actually part of a pattern of controlling behaviour.

The task force also found that myths about domestic violence and coercive control are still be pervasive in the community and that, as such, they may affect juries. To this end, the task force recommended that juries be allowed to hear evidence, including expert evidence, and be given directions from the judge about how domestic violence operates. While the task force noted that expert

evidence has already been led in some cases under the existing law, they received submissions which suggested this was rare. It is not desirable that the onus is on individual lawyers and judges to recognise its relevance and significance.

As I mentioned previously, the bill makes a range of amendments unrelated related to task force recommendations. The Palaszczuk government has listened to victim-survivors regarding the need to reflect contemporary understanding of the nature and impact of sexual violence in offence terminology. That is why the bill includes amendments to update certain sexual offence terminology in the Criminal Code. These amendments are intended to make plain the gravity of the offending and remove any language that may minimise or trivialise this abhorrent offending. It is timely that this bill is introduced to modernise terminology during Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

Former Australian of the Year, Grace Tame, has galvanised community support for removing terms within legislation that normalise child sexual abuse or somehow suggest that a child is a willing participant in their abuse. I would like to acknowledge the survivors of sexual assault who have advocated tirelessly to highlight these issues and their continued push for systemic change.

The Queensland Law Reform Commission also commented in its report reviewing consent law and mistake of fact about the need to modernise the language used in chapter 32 of the Criminal Code by removing the term 'carnal knowledge'. The bill amends the code to replace the term 'carnal knowledge' which currently describes penile intercourse.

Noting that it has been used in the code since its inception in 1899, the term 'carnal knowledge' has been criticised for being archaic, and probably rightly so. The bill therefore replaces 'carnal knowledge' with 'penile intercourse', ascribing the current definition of 'carnal knowledge' to the new term. The amendment intends to make no substantive change to the operation of offences. It is also important to note that in Queensland other forms of sexual penetration not contemplated by the term 'carnal knowledge' are addressed by other offences within the code.

Secondly, the bill changes the title of the section 229B offence title 'Maintaining a sexual relationship with a child' to respond to victim-survivor criticism that the words 'maintaining' and 'relationship' soften or trivialise criminal conduct and suggest an equal and consenting association between the victim and offender. The bill retitles the offence: 'Repeated sexual conduct with a child' which omits references to the concepts of maintaining and relationship.

The new title of 'Repeated child sexual conduct with a child' has been construed carefully to guard against any unintended change to the practical operation of the substantive provision. Care has been taken not to introduce new concepts in the title which could risk narrowing the broad scope of the offence by subtly raising the threshold of what is required to establish the offence. It is absolutely essential that this pivotal offence provision continues to operate in a way that does not jeopardise convictions and justice for victim-survivors.

The bill also makes further amendments to the Evidence Act to expand the standing of a victim or alleged victim of a sexual assault offence so that they can appear at all stages of a sexual assault counselling privilege proceeding. This amendment addresses immediate stakeholder concerns regarding the practical workability of the sexual assault counselling privilege framework.

Amendments in the bill to the Coroners Act will permit the reappointment of the state coroner and deputy state coroner beyond the current limit of two five-year terms. The current maximum five-year duration of an appointment and reappointment will be retained. The amendment is consistent with provisions dealing with appointments and reappointments of equivalent positions in other Australian jurisdictions.

The bill also amends the Oaths Act to address a number of issues that have arisen during the implementation of the Oaths Act amendments in the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021. The amendments clarify the original intention of reforms to ensure efficient conduct of proceedings.

The bill also amends the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009 to support the role of the Public Interest Monitor under the international production order scheme established under the Commonwealth Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979. While the Public Interest Monitor has been given a role under the Commonwealth IPO scheme, corresponding amendments are required to Queensland legislation to ensure the Public Interest Monitor can properly perform this role including, for example, by providing that they are notified of the application for the interception IPO. This is an historic day for Queenslanders. It is an historic day for victim survivors. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.40 am): 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 Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 13 October (see p. 2773), on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Before I call the next member, can I remind members that the members for Nanango, Glass House, Kawana, Broadwater, Mudgeeraba, Warrego and Miller are all on warnings under the standing orders.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.41 am), continuing: The Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill does not address the issue of undue influence on a minister and does not consider the actions of New South Wales and Victoria in establishing a separate casino regulator from the liquor and gaming regulator. The bill's clumsiness continues in its failure to also consider establishing an independent casino regulatory authority with powers currently exercised in Queensland by the minister. The serious allegations against Star Entertainment's operations in both New South Wales and here in our own backyard mean that amendments to gambling regulations have now had to be made in line with the recommendations of the Gotterson review.

I want to refer to today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* and an article by Kathleen Skene titled 'Keen to restore lost trust' about the new Star CEO. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 14 October 2022, titled 'Keen to restore lost trust: New Star CEO's mission' [1674].

This is what we need to see from the new CEO Robbie Cooke, whom I remember as the former managing director of Tatts Group. He has acknowledge the importance of Star and its reputation. He says, 'The issues are confronting and there's no denying the business had lost its way'.

In my electorate of Surfers Paradise Star is a very important employer. There are 8,000 team members based throughout Star. It would be amongst the biggest employers after the council. It is potentially the biggest private employer on the Gold Coast. He mentions the '8,000 members who have done the right thing' and says, 'My priority will be rebuilding the trust and demonstrating a commitment to operate with the highest levels of integrity.' I want to welcome that and stress again the importance of Star to the Gold Coast and Queensland's economy. That does not mean that we can walk away from the failings of the oversight mechanisms that have been administered by the Labor government. Honest Queenslanders deserve casinos that operate honestly. In light of Star needing to prove its ongoing sustainability to continue to hold a casino licence in Queensland, we must be able to ensure that the state's casino industry is free from any hint of misconduct or undue influence.

I will finish as I began. The Attorney bringing in 21 pages of 24 amendments about a review that was asked for and had to be brought in after what was happening in other states shows that this government continues to make it up as they go along. For a business as important as Star, that is just not good enough for the people of Queensland.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.44 am): I rise to support the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the additional amendments the Attorney-General will be introducing during consideration in detail. Like the member for Surfers Paradise, I have a large casino in my electorate in the inner city. McConnel covers the Brisbane CBD. Star is, without a doubt, a large employer. They have fundamentally changed the landscape of the Brisbane inner city with the development of the Queen's

Wharf project. It is a significant employer, a significant business, and at the moment a significant developer in the CBD. We want to ensure—and I know that the Palaszczuk government is very committed to this—that in all of their operations the casinos are safe, responsible and adhere to the high standards of conduct expected of them by the community.

I do not think there is one member in this House who has not been concerned about what we have heard in the various investigations and commissions that have been unveiled in public right around Australia. Let's be very frank: these concerns are obviously about an industry that has not been acting in line with community expectations. We have to ensure that the message is sent to them to refocus, refresh and ensure they do not put profit ahead of good governance and good operations. The revelations we have seen in the public arena highlight the need to urgently enhance regulation around casino operators and increase security and scrutiny.

I join the member for Surfers Paradise in welcoming Robbie Cooke. I knew Robbie when he was head of Tatts Group. I welcome him to the job. It is going to be a job to instill community confidence in the manner in which they operate. When you read about some of the revelations about how they acted, they almost went out of their way to ensure that proper scrutiny could not be implemented by any government or regulator—no-one. When you are determined to fudge things, when you are determined to cover them up, that demonstrates what this bill is all about. This House needs to act quickly and support this bill in order to get it done.

The changes proposed in the bill enhance the regulatory environment. We have to send a clear message. I am sure that Robbie Cooke and the new board will get that message. A lot of these people have gone. They have paid the ultimate price for their lack of governance, failure to meet regulatory standards and, dare I say more importantly, community and government expectations. The regulatory environment will introduce large financial penalties so that a risk analysis is not about 'How much is the penalty, and can we bear that compared to what we are going to get in profits?' That is just not the way this should be looked at. This is obviously the way to go forward. It should not be seen as the ordinary cost of conducting business. If that is the way they are viewing it, then they have to pay that the penalty. The government must ensure that is not the case, so I support that.

Requiring casino operators to self-report breaches is important. If they breach, they have to self-report. If it is found that they have not and they had knowledge, then there are consequences for their actions. That is another clear message. We are not going to be in every part of every area of every casino every single day. You have to self-report, and if you do not and we find out, there are going to be penalties for you. They have to be aware of that.

The changes will also expand the information gathering power of the minister and the chief executive. The proposed changes have gone through the committee and I understand they are supported. We also had the findings of the Gotterson external review into the operations of the Star Entertainment Group. There were 12 recommendations that came out of that review, and this government has been responsive to those 12 recommendations for regulatory reform. The recommendations include imposing a supervision levy on a casino and providing for periodic reviews of a casino licence. The government and cabinet are going to further consider many of those recommendations. The Attorney-General has done an amazing job in filtering all of this, bringing those recommendations to cabinet and briefing us fully on where we need to go forward.

In relation to a number of those 12 recommendations, the government proposes to move priority amendments during consideration in detail. We have heard those opposite bemoaning the fact that those amendments are not going to a committee, but which one of these priority amendments do they not want to support? They cannot have it both ways in this House. One minute, the member for Burleigh or another opposition member criticises the parliamentary committee process by saying, 'The government has the numbers. The committees aren't working. They're broken. They're this, they're that.' We hear that all the time from them, but then in the next breath, when they do not like what is happening, we get someone like the member for Scenic Rim saying, 'The sky is going to fall in. These priority recommendations haven't been going to the committee. Isn't that disturbing? It's so bad. We can't have them coming in without the committee looking at them.' Members opposite cannot have it both ways. They cannot criticise the system on the one hand and say it is broken and that these recommendations need to go to the committee, but then, on the other hand, when they do not like the outcome of the committee, say, 'It's a broken system. It's stacked. Boohoo. We want to take our bat and ball and go home.' It does not work that way.

I support 100 per cent the amendments that are going to be proposed during consideration in detail, and those opposite should be saying exactly the same thing. They provide for the appointment of a special manager fully funded by the relevant casino entities to oversee the operations of a casino,

whether or not the casino licence has been suspended or cancelled. If that is not an urgent priority in the circumstances we find ourselves in under the Gotterson review, I do not know what is. Those opposite want to delay it to have a look at it while we are in the middle of an issue that has been brought forward by an external review.

The next amendment will increase the maximum penalty. It is this whole risk analysis: do we actually implement the recommendation or is paying the fine cheaper? We are going from \$50 million to \$100 million. We are doubling the penalty. Which bit of that do they not like? What does the committee have to ask about that? That is a fundamental change we can do quickly to send a message that we are serious if breaches of regulation occur.

The amendments will also ensure that the state is not fettered in its ability to take regulatory actions in relation to casinos, by providing that no compensation is payable by the state because of regulatory action to regulate casinos. That is an eminently responsible recommendation and a priority amendment that we should be doing. I do not think the people of Queensland want to see a situation where regulations are changed in response to some of the actions of these casinos—not only in Brisbane or on the Gold Coast, but we have seen it in the media around Sydney and Melbourne—and then the states ask for some regulatory compensation because of the amendments we are putting in. They are eminently sensible priority issues, but those opposite generally have nothing and they have nothing when it comes to this.

I support safe cashless gaming. There are often swags of money being put across the table. I have to admit that I like going to a casino, and I have liked going from when I was young. I have supported the casino on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. I do not have time to go as often as I did, but when I was young No. 17 was my lucky number on the roulette. Having a safe, cashless payment is one way that we can modify some of the behaviour that we see.

In all, I agree with the bill before the House and I agree with the amendments contained in the bill. I have a large casino in my electorate and I have a big interest. We all have a big interest to ensure that we instil public confidence, and we all have a big interest to ensure that we get the regulation right. I support the amendment. I commend the committee and I commend the Attorney-General for bringing these amendments to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.54 am): I rise to speak on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This bill was introduced into the parliament on 26 May 2022 and a lot has happened since then. There was particular criticism in the public sphere about the lack of scrutiny of some of the practices that were happening in Queensland. There was like a magic cloak of invisibility, where apparently Queensland was not seeing the outrageous behaviours and abuses in the casino industry and the lack of appropriate scrutiny in holding people to account until some of those examples were exposed, and I give credit to the journalist who did that. There were questions about ties to this government and questions about the lack of integrity in the system here and there was a push to have an inquiry.

The Gotterson inquiry was a step in the right direction, but what sort of inquiry is it when there is no protection for witnesses? What sort of inquiry is it when a raft of major and quite disturbing allegations about abuses in this sector were not investigated because they were not part of the scope of the Gotterson inquiry? They are the sorts of things that ministers opposite do not want to have addressed. They will have an inquiry, but they do not want all of the serious issues that have been raised looked at. Serious issues have been raised about other casinos in Queensland.

When these allegations arose interstate—and Star has been found unfit to hold a casino licence in New South Wales—what was the Queensland government doing? The government were sitting on their hands while some of the people who were allegedly undertaking this behaviour were directing their business north. They were taking advantage of the loopholes and the slack approach to scrutiny that should have been addressed in a more timely way.

Let us talk about the Gotterson inquiry. The recommendations and findings are significant but the terms of reference were limited. As I have mentioned, witnesses did not have protection and, as I understand it, the Gotterson inquiry did not have the power to compel evidence. These are basic requirements if you are going to have a fair dinkum inquiry into the issues that are significant in this industry, not just those that have been addressed so far. Those matters still have to be brought into the light and addressed appropriately, and those who need to be able to speak should have the protection of the law and people should be called to give evidence.

There has been criticism of the fact that 24 clauses and 21 pages of amendments were tabled about half an hour before debate started. I heard the minister who just spoke trying to say, 'Nothing to see here. Things would have been delayed if we had to wait for the scrutiny of the Legal Affairs and

Safety Committee.' Clearly this government has been caught napping in respect of some of the serious issues that have been underway and identified interstate and that have been happening here in Queensland. We are supporting legislation before the House because it is a step in the right direction, but there has not been enough scrutiny on the range of issues that have been progressively identified.

I have also heard a bit of squawking from government ministers about Labor lobbyists and fundraising and Star. Government ministers who have sat within cabinet have been making decisions about licences and the process of awarding contracts with Star, and I think it is a major concern that we still have not seen some of these issues appropriately scrutinised.

As I said, there has not been protection for witnesses when looking into these issues, and the connection of Labor lobbyists in the lead-up to some of these decisions being made continues to be of major concern. Let there be scrutiny. Let there be accountability. Let there be protection for witnesses who need to be able to speak.

I also want to address the fact that this issue is not over. There have been matters raised about the bill in North Queensland. There have been issues raised about other matters that still have to be brought under the scrutiny of a properly constituted inquiry.

In regard to those provisions which are before the House, I note there have been quite a number of pages of amendments since this May legislation was tabled, but these amendments were tabled only a matter of minutes or half an hour before debate began.

The Gotterson review, which was completed on 30 September, saw that report released on 6 October with 12 recommendations in the report. I do recognise that these recommendations are a step in the right direction, but there is still more that needs to be done to ensure fullness and accountability. You cannot say you have fixed a problem if you are not even willing to look, and there are still issues being raised that have not been part of the inquiries. This inquiry that was undertaken was far too narrow in scope. It needed to have the full powers of inquiry to protect witnesses, to compel evidence, to get to the bottom.

This naive view that Queensland was somehow different and that border magically separating us from other states would protect us from this outrageous behaviour where there were abuses and money laundering accusations going on is just incredibly naive. It is time there was a proper inquiry. It is time there was proper scrutiny and an independent review of these processes so that we ensure that there is integrity in this system. It is important that our casino and gambling industries have appropriate oversight, not just laws that sit on the books, but laws that are actually implemented and that there is an assurance that there is accountability at the highest level and an independence in the way that these matters are scrutinised so that compromised decisions or looking the other way does not continue to be the norm in Queensland.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise to contribute to the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill under which Queensland's casino operators will be subject to tougher gambling laws that strengthen compliance requirements, increases penalties and provides for more gambling harm minimisation measures. The reforms in this bill will help to prevent criminal influence and exploitation in casinos. These reforms are considered to be examples of best practice casino regulation and they will ensure Queenslanders can have more confidence in the integrity of our casino laws. As a result of the changes contained in the bill, there will be a significant increase in pecuniary penalties as a disciplinary action. I will come to that in more detail later in my contribution. The bill also includes changes that help provide for a transition to a safer method of cashless gambling.

Moving towards more traceable electronic transactions was also a recommendation of the Finkelstein inquiry into the Crown Casino to prevent money laundering. During the pandemic, we saw the use of cash decline as industries move to non-cash options underscoring the need for timely reforms, such as the measures contained in this bill in that area. The bill will modernise Queensland's gambling legislation to allow new payment methods and systems to be considered for use, provided that they are safe and reliable. It also ensures that we can maintain our strong gambling harm minimisation measures. The amendments in the bill will not only provide the government with the flexibility to consider new and innovative approaches to gambling while ensuring that emergent technology can be subjected to appropriate controls in order to address any potential arising risks.

The reforms in this bill are also based on outcomes of inquiries in other states and jurisdictions. Inquiries and investigations have been undertaken into casinos operated by subsidiaries of Crown Resorts Ltd and the Star Entertainment Group Ltd in multiple jurisdictions. These include the Finkelstein inquiry in Victoria, which I just mentioned, the Bergin inquiry in New South Wales and the Owen inquiry in Western Australia, and all of these inquiries found that casinos do need stronger regulation.

Indeed, given the weight of the evidence that emerged regarding the operations of the Star Sydney and the shared governance and operational arrangements of the Star Group entities more broadly, the Palaszczuk government commissioned an independent expert review which was conducted by the Hon. Robert Gotterson. The finding of this review has been truly shocking, highlighting major failings and concerns that include a deliberate and concerted effort by Star to misrepresent China UnionPay transactions, as relating to hotels when the primary purpose of those transactions was actually for gambling, and that the Star actively encouraged individuals who had been excluded at the direction of the police in New South Wales and Victoria to gamble at their casinos in Queensland. There were also found to be serious deficiencies with the Star's anti-money laundering practices over a number of years, despite expert advice as to how those procedures should have been updated so that they could have been fit for purpose. The Star's responsible gambling program was under-resourced and the Star was not forthcoming or transparent in its dealings with its bankers or the Queensland regulator, and its actions were 'indicative of a one-eyed focus on profit and money'. Truly shocking.

The review made 12 recommendations to enhance the integrity, minimise the potential for harm, ensure probity and restore public confidence in the operation of Queensland casinos. The Queensland government supports the recommendations of the Gotterson review, and that is why the Attorney has brought forward amendments to give effect to them. These amendments include providing for the appointment of a special manager to increase supervision and integrity of operations, enabling the minister to recommend, and the Governor-in-Council to direct, the suspension of a casino lease or management agreement. In addition, through the amendments, we are seeking to raise the maximum penalty that can be imposed on a casino to \$100 million.

It would be nice to think that the LNP would not choose to play politics with this issue, but unfortunately it seems they just cannot help themselves. Their statement of reservation in the committee report for this bill labels the bill 'rushed'. They attempt to justify delaying this law being brought forward by stating in their statement of reservation—

In light of the independent external review being conducted by the Honourable Robert Gotterson AO QC ('the Gotterson Review') which is not due to report to the Government until 30 September 2022 this legislation is premature.

Indeed, many speakers from the LNP on this bill have repeated this concern. I would like to point out that the Attorney, via media release on 26 May, specifically stated—

Further changes to the legislation may be considered at the conclusion of current investigations into The Star Entertainment Group.

That is exactly what has occurred. The Gotterson review has been completed, received, accepted and acted upon through the amendments put forward by the Attorney-General. It would seem that it is clear that the LNP would rather have waited and allowed more time for illegal and unlawful behaviour from casinos to continue for longer despite the overwhelming evidence that has been presented across the nation and here in Queensland. Put simply, rather than act, they would have preferred to have done nothing. Putting this bill forward at the earliest opportunity to strengthen casino laws and regulations was the right thing to do.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: I was interested to learn this morning that the LNP held a fundraiser at the Star casino while the Gotterson review was underway, after this bill had been introduced and after the bill had been referred to the committee. When did the report come down? It was July.

This bill and the reforms that are contained in it will help prevent criminal influence and exploitation in Queensland casinos. They are considered to be examples of best practice nationally when it comes to casino regulation and, most importantly, they will help ensure that Queenslanders can have confidence in the ongoing integrity, operation and regulation of our casinos. I commend this bill to the House. I look forward to the LNP supporting it.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.11 pm): In beginning my contribution to the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 I want to make clear that the Queensland Greens and I welcome any attempts to better regulate this state's casino and gambling industry—no less from the Queensland Labor Party, who are deep in the pockets of the likes of Star and Crown. This bill takes some small but positive steps to address the scourge of casino criminality and corruption in this state.

Any time now both this parliament and the executive officers at 1 William Street will be both metaphorically and literally in the shadow of Star's Queen's Wharf casino. Anyone walking along the river can see the symbolism. This is like a poetic reflection of the reality in Queensland. I very much doubt that the Premier, the Attorney-General and the rest of the Labor Party are not aware of that. The Labor Party's election war chest is regularly stuffed to the brim with donations from the gambling and casino companies that this bill purports to control and regulate.

As the ABC has reported recently, gambling related groups donated over \$2.3 million to Queensland Labor and the LNP in the five years to December 2020. That is more than \$2.3 million straight into the major parties' coffers.

An honourable member: Go and read your bank account.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order, members.

Mr BERKMAN: The interjections do suggest a kind of sensitivity around this, don't they? It is quite extraordinary.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: They are clearly incapable of recognising the difference between an individual who has a value system and a concern that the Greens promote and taking donations directly from the companies that are legally bound to profit at the expense of Queensland.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, I want to hear what the member for Maiwar says. It may be controversial, but I want to hear it. Please respect the member for Maiwar. Otherwise I will start warning members.

Mr BERKMAN: The histrionics tell us all we need to know about Labor's sensitivity on this issue.

During those five years the Australian Hotels Association donated more than \$89,000 to the Queensland Labor Party, ClubsNSW donated more than \$89,000 to the Queensland Labor Party, Tabcorp donated more than \$57,000 to the Queensland Labor Party and Star Entertainment Group—yes, the very Star Entertainment Group that the Gotterson inquiry just declared unfit to hold a casino licence in Queensland—donated more than \$43,000 to the Queensland Labor Party. The LNP took nearly \$80,000 from Star. I could go on, but I am mindful of the time. I am aware that if I started listing all of the donations that gambling corporations made to the opposition we would be here all day.

Star casino, whose misconduct has come into question across the country and who has been deemed unfit to hold a casino licence in Queensland, concealed \$55 million in gambling funds pumped through their Queensland venues by high rollers with triad connections. We are talking about dirty money laundered through a gambling corporation that donated directly to this Queensland Labor government. That is the backdrop for this reform bill. However, the way things have rolled out we might never know the full extent of the links between this government, casino corporations and organised crime because they did not dare to expand the scope of the Gotterson inquiry.

It is, in reality, a toothless inquiry that held only four public hearings and finished hearing submissions within a week, compared to our southern neighbour's inquiry into Star's Sydney casino, which had 36 hearings and 30 witness statements. Here we see yet another example of this Labor government's lip-service: going through the motions of another inquiry without any real power, without any real investigation and without even gathering evidence from the office that regulates gambling in this state. The government refused to expand the inquiry to look at allegations of illegality and criminality in casinos in Townsville and Cairns. The Attorney-General would clearly rather keep her head in the sand than commit to a genuine and thorough investigation of casino corruption across Queensland, whether in the city, on the Gold Coast or up north.

It seems to me there are most certainly things going on in casinos across Queensland that the Premier and the Attorney-General do not want to hear about and, I dare say, that they do not want the public in Queensland to know about. If this Labor Party genuinely cared about dodgy conduct in Queensland casinos, fighting corruption and transparency, they would have not only expanded the Gotterson inquiry but also released information about the casino being built only a few blocks from this place. They would tell the public how much the government sold this prime CBD land for—about 10 per cent of Brisbane's CBD sold off. They would release all of the relevant studies: the social impact study, the business case, the cost-benefit analysis and, perhaps most importantly, the terms of that 99-year lease that has been shrouded in secrecy under supposed commercial-in-confidence.

We heard from the Deputy Premier during estimates that commercial-in-confidence should not affect our right to get information in this place, but somehow it still does. We have no idea whether the terms of that lease might actually prevent the revocation of Star's casino licence. What are the terms that the government has bound itself to? If they cared about stopping corruption, they would not let a corrupt company keep its casino licence here in Queensland—this company that has been declared unfit to hold a licence in Queensland. Instead, we are going through this process of an appointment of

a special manager. This is just a bureaucratic, dressed up, get-out-of-jail-free card. It is a way for Star to effectively get on with business as usual to carry on their insidious predatory business model in Queensland.

If they are unfit to hold a licence, why will the government not follow through and shut them down? If this government cared about the findings that Star deliberately misled the regulator and ruthlessly exploited patrons for profit, leaving a trail of destruction and harm in its wake, then they would go further. They would finally do something about this state's pokies problem, they would cap the number of pokies in casinos and get them out of pubs and clubs entirely. If they cared about fighting corruption and criminality, they would ban donations from all gambling corporations, including from corporations like Star. They would legislate a ban on cash-for-access meetings that taint everything this government does. There are just too many questions left unresolved from the Gotterson inquiry and the shady deals made by this government with Star.

There is no doubt Labor would like those questions to remain unresolved and for the truth about casino criminality in this state to stay in the shadows. We do not have to wonder long as to why the Premier and the Attorney-General would like these things to remain in the dark. Star, Crown, Tabcorp—these corporations do not donate to the Labor Party for fun; they make a calculated, self-interested, strategic business move to buy off politicians to silence the ministers who make laws and open inquiries. That is precisely what happened with the Gotterson inquiry and with this bill.

Here we see a toothless Attorney-General who has no desire to stand up to the gambling corporations and the casinos that line the Labor Party's coffers. Instead, this bill offers the same old tinkering around the edges that will not upset any big donors or rock the boat too much. The changes themselves are fine. The regulatory framework around online simulated events is needed. The higher penalties and increased reporting requirements for breaches by casinos as well as the requirement for honest and fair conduct and external reporting to government are all changes we support, but they are simply not enough because there is this thread that continues to link this Labor government, the casino companies and their donations to the cashed-up high rollers with mafia links that are coming into this state with their offers of Rolexes and luxurious nights out. There is a line linking everyday Queenslanders struggling with gambling addiction with organised crime, casinos and this Labor government.

There has not been so much talk in this debate about the harm reduction measures that are facilitated by this bill, but there has been so much hand-wringing and commentary from members about their distress at the harm this causes in their communities—members talking about how they themselves do not gamble, this kind of purity motif and the perpetuation of the stigmatisation and shame that attaches to gambling addiction. For Christ's sake! Coming in here and talking unprompted about they how individually do not waste their money—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Maiwar, I think you may have just used unparliamentary language. Would you withdraw that, please.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly. I withdraw. To come in here and talk unprompted about how they do not waste their money on gambling is to deny just how insidious gambling addiction is and to turn a blind eye to how vulnerable gambling addicts are and how unwilling this government is to take the most basic steps to help minimise the harm to gambling addicts, like getting pokies out of pubs and clubs. The government is willing to perpetuate harm to these folks so it can continue to rake in gambling tax revenues, and it is simply too spineless to stand up to the gambling lobby and the clubs and hotels associations. Until we stop these donations and the cash-for-access meetings, the revolving door between government and industry, and the obsession the major parties have with boosting corporate profits—

(Time expired)

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I wish to commend the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice for taking proactive action on the matters of casino operations. As the parliament is aware, allegations of money laundering, criminal infiltration and other integrity issues have over the past few years prompted several major public inquiries and regulator investigations into Australian casino operations.

The bill before us was primarily developed as a response to the recommendations of the Victorian royal commission into the Crown Melbourne, with the inquiry headed up by the Hon. Ray Finkelstein AO, KC. This bill represents the outcomes of the government's examination of both the

issues identified in the Australian casino environment by the inquiries into Crown and the ability of Queensland's casino legislation to respond to such issues. It has been further informed by the independent external review into Star Entertainment Group.

This bill was pre-emptive. It was about responding proactively to what has been happening in Australia casinos, but what do we get from those opposite? Criticism. If we did not do anything we would be accused of putting our heads in the sand, yet we are criticised for proactively making changes to the legislation and not waiting. Members of the opposition cannot have it both ways.

I do not wish to entertain the conspiracy theories espoused by the suspicious mind of the member for Scenic Rim in this debate. Seriously, the only thing that was missing was the tinfoil hat and the podcast recorded in his basement. His suspicious mind clearly did not turn to his own party's cash-for-access events at Star's Gold Coast venue.

There has also been quite a bit of commentary regarding donations. Those comments encouraged me to have a quick look at the real-time donor disclosures, which is what I can do thanks to the transparency measures introduced by the Palaszczuk government when it comes to donations. I was convinced that those opposite would not be raising donations unless, of course, the LNP had refused any and all donations from Star. I can only rely on the publicly available disclosures, but since 1 March 2017, which is when the ECQ's electronic disclosure system was introduced, I was able to see eight donations to the Australian Labor Party by the Star Entertainment Group. There were also 14 donations to the Liberal National Party, totalling almost \$80,000. Similarly, the Queensland Greens may wish to raise donations in this debate but it is well known that they have accepted approximately \$473,000 in donations financed by the gambling industry. This is not histrionics, as the member for Maiwar said. It is, again, publicly available information. Facts matter in these debates and what I can say is that misleading assertions do nothing to further the very integrity those opposite champion.

The bill has a number of objectives including strengthening casino integrity and regulation in Queensland; removing certain redundant requirements under the Casino Control Act; and modernising a number of the gambling and wagering acts in Queensland to address new technologies around cashless gambling. The bill has also identified a human rights incompatibility under the Casino Control Act following the commencement of the Human Rights Act 2019 in Queensland.

A key amendment to the legislation introduces a duty on particular entities to comply with all reasonable requests made by the chief executive, inspector or minister and to do everything necessary to ensure that the management and casino operations of the relevant casino operator are conducted honestly and fairly. The need for this duty should not seem necessary but indeed it is, given the damning evidence we have heard in the various inquiries. The provision makes very clear the state's and the community's expectations of the conduct of entities involved or otherwise associated with a casino or hotel casino complex in Queensland.

In a similar manner, a new obligation requiring certain entities to give written notice of any contraventions of the Casino Control Act or directions given it is to ensure these entities have adequate processes in place to detect when a breach or contravention may have occurred. If we want to see greater transparency and a culture of responsibility to be embraced by these entities, this amendment is particularly important.

The bill also sees the introduction of new and increased penalties in relation to a number of matters. The legislation would increase the penalty for the contravention of an approved control system. Of course, this is about achieving a number of objectives, including ensuring the operation of the casino remains free from criminal influence, ensuring proper taxation of revenue and preventing errors, irregularities and theft. The penalty is also increased for interfering with inspectors. Inspectors are a key measure to ensure casino operations are being conducted in accordance with the act, so it is absolutely vital that their work is unfettered and not interfered with. The increase in the penalty for this is substantial—from 40 penalty units to 160 penalty units.

The introduction of a pecuniary penalty as a form of disciplinary action is another important matter. This will see the minister being able to issue a judicially reviewable minor fine of up to \$5 million, while the Governor in Council will be able to issue a non-reviewable major fine of up to \$100 million following the Attorney-General's foreshadowing of a further amendment. As outlined in the explanatory notes, these significant penalties are sought to ensure that, given the profits generated by casino gaming, penalties are not just seen, as was quoted, as an acceptable cost of doing business.

Shortly following the introduction of this bill the Attorney-General commissioned an independent external review into the Queensland casino operations of the Star Entertainment Group Ltd. The review, led by the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO, KC, has been finalised and the review report was provided to the

Attorney-General and was made public last week. Mr Gotterson's inquiries were informed by public hearings, the findings of the independent review of the Star Pty Ltd conducted by Mr Bell SC in New South Wales and the Queensland regulator's investigations and compliance work.

As we are all aware, the Gotterson review found that the Treasury Brisbane and the Star Gold Coast casinos have been operated by their licensees in a way that is inconsistent with the objectives of the Casino Control Act. Considering the serious and concerning findings of the review and his advice regarding suitability, the Attorney-General has formed the view that the Star is unsuitable to hold a licence in Queensland. In accordance with the legislation, as a formal determination of unsuitability has been made, the Star has been given the opportunity to respond to that finding through a show cause process. It is important that we allow that process to continue, but the Gotterson review has made a further 12 recommendations, which have been accepted in principle by the government.

Again, the Queensland government is moving quickly to address the issues raised in the review and the Attorney-General has foreshadowed three key amendments to the bill before us that will be proposed during consideration in detail. These will: provide for the appointment of a special manager, fully funded by the relevant casino entity, to oversee the operations of a casino, whether or not the casino licence has been suspended or cancelled; increase the maximum penalty that the Governor in Council may impose on a casino entity, from the proposed \$50 million, as currently provided for in the bill, to a proposed \$100 million; and ensure that the state is not fettered in its ability to take regulatory actions in relation to casinos by providing that no compensation is payable by the state because of such regulatory action.

The Attorney-General has confirmed that the remaining Gotterson review recommendations will be implemented with further amendments to legislation in the first half of next year. The findings of the Gotterson review, as well as those of the Bell review and the Finkelstein inquiry, have made it clear that there needs to be a fundamental transformation of culture amongst casinos and casino operators. There needs to be more transparency, more robust governance and greater accountability. There needs to be more open and honest dialogue with regulators and where the leadership of those entities is both vigilant and open to feedback when concerns are raised. These operators will not be judged by their words but by their actions.

The legislation before us makes clear the state government's expectations and, along with the further measures foreshadowed by the Attorney-General, provides a clear pathway forward when it comes to casino integrity in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.29 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Unlike other forms of entertainment, casinos hold a very unique and very privileged position in our society. Casino operators are similarly granted extraordinary privileges. These privileges are almost solely granted to the exclusion of others and this demands nothing but the highest standards of accountability, probity, governance and, importantly, oversight. As has been widely reported, investigated and found, these privileges have been grossly abused. This has occurred under the watch of the Palaszczuk state Labor government and the state Labor government stands condemned for its shameful delayed action and slow response to the significant and widespread integrity concerns and breaches of corporate governance, risk management and legislative compliance.

When this legislation was first introduced to the Queensland parliament in May of this year, it was nothing more than a pre-emptive attempt to avoid a full and proper investigation into the serious allegations that were raised. The Liberal National Party state opposition has called this initial action for what it was at the time: it was a missed opportunity and it was premature given the explosive revelations concerning casino operators in other state jurisdictions, including Victoria and New South Wales.

True to form, the Palaszczuk state Labor government repeatedly refused to act for months, despite ongoing revelations and allegations of money laundering, fraud and other serious unlawful behaviour. Despite what we have heard as part of this debate in relation to donations received by all political parties, it is this failure in relation to due oversight and the diligence and the discharging of the governance framework in relation to how casinos operate in Queensland that has led to the set of circumstances that we are in today. It was only after the media exposed the close and questionable ties between casino operators and senior Labor figures, including a Labor lobbyist who ran Queensland Labor's 2020 state election campaign, that the Premier finally and reluctantly announced an independent review in June of this year.

The Hon. Robert Gotterson AO, KC was appointed to conduct an external review of the Queensland operations of the Star Entertainment Group Ltd under the Casino Control Act 1982. I thank Mr Gotterson for his thorough examination, comprehensive assessment and important

recommendations. These recommendations will, as Mr Gotterson says, enhance integrity, minimise the potential for harm, ensure probity and restore public confidence in casino operators. I do, however, join with my Liberal National Party colleagues in highlighting the shameful fact that the terms of reference set by the Palaszczuk state Labor government for this review were far too narrow.

As articulated by my esteemed and knowledgeable colleague, the Liberal National Party's shadow Attorney-General and member for Clayfield, the terms of reference for an independent review of this nature should have been expanded to include the questionable interactions between the casino, its board members, the Labor state government, unions, Labor lobbyists and the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. Mr Gotterson could not thoroughly investigate the role of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation, including what this office knew, did not know, what they did or did not choose to act on.

Further, Mr Gotterson was also not able to consider or examine whether any undue influence was exercised on a minister, given the publicly known close connections between Labor ministers, Labor lobbyists and specific members of the Star Entertainment Group. Ultimately, the refusal by Labor for these matters to be carefully examined by Mr Gotterson will forever cast an unfortunate dark shadow over the final report of the Star Entertainment Group external review.

Queensland is now paying the price for Labor's premature legislation as evidenced by the disgraceful lack of due process and the abandonment of appropriate legislative scrutiny through this Queensland parliament under the current Queensland state Labor government. It is outrageous that just half an hour before debate began on this legislation, Labor's Attorney-General and Minister for Justice provided an additional 21 pages of amendments. That is 21 pages of amendments that will not be referred to the appropriate parliamentary committee for scrutiny, nor will stakeholders or the community have any chance to consider and provide feedback on Labor's proposed changes. This is no way to conduct appropriate parliamentary business, particularly on such important matters of regulatory oversight and enforcement of casino operators in our state.

Notwithstanding the appallingly and, frankly, dysfunctional processes of this third-term state Labor government, there are worthy provisions and matters contained within the legislation which deserve support beyond those which strengthen the integrity of our casinos and modernise gambling legislation. I note that this legislation will introduce a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising given that a national commitment has been made to recognise registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as an authority to conduct fundraising in Queensland. This scheme will reduce red tape for charities seeking to operate in Queensland, including those in an online capacity. As outlined in the first reading speech of this legislation, charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission will no longer be required to apply for a fundraising authorisation in Queensland and will need to only notify the Office of Fair Trading of their intention to fundraise in our state.

Finally, I join with the Liberal National Party shadow Attorney-General and other Liberal National Party colleagues and implore all members of the House to support the opposition's amendment that will clarify that the department will not be able to use section 14 as a reason not to disclose investigations into casinos. This is an important amendment and one that will further increase transparency and accountability of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and its associated actions concerning casino operations. I conclude by again thanking the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO, KC for his review and all members of the Queensland parliament's Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, including specifically the deputy chair, the member for Currumbin, as well as the member for Scenic Rim, for their examination of this legislation.

Debate, on motion of Dr Rowan, adjourned.

PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (12.36 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the administration of the public sector, the employment arrangements for public sector employees, a fair and responsive public sector and particular matters relating to individuals other than public sector employees, and to amend this act, the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Legal Aid Queensland Act 1997, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Supreme Court Library Act 1968, the TAFE

Queensland Act 2013 and the acts mentioned in schedule 3 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Public Service Act 2008. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Public Sector Bill 2022 [\[1675\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Sector Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[1676\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Sector Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1677\]](#).

My government is committed to an integrated and responsive public sector with purpose and integrity, focused on improving the lives of Queenslanders. My government understands the importance of fairness, inclusion and security in public sector employment to ensure employees are supported in delivering frontline services to the community. That is why I commissioned an independent review of public sector laws by Mr Peter Bridgman, the first in over 30 years. His report recognises that a fair, inclusive and responsive public sector is best achieved by placing employees at the centre of the employment system.

This bill implements the Bridgman review recommendation for a new modern Public Sector Act. It also supports the public sector workforce renewal envisaged by Professor Peter Coaldrake's report *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*. The bill also complements aspects of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 by ensuring the independence of certain core integrity bodies who do not employ public servants by not including the Queensland Ombudsman and the Crime and Corruption Commission in the scope of the bill.

This bill will enrich the public sector in Queensland, helping ensure we have a responsive Public Service that gives fearless and frank advice. We have taken a two-stage approach to implement the recommendations of the Bridgman review. The first stage culminated in amendments to the Public Service Act 2008 which commenced in 2020. That first stage delivered immediate implementation of recommendations to maximise our commitment to employment security, providing Public Service employees with access to positive performance management. This bill builds on these reforms and implements the final stage of the legislative reforms of the Bridgman review. It delivers the primary recommendation of the Bridgman review by repealing the Public Service Act 2008 and replacing it with the new Public Sector Act 2022. The bill extends application of relevant employment arrangements beyond the Public Service to the broader public sector.

There are four key aspects to the bill. Firstly, to support the Statement of Commitment to a Reframed Relationship to recognise the unique role that public sector entities and employees have in supporting the government to reframe its relationship with First Nations people. The distinct cultural rights of First Nations people are promoted through the inclusion of responsibilities to recognise and honour Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Queensland.

Secondly, this bill creates a positive duty for public sector entities to promote equity, diversity and a culture of respect and inclusion. This includes layering of accountabilities for fairness, including requirements for chief executives to take active steps to promote equity, diversity, respect and inclusion. Chief executives must now undertake an annual audit and plan for equity and diversity. These plans must be made public to ensure effective performance monitoring and to drive positive change.

The bill also requires chief executives to ensure programs, policies and practices promote a culture of respect and inclusion. My government is committed to a respectful and inclusive public sector culture where all employees feel safe, valued, accepted and supported. These mechanisms establish a nation-leading, responsive and forward-looking framework to support a high-performing public sector that reflects and represents the community.

In accordance with the Bridgman review, the bill retains the primacy of merit while reconciling this with the role that recruitment and selection play in supporting equity, diversity, respect and inclusion in public sector employment. It does this by recognising that recruitment and selection in the public sector is based on selecting the person best suited to the position. It includes a holistic consideration of the person's ability to perform the requirements of the position and the positive impact that flows from a diverse workforce that reflects the diverse experiences and backgrounds of the people they serve.

Thirdly, the bill ensures all public sector employees have a consistent and fair employment framework, including rights and obligations. By expanding the existing Public Service employment framework to a broader public sector, we are ensuring greater consistency in the employment experience. Therefore, the bill establishes contemporary values-based principles to guide public sector employers and employees in their service to guide the working culture.

This bill further strengthens the government's ongoing commitment to maximising employment security by specifying that employment of all public sector employees is generally on a permanent basis or on tenure. Non-permanent forms of employment can only be used when permanent employment is not viable or appropriate. Conversion rights are extended so employees can seek to convert to permanent employment. The number of opportunities for chief executives to review the employment arrangements of their non-permanent staff, with a view to permanency, are increased.

The bill includes enhanced mobility arrangements to ensure employees can move across the sector to meet surge or emerging priorities and to provide professional development opportunities. Collaboration is further emphasised by enabling the establishment of task forces to overcome problems of cross-agency activity in tackling emerging, priority or regional issues facing Queenslanders. These changes also enhance the role of the Senior Executive Service and Chief Executive Service to prioritise important policy challenges and to better facilitate their mobilisation and development.

Finally, I want to address the new forward-looking governance arrangements under the bill. My government is committed to improving a culture of public sector accountability. The bill supports the public sector workforce renewal envisaged by both the Bridgman review and the Coaldrake report, and drives a culture dedicated to accountability and performance. The bill establishes the Public Sector Governance Council as the oversight body to provide system leadership, including robust advice to government on complex challenges. As recommended by Professor Coaldrake, the council will include members outside government to ensure access to valuable commercial and community insights.

The Public Service Commission will be replaced with the Public Sector Commission, with the role of key system leadership and oversight as the central human resources agency and to promote an ethical public sector culture. The public sector stewardship will be shared by the Public Sector Governance Council, the Public Sector Commission, the Public Sector Commissioner, special commissioners and departmental chief executives.

Professor Coaldrake highlighted the importance of the tone set from the top, driving a culture of integrity, accountability and performance. Chief executives of departments are critical to shaping organisational culture. The bill delivers on Professor Coaldrake's recommendation to strengthen the stability of government and public service leadership performance by requiring five-year appointments for chief executives, with the potential for further appointment. That is supported in the bill by a strong performance framework where the premier of the day sets clear expectations of chief executive performance and accountability, including ethical standards and competencies. The premier, and by delegation the chairperson of the Public Sector Governance Council, will monitor the performance of chief executives of departments and authorise their performance reviews. Together, these requirements will ensure we maintain a high-performing executive leadership for Queensland. The premier or the council may commission a review of matters, including those relating to public administration or Public Service management. Core integrity bodies continue to be excluded from application of these reviews. An alternative mechanism enables the application of public sector employment arrangements to staff of these entities.

The bill was subject to extensive consultation with Queensland government agencies and public sector unions, and provides all public sector employees with a modern, simplified and employee focused legislative framework. This furthers the Queensland government's commitment to being fair, responsive and a leader in public administration. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (12.44 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 Economics and Governance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (12.44 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Integrity Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Public Sector Act 2022 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 13 October 2022

Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 October 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [[1678](#)].

Introduction

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (12.45 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Integrity Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Public Sector Act 2022 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [[1679](#)].

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [[1680](#)].

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1681](#)].

Queenslanders quite rightly expect their government to provide public services that are transparent and accountable. My government is committed to strengthening our integrity and oversight framework so that it is contemporary and maintains and improves a culture of accountability. This bill is the first tranche of amendments that demonstrate my government's commitment to just that. These reforms implement some of the recommendations of Professor Peter Coaldrake's report titled *Let the sunshine in: Review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector* and Kevin Yearbury's strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions.

The main purpose of the bill is to strengthen and enhance the independence of the Auditor-General, the Audit Office and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The bill also brings transparency to those who may obtain advice from the Integrity Commissioner. It amends the declaration of interest requirements and strengthens the regulation of lobbyists by introducing an offence for unregulated lobbying under the Integrity Act 2009.

The bill makes the Auditor-General an independent officer of the parliament. Consequently, the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General will be required to take an oath administered by the Speaker or Clerk. It also gives the Auditor-General greater control over the resources of the Queensland Audit Office. The superannuation and leave entitlements of the existing Auditor-General, Deputy Auditor-General and staff of the Audit Office will be preserved.

The bill will allow the Auditor-General to perform an audit of government owned corporations. The Auditor-General may also audit the financial administration of a public sector entity if requested by the Legislative Assembly. The bill also allows the Auditor-General to independently set basic rates for audit fees. Fees may be increased once each financial year, subject to the consideration and approval of the parliamentary committee. In considering this request, the parliamentary committee may consider the government indexation rate for the financial year and advice from the Treasurer.

Consistent with the status of the Auditor-General as an officer of the parliament, the parliamentary committee will be able to monitor and review the Auditor-General's performance, and report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter concerning the Auditor-General's functions or performance. To safeguard against any real or perceived lack of independence, the Auditor-General cannot be employed in any public sector entity for two years after their term concludes.

The bill establishes an Office of Integrity Commissioner. No person can direct the Integrity Commissioner on how to perform their functions or the priority given to ethics or integrity issues. Staff will remain as public service employees, but cannot be directed by anyone outside the office about the way functions are performed or the priority given to ethics or integrity issues. Senior officers in departments will be required to go through their appropriate supervisor or director-general for independent advice, rather than directly to the Integrity Commissioner. Similarly, ministerial staff members and assistant ministerial staff members will be required to go through their chief of staff, or minister or assistant minister as appropriate, when seeking independent advice from the Integrity Commissioner. Ministers and assistant ministers will be able to seek Integrity Commissioner advice involving their staff.

The bill also removes the need for stated statutory office holders to provide a declaration of interests to the Integrity Commissioner, but they will still need to provide a declaration to the relevant minister. It introduces a simple offence for unregistered lobbying, limiting them from undertaking a number of actions including, for example, lobbying for a third-party client. After reviewing penalties for a similar offence in South Australia and Western Australia, the proposed maximum penalty is a fine of 200 penalty units, which can be dealt with in the Magistrates Court.

The bill also amends the Ombudsman Act 2001 to allow strategic reviews of the Ombudsman office to be conducted at least every five years, not seven years. It is proposed that this change will occur following the next strategic review. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (12.49 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 Economics and Governance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2816, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.49 pm): I want to make a contribution on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Firstly, I want to start by saying that sometimes you know when a government and a minister do not quite have their heart in a bill. This one is a case in point. Never has there been more resistance from a government to do what was clearly needed and what was clearly demanded and deserved by the community. I want to highlight a couple of issues just to show how reluctant they were to ensure that we had a casino industry above reproach.

I start by contrasting the approach from other jurisdictions. New South Wales launched a review, and it was not until mid-June this year that this state government did the same. That was despite months of serious allegations. It was despite misconduct being raised of allegations, of all the things we were seeing going on and yet the attorney and indeed the government found every reason to resist.

If members want to know how much their heart was not in it and just how little interest they took, find no other reason but to see the fact that at two minutes to midnight we saw 20 amendments come through out of the blue. I would have thought that something of this magnitude, seriousness and importance would have a little more attention to detail. That goes to the heart of what we are seeing in Queensland. We are seeing a government that is slow to address problems. We have seen that with the stonewalling of the calls in terms of the forensic services lab where we were told that we were politicking by raising that. We have seen that in Mackay and in Caboolture. We have seen a complete and utter resistance to acting, to stepping up to the plate when it is necessary. Queenslanders are worse off because of it.

I want to highlight a couple of issues in this bill that show why this was really the government's political solution rather than the government's integrity and regulation solution. I point to the terms of reference given to Mr Gotterson. They were so narrow, so tight and so specific that Mr Gotterson had his hands tied. What was needed was a wideranging review with the powers to ensure that Queenslanders got a casino industry that was regulated beyond reproach, that could be best of breed, that could ensure that any form of money laundering or any form of corruption could be stamped out. Instead, we received a narrow terms of reference.

Mr Gotterson was not able to investigate fully the role of the OLGR. If the government were serious about putting a microscope over the way that the casino industry is regulated, surely that microscope should have been put over its ability to set the standards and its ability to be able to—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We will be addressing that one shortly, chair. Surely we could have had—

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the call.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Surely the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation would have been the starting point. If you were serious as a government and if you were serious as people who want to bring integrity and sunlight into the operation, surely the body tasked with setting the standards would have been part of that review.

Mr Gotterson was also unable to investigate any of those links between Labor lobbyists and the industry. Why would that be? Why would it be that the government would not want a microscope, with all of the resources and all of the laws, to seek to find a way to make sure that any of those dealings could be brought to light? Why would a terms of reference be so tight that it would prevent that from occurring?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take both of those interjections. It is because the government never had its heart in this bill—ever. This was always about a political pressure valve release mechanism rather than honesty, transparency and setting the standard for a world-class regulated casino industry.

We need casino operators to operate with the utmost integrity. Queenslanders expect and deserve nothing less than that. I place on record that the LNP will always support any measures to reduce gambling harm. Therefore, those elements of the bill are something that we all should embrace and should all work together. There is no doubt that it has never been easier for a Queenslanders to gamble. The modern world means that that is the case for every Australian and every citizen. We have a duty to those who have a problem in that area to ensure that they are given every support measure to get on top of what is an addiction. We also encourage the government to keep working as part of those further regulations discussed in the committee.

In my remaining short period of time, I want to make a contribution about the industry and why it is important that we have a well-regulated industry. The reason for that is I am not fussed about what the logo is on a casino. What I care for are the thousands of men and women who turn up to work there every day. I am concerned to make sure that they have a viable industry, that they are well paid, that they understand that as part of working in a casino there are many opportunities for people to get professional development and to get qualifications. That is important.

I look at the many thousands of people who work at the casino on the Gold Coast as an example. I know of one of my very close personal friends who started in that industry and used that as an opportunity to better himself and put himself through the skills that he learnt there. It was the start of his career. He has done extremely well for himself.

I want to make sure that we as a state can have a casino industry that provides for everyday Queenslanders, for working Queenslanders. We, though, have a duty to make sure that it is above reproach. That starts with holding the existing operators accountable. It starts with ensuring that murky links are examined, scrutinised and stamped out and to make sure that the level of influence of people who have the ability to run elections for political parties, sometimes operating out of government funded buildings, does not translate into the corporate world. That is very important.

We also owe it to make sure that we as regulators have world-class standards of regulations. It does not matter in what industry or in what arm of government: every public servant deserves the right to know that they are respected and valued, that their organisation and their entity that they work for is above reproach. That is why the failure of the analysis of the OLGR is one of a missed opportunity. It was an opportunity to ensure that the regulator is regulating in the best interests.

This is a serious industry where hundreds of millions of dollars go through it. It is a serious industry where thousands of working Queenslanders derive an income, where people can begin work on day one and rise through the ranks, where we offer an incredible tourism product—and that is something Queensland should be very proud of. It is another piece of our tourism puzzle. It is about dining and it is about hospitality, but the industry has to be administered beyond reproach. That is why when we look at the last-minute amendments, at the reluctance to call it and at the fact that the government was dragged kicking and screaming to do this, they do not have their heart in it. As a result, the lack of a blowtorch on the regulation sector of this represents a missed opportunity.

Debate, on motion of Mr Crisafulli, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Minister for Women

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.00 pm): The opposition welcomes the introduction of the bill by the Attorney-General today. This is a milestone that has been built on the LNP's initiative of the *Not now, not ever* report. We thank the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce for their recommendations and thank all stakeholders, particularly those with lived experience, who have contributed to the bill which the House will consider.

Cultural change and action—and action more than words—is what is needed. Why did the Minister for Women not call-out a fellow minister's derogatory comments to a senior female member of the opposition? Where was the accountability for her cabinet colleague? The minister did not call-out and condemn the Premier's suggestion that DV advocates who had been guests in this House of the member for Surfers Paradise were on a late-night rendezvous. Where was the Minister for Women when it comes to calling out sexist behaviour and sexist comments? There was silence.

In Sexual Violence Awareness Month where was the Minister for Women when the Leader of the Opposition and I stood up for sexual violence victims of this state who were being billed by Queensland Health for forensic rape kits? Where was the Minister for Women when it comes to advocating to her fellow cabinet colleagues—to the Minister for Health—when we see what is being reported in the media now around the evidence of a culture of sexual harassment and discrimination in Queensland Police Service? Where is the Minister for Women when it comes to calling out that behaviour and advocating to her ministerial colleagues for the need for cultural change?

The standard that we are prepared to not call out is the standard we accept. Women across this state are not accepting of the fact that in the last 12 months we have seen an increase in sexual assault of almost 30 per cent. They are not going to accept the failings of a forensic lab that is going to retraumatise victims of sexual violence in this state. The Minister for Women does not stand up and advocate on behalf of those women of our state. We hear the rhetoric of the Premier and the Minister for Women that they will keep Queensland women safe. After the last eight years of this Palaszczuk Labor government women are no safer.

Member for Whitsunday; Star Entertainment Group, Fundraiser

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.03 pm): In response to the member for Whitsunday I say that I have been asked publicly many times about the appalling things we are seeing coming out of the commission of inquiry and have called it out. In terms of the forensic

DNA commission of inquiry, we have \$1 million for sexual assault services to be able help victims who come forward as well as embedding a sexual assault worker in police operations. The member for Whitsunday was not here when the LNP was in government and they cut funding to DV services and cut funding to sexual assault services and, not just that, gagged them.

What I wanted to talk about today was how it all makes sense that we have not heard very much from the Leader of the Opposition about the Star Entertainment Group. At first I thought maybe that is because he had had some hospitality from the Star Entertainment Group: two tickets to Polo by the Sea and two tickets to Magic Millions Polo. I would say that if the people of Queensland knew that he spends his weekends drinking at the polo hosted by Star his reputation would be in tatters—or should I say Tattersalls. That was just my first thought, though.

Today we have heard that the Leader of the Opposition, along with the member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Kawana, and possibly even the member for Glass House, were at a fundraiser at the Star Gold Coast after it had been announced that there was to be an independent inquiry into Star. By all accounts it was a lavish affair. But do not take my word for it. This is how the Star describes where the fundraiser was held: 'Sharp. Vibrant. Sophisticated. Step out onto the rooftop and immerse yourself in The Star's uber-chic lounge bar. Slip into one of our private booths and enjoy world class VIP bottle service.' It sounds just like the Leader of the Opposition's style really. To his credit, I have heard that the Leader of the Opposition was a bit apprehensive about this fundraiser. He thought it might not be a good look. You think? Apparently the member for Mermaid Beach had a brilliant idea. 'I know,' he said, 'we'll do a walk through and meet and greet the staff so if this ever comes out you have a legitimate cover. Nothing to see here!'

We cannot make it up. In the same month the government announced an independent inquiry into Star casino, they were there raking in the dollars. How much did they get in that month? They got more than \$1.2 million in donations. We know that because of our real-time donation disclosure laws. I cannot believe they are trying to take the moral high ground on this issue. They should be ashamed.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): There is no more important job than protecting the vulnerable in our society—our children and vulnerable women. The record of those opposite, particularly the Minister for Women, the member for Waterford, and their history on child safety and domestic violence is simply shameful. Under her watch as child safety minister 12 children allegedly died in care under suspicious circumstances. These are just some of the names: Curtis Powell, Tiahleigh Palmer, Mason Jett Lee and Maddilyn-Rose Stokes. What happened to little Riviera, Minister? Their names, their lives, will not be forgotten by any of us on this side of the chamber.

Instead of taking responsibility, the minister attended Splendour in the Grass on the same day the front page of the *Courier-Mail* said the department and the minister knew about at least five deaths of children under suspicious circumstances. Who can forget the minister's admission that her then department washed the data before releasing it to the public? History will show that the member for Waterford was the worst child safety minister this state has ever seen. She was so bad the government had to move her into the witness protection program for failed child safety ministers—the small business portfolio.

As the Minister for Women or as the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence or as the Attorney-General over the last seven years, we have all watched on as too many women have been killed by partners or other family members. On the Gold Coast we have watched in horror as the domestic crisis claims life after life. They are lives such as those of Tara Brown, bludgeoned to death; Teresa Bradford, stabbed by her husband; Larissa Beilby, bashed to death; Shelsea Schilling, suffocated; Melinda Homer, murdered; Karina Lock, gunned down; Fabiana Palhares, bludgeoned to death; Kym Cobby, strangled to death; Mary Benedito; and Kelly Wilkinson, burnt to death in an attack chillingly reminiscent of the awful murder of Hannah Clarke and her three beautiful children. At Logan Doreen Langham was killed despite calls to police for help.

How can anyone now take them seriously on these matters, particularly matters of domestic violence, when they are willing to have cabinet ministers call members in this place 'dopey, stupid women'? Those views are not acceptable.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I will take some advice on that. I made it very clear yesterday in the contribution of another member that those words that you yourself found offensive were not to be repeated even as a quote. I ask you to withdraw those words. If they are used again by any member, I will be issuing warnings.

Ms BATES: I withdraw. I do not accept Minister Furner's apology. He has not apologised to me by name in this House or personally for his misogynistic and disrespectful comments. As a survivor of domestic violence, comments like these retraumatise victims like me and should never happen. In fact, they should never be uttered in any workplace, in any home or in any environment. How can the member for Waterford, in good faith, sit around a cabinet table with someone capable of such utterances? Member for Waterford, where is the condemnation? Are these the standards that you are willing to accept—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time has expired.

Ms BATES:—or does the minister only call out misogyny—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time has expired. The member will resume her seat.

Ms BATES:—when it is politically convenient?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired!

National Week of Deaf People

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I call the member for Macalister. The House will note that the member is signing the first part of her speech with the permission of the Speaker. I ask that the contribution be heard in silence.



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (2.10 pm):

The member signed using Auslan, Australian sign language.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Last month was the National Week of Deaf People in Australia. We all want Queensland to be an inclusive state. We all want the deaf community to be included. The silence you heard in this chamber was strange for this place, but for deaf people this is their world.

Learning Auslan is a perfect way to include others. You can learn your name or something as simple as hello or thank you. Sign Language in Education Day was on 19 September. In my electorate of Macalister, Mount Warren Park State School teaches Auslan as their second language as part of their curriculum. I have watched maths and science taught in Auslan. True inclusion, believe me, is a quiet classroom. I would like to congratulate the students and staff at Mount Warren Park State School. I challenge all members here today to try to learn their name in Auslan and truly include others. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I remind members of the House that applause even in sign language is a breach of the standing orders. We are all going to have to learn to interject in sign language. You need to know the language properly before you do that! I call the member for Kawana.

Mr Bleijie: How would I use a prop, Mr Deputy Speaker?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You wouldn't.

CFMEU, Labor Party Donations



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.13 pm): Just over six weeks ago the CFMEU stormed the TMR building in Queensland. There were no repercussions for the CFMEU—the biggest donors to the Labor Party in Queensland who fund the Labor government in this state. On 24 August the CFMEU stormed the building, putting public servants at risk. They put public servants at risk and staff members had to hide in cupboards!

The Premier, who through her government has accepted over \$400,000 in donations from the CFMEU, said, 'We will wait to see the end of the police investigation.' Guess what? It is finished. Has the \$400,000 been paid back from the Labor Party to the CFMEU or given to an anti-bullying charity? No. Actions speak louder than words. There will be no actions this Premier will follow through with because we know they are owned lock, stock and barrel and do the bidding of the CFMEU in Queensland. Now that the police investigation is finished, I call on the Labor Party to honour the commitment the Premier gave, show leadership and give the money back to the CFMEU or, better still, give the money to an anti-bullying charity in Queensland.

While we are on the subject of the Labor Party being misleading, the Deputy Premier stood up this morning with this big 'gotcha' moment. He thought he had a big 'gotcha'. It shows how they change the story because the story the Deputy Premier stood up and told this morning was different to what we have just heard from the Attorney-General. It shows they are happy to mislead parliament and not get their own story straight because they speak mistruths.

The Deputy Premier stood up this morning and he said, 'I've got them. The deputy leader went to this big penthouse—Nineteen—on the Gold Coast for a big fundraiser.' Nineteen is a restaurant at the Gold Coast. It is not a penthouse as the Deputy Premier would have people believe. It is a public restaurant! This big secret dinner or lunch, or whatever he is referring to, is at a public restaurant on the Gold Coast.

Are they saying we should not support the hospitality industry? If that is the case then the Premier should not have gone to the Star for the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association awards. Minister Hinchliffe should not have gone to the Star down the road for their annual Brisbane catch-up. They are doing it. The fact is that they have corrupted the political system.

The Liberal National Party need to fundraise and we will fundraise. Do you know why, Mr Deputy Speaker? Businesspeople want to change the government in the state. Businesspeople are sick and tired of the corruption at the state level. So we have to have fundraisers to ensure the business community can change this government. We do not have the backing of the union. It just shows that they will mislead and lie in this place as much as they can—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The member's time has expired.

Mr BLEIJIE:—to get a political shot. They are telling mistruths.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, I think you are the second or the third speaker this afternoon who has deliberately gone beyond time when I have directed that time has expired. I give a general warning to members that if I am directing that time has expired and you continue on I will be warning.

Redlands Housing Strategy

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.17 pm): I want to congratulate the Premier and the Minister for Housing, Minister Enoch, on bringing together next week's Queensland Housing Summit. It will be an excellent summit that will bring together some diverse minds and experience to work on the actions and strategies and develop solutions that will help us address the challenges that we are facing here in Queensland. I am looking forward to participating in that. Before politics I was a member of the Q Shelter board, and I think there will be some great work done.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce. They established, with the support of our regional jobs committee, the Champion Redlands Coast initiative. RPS and Mark Wallace have been doing some excellent work. They have done multiple research studies on the opportunities our region presents. In September they released stage 3 of the Champion Redlands Coast: Implementation Strategy and Action Plan with five key pillars for priority action, the first being to look at diverse housing options because that is an absolute issue in the Redlands.

Having a relevant Housing Strategy is important for regions across Queensland. I have spoken about the Redlands Housing Strategy in this place before. It is a very poorly formed document. I think the mayor referred to it in her interview with Rebecca Levingston as a 'glossy document' that had not really done much. There is a reason it has not done much. The Redlands Housing Strategy was developed in 2011 to go to 2031, but it used data that was underpinned by 2006 census results—data that is nearly 20 years old. The mapping does not correlate with what has actually happened on the ground in reality over the last decade. It barely mentioned the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and the rapid and enormous growth that has been occurring on those islands.

The strategy had 55 actions, with a promised annual review and reporting on those actions. Not one of those annual reviews over the last 10 years ever happened. It also committed to undertaking a five-yearly full review of the strategy which should have occurred in 2016 and 2021. That never happened. There are issues there, so I am really pleased the state government has stepped in to assist Redland City Council, which has rejected updating that strategy, to help them get that really good piece of work.

I was disappointed in Councillor Golle's opinion piece yesterday where he said that he had lost trust. The irony of that, coming from a councillor who rejected doing that good piece of planning work! I would ask Councillor Golle, who voted against updating that housing strategy, 'Why is it that you do not want to do that good piece of planning work?' His statements in relation to the Cleveland Redland Bay Road would suggest he has never left his house. I am happy to take him down there and show him the \$110 million worth of work that is now well underway.

Commercial Fishing Industry

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.20 pm): The state government is failing the commercial fishing industry and fishers. It is mismanaging the fishing industry and gambling with the future of fishers. The minister responsible for fishing hides behind weasel words and will not stand up for them. Two years ago Spanish mackerel was supposed to be a sustainable fishery. Today the government says that it needs to take drastic action because the situation has deteriorated so much that there is only 17 per cent of the original stock assessment. What happened in those two years? The government cannot blame COVID, so what happened? If drastic action is needed within two years it means that the minister in charge has clearly botched the management of Spanish mackerel fisheries. The minister should be open and transparent with the data used to justify these decisions. People deserve to know that decisions are reasonable and not simply massaged to suit other political agendas.

Last year in budget estimates I asked why the government dismissed an independent peer review which said their assumptions were incorrect. They ignored it. The government also continually refuses to conduct a regulatory impact statement about the effects of changes on the industry. I have warned the minister repeatedly about this. This government's changes will significantly impact the livelihoods of fishers, their families and the communities where they live. It will drive people out of business and it will impact tourism and hospitality-based businesses, yet this minister resorts to spin to avoid responsibility. He claims that compensation is not needed because it is a management decision and not a regulatory change. They are hollow words. I support taking reasonable measures to protect fish species, but these decisions make it clear the government cannot manage fisheries.

To compound the situation, the minister goes missing when he should stand up and be counted. Two weeks ago the environment minister released a draft Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan. While some sensible changes are welcome, the plan has serious red flags. The plan makes it clear that commercial fishers are expected to carry the burden of changes. Again Minister Furner remains silent as another cohort of commercial fishers is hit. The government admits that 60 to 70 commercial fishers will be impacted, and that figure could be higher. They are already bearing the brunt of regulatory changes without adequate compensation or government assistance. Now they have been blindsided by this announcement. Minister Scanlon's solution—that commercial fishers can retrain and restructure work—is absolute nonsense. These people work outside with their hands. It is the 'Jackie Trad solution'—telling people to go find and then retrain for a new job. It has taken three years since 2019 to get to this, and now commercial fishers have been given only one month to defend themselves. Silence from Minister Furner is unacceptable.

Liberal National Party, Integrity

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.23 pm): Earlier we saw another example of the lack of integrity from those opposite, particularly the member for Kawana. What we consistently see is a partial political projection from the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana in press conferences and in this chamber that is designed to mislead, designed not to tell the truth, and often to tell not the whole truth. To suggest that a work event involving the minister for tourism and the Premier is somehow akin to a cash-for-access exercise—which the opposition is indulging in in terms of Star casino—is not an honest rendition of what is going on and is misleading. This is the kind of verballing we see from the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana, the 'little Newmans' over there, who adored the previous government. They have never apologised for them. They have the same kind of style. We see that this is how they go about things.

The Attorney-General has written to the Leader of the Opposition and asked for his commitment to meet the government's commitment about banning cash for access, and what have we got? Absolute silence. There has been no response from the Leader of the Opposition. He talks big on integrity but he does not act on it. He does not live it. He is good at positioning, like he was previously as a journalist and career politician, but he never practices it. We saw see this with the laptop affair. For four or five months he consistently said there were raids, there were seizures, there were goons, yet when it was investigated by the CCC the independent watchdog said it was a mischaracterisation. It was as close to a mistruth—or the other word they possibly could have said. What did he say? Did he apologise for misleading? Did he apologise and show some ticker, show some honesty, and say 'I got it wrong'? No. He ducked the media and he said nothing. He continues to say nothing. There is no integrity in that kind of approach.

In press conferences this year he consistently alleges things that are not true; for example, that RTI officers were part of ministerial offices when they are not. Today in question time we heard allegations that waiting times were blown out, when in fact they were ordinary hospital transfers. That

is what the truth is. They were caught out again today not telling the truth. This is when we see the Newman style of behaviour: trying to mislead, deliberately try to mount a case without having the facts. The member for Kawana recently said that we are on track to have the worst road toll in a generation. That is such a palpable mistruth. I do not want to use the other word because I want to stay within the rules. It is that kind of misleading of the public that is consistent with the opposition. They keep doing it and we will keep calling it out.

(Time expired)

Department of Education

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.26 pm): In relation to Queensland's education system, the Palaszczuk state Labor government is failing students, parents and teachers. The Department of Education's annual report for 2021-22, which has been tabled by Labor's Minister for Education, is an indictment of Labor's lack of clear direction and due diligence in our education system. Perhaps most damning in this report is the revelation on page 60 that—

During 2021-2022, 6 Human Rights complaints were assessed as upheld or substantiated ... and an action or decision found to be incompatible with human rights.

As the LNP's shadow minister for education, I have previously spoken in the Queensland parliament of the serious, shocking and deeply distressing allegations of such abuses that have occurred under this Labor government in our education system, including those which have been advised by the Human Rights Commission to be an act of torture. The Labor Minister for Education must provide a full explanation and public account of these serious human rights breaches. What actions and strategies are being put in place to assure Queensland's parents, teachers and staff that their human rights and those of their children and students are being protected?

The Department of Education's annual report also details a raft of educational performance measurements and targets that the Queensland state Labor government has failed to meet. In the early childhood sector the target for the proportion of enrolments of children who reside in disadvantaged areas was 95 per cent, yet only 80 per cent was achieved. When it comes to students achieving either at or above the national minimum standard, under the Palaszczuk state Labor government virtually all targets were missed. In fact, of the 24 measured targets across years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in areas such as literacy, writing and numeracy, only three targets were met. Most concerningly, not a single target was met for years 7 and 9. The significant underachievement and disparity of outcomes when compared to Queensland's Indigenous students across these cohorts is a shocking indictment of Labor's failure to deliver.

The Liberal National Party has consistently called on the Palaszczuk state Labor government to deliver a comprehensive strategy that improves student educational outcomes. The Liberal National Party wants Queensland students to excel beyond their peers in other states, and Queensland's parents, students, teachers and staff deserve a Queensland state government that is solely focused on this mission. I note that the Department of Education has also undergone considerable senior executive and managerial restructuring. It is vitally important that there is no disruption from these changes and that these changes ultimately result in improved educational outcomes for all Queensland students.

I am also concerned in relation to page 77 of the annual report and this state Labor government's recorded failure in student engagement and retention. As evidenced by table 12, between 2017 and 2021 attendance rates have declined in every single educational region. What is more, this decline in attendance is even greater amongst Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander state school students. The Labor Minister for Education must demonstrate a strong commitment to improving educational outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders which are in line with national Close the Gap targets. Queensland students, parents, teachers and all school staff deserve better.

Ferny Grove Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.29 pm): I am proud to put on the record today the excellent work the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing with its strong support in education. As the Minister for Education mentioned on Wednesday, by 2023 Queensland will have four new schools—Augustine Heights, Palmview, Ripley and Yarrabilba. That is a total investment of \$330 million, supporting 900 good jobs and ensuring even better educational services in those communities. Since 2015 this government has built 25 new schools—an investment of more than \$3 billion.

Our investment in education also expands to investing in the future of our existing schools, and that is especially true in my electorate of Ferny Grove. I am pleased to report that the foundations on the \$10 million redevelopment at Mitchelton Special School have now been completed. Mitchie Special School is over 50 years old, and that is why I promised to deliver it at the last election and it is being delivered as I speak today.

I am pleased to deliver for the families across the Ferny Grove electorate. Families at Grovely are seeing the refurbishment and redevelopment of classrooms and the resource centre. Families from Oakleigh State School are seeing a massive increase in new classrooms, just as families at Newmarket saw last year. Families at Oakleigh will also be enjoying the new multipurpose hall the Palaszczuk government will build later this year.

Families at Ferny Hills State School have been pleased to learn that this year's state budget has allocated funding to build a new amenities block. It has been more than five decades since the current amenities block was built at the school and I am pleased that this government is willing to roll up its sleeves and get the job done to replace it. That is what this Palaszczuk Labor government does—it delivers.

Since I started my term of office in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has delivered more than \$65 million in education funding for Ferny Grove schools. We have delivered for students, we have delivered for staff, we have delivered for families and we have delivered for the tradies who have constructed all of these projects—with constructions like the transit oriented development at Ferny Grove station well underway. I know the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mr Bailey, is well aware of its growth. It will deliver 1,400 carparks and the project itself is supporting 800 full-time jobs. I want to put on the record my appreciation of the former transport minister, Minister Hinchliffe, and Speaker Pitt for bringing this about when he was Treasurer.

My constituents will benefit from the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The plan is all about a future of cheaper, cleaner and secure energy for Queenslanders, powering good jobs in new regional industries right across Queensland.

Konnech

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.32 pm): News that the CEO of an overseas owned election software company that has a contract with the Electoral Commission of Queensland has been arrested on suspicion of putting American polling booth worker data on to Chinese servers is extremely alarming. Eugene Yu, the founder and CEO of Konnech Inc, the foreign company that fully owns the Australian subsidiary Konnech Australia, will face the USA justice system and they will determine the facts of the allegations originating from LA County.

Regardless of the outcomes in the USA, my concerns are with the sovereign capability, security and procurement of the Queensland election management system, as well as how this firm came to get a contract over local Australian suppliers and the unknown costs of the Konnech contract. Extremely serious questions still need to be answered by the Queensland government and ECQ about the Konnech contract, which involves sensitive software systems used to manage Queensland elections, particularly the personal data of election workers.

Eugene Yu tried to sue me for raising issues about Konnech and the procurement process, demanding an apology and compensation last year. I have refused to do so, as I consider the questions I have been raising about our election system and how it is managed and the procurement process to award Konnech this contract are more than reasonable and in the public interest. I believe these legal manoeuvres by Mr Yu are attempts to bully and gag an elected representative. I will continue to demand greater transparency and accountability as well as security of our election systems so that citizens have more than just the word of the government to 'trust them'.

It is on the public record that Konnech's election management system, which deals with things such as the data of polling booth workers, was not ready in time for the local government election in 2020 because of problems. The Queensland chief customer and digital officer, Chris Fechner, said in a written submission to a parliamentary committee—

The delivery of the project was further impacted in the final development and bug fixing stages during January and February 2020, as most of the coding resources were based in Wuhan China and were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 lock-down.

You would not believe it, but it is the truth; it is on the parliamentary record. When the Attorney-General, Shannon Fentiman, was asked about this issue on 6 October 2022 after the arrest of Mr Yu in the USA, she said that there was no evidence of a data breach in relation to Queensland electoral data. I table a transcript of her media interview.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Attorney-General interview—06 October 2022' [[1682](#)].

I believe the Attorney-General needs to provide further clarity that she is talking about all of the data, not just the electoral roll, because the election management system deals with polling booth workers. We need to know that it is safe and secure and that there are independent checks on this and it is not just the word of the government. We need to know how much Konnech has been paid because it is all commercial-in-confidence. We should know.

Ipswich State High School, Achievements

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.35 pm): Once again, I am proudly wearing my Ipswich State High School tie to show my support for this great school. Ipswich State High School has a wide range of specialist programs that include: a trade school program; a hair, nail and beauty program; a young mothers program; a dance program; and a program for students with a disability. Recently, Sarah Lake gave me a tour of the facilities for students with a disability and I was introduced to Amanda Sterling, a teacher for deaf students.

On 14 September, the Ipswich State High School Rugby League Academy shined. Guided by the chief coach, Josh Bretherton, and supported by John Dore, Shane Harris, Daniel Hoben, Peter Poole, Ben Newton and Steve Talavave, as well as captain Josiah Pahulu, on 14 September the Ipswich State High School senior boys team defeated Patrician Brothers, Fairfield, to take out the national Schoolboy Cup, with a magnificent 32-6 victory at Dolphin Oval at Redcliffe. I had an exciting time watching the game alongside Andrew and Sally Bretherton, parents of coach Josh Bretherton.

It was a hard road for the Ipswich State High School team to make the final. First, they had to defeat Palm Beach Currumbin 16-12 on 24 August in the final of the Allan Langer Cup. I missed the team's great 30-10 win over Ignatius College, Townsville which was played at Cbus stadium on the Gold Coast, when they took out the Phil Hall Cup and were crowned Queensland schoolboy Rugby League champions. As a result of their great win, seven Ipswich State High School players have now secured NRL contracts for 2023. They will follow in the footsteps of Ronaldo Mulitalo, who is representing New Zealand in the World Cup, and former Queensland Origin player Phillip Sami.

It was not only the boys senior Rugby League team which shone at Ipswich State High in 2022. The year 10 girls team made the grand final in the Titans Cup but unfortunately went down to Marsden State High School in a close, hard-fought game 24-18. Recently, I contacted Veronica White, a teacher and Rugby League coordinator at Ipswich State High School, to arrange a photo with the year 10 girls. When I turned up, I found Veronica had arranged for all of the 130-plus girls from the Rugby League Academy to join in the photo. I was honoured to have my photo taken with them and their coaching staff.

I would like to thank acting principal Michelle Campbell for always including me in events at the school. I am looking forward to 21 October when the Ipswich City Council will present the senior boys Ipswich State High School Rugby League team with keys to the City of Ipswich.

Housing

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.38 pm): Everyday Queenslanders right across the state are crying out for affordable homes while property investors are turning what could be good, secure homes into Airbnbs for tourists. Instead of houses and apartments being used as homes for families—a place to raise your kids, a place to rest and relax—tens of thousands of Queensland properties are being turned into short-term hotels. We know this is especially impacting struggling coastal communities, where locals cannot find places to live and workers have to leave the tourism industry because nearly all of the properties in their town have been turned into short-term accommodation. We are seeing ordinary Queenslanders kicked out of their homes in the middle of a housing crisis because investors would rather make a quick buck on Airbnb.

In South Brisbane recently, a constituent contacted me after they discovered that all the long-term residents in their apartment block were being kicked out so that the owner could turn the whole block into Airbnb accommodation to make thousands more than they would providing long-term homes to families and workers. What is currently a local community for long-term residents will instead become a profit-making hotel, and in a few months time all those residents will be out looking for homes in a cut-throat rental market. Every long-term home that becomes an Airbnb is one less nurse living close to the hospital they work in, one less volunteer at the local footy club, one more child whose life is uprooted as their family have to move home and find a new school. We have seen local governments across Queensland try to tackle short-term stays, but this will be pointless if the state government does not step in as well.

In New South Wales, the conservative state government implemented an 180-day limit across the state, while Byron Shire Council, working with the state government, have implemented their own 90-day limit. A similar limit here in Queensland would be a significant step to easing the housing crisis. According to data from AirDNA, a cap on short-term hotels could open up nearly 6,000 homes across the Sunshine Coast, nearly 6,000 on the Gold Coast and 5,000 in Greater Brisbane.

The state government says they are worried about rental supply. Limiting Airbnbs and making sure homes are used for families, not tourists, is a straightforward way to boost rental supply across the state. For everyday owner-occupiers, a cap means you can still put your house up on Airbnb if you go on holidays or if you are letting out your spare room. However, a cap would stop those property investors who would rather turn a unit block into short-term accommodation than house families.

This government has to decide whether they want our cities and towns to be places where people can raise their kids, where you can live close to where you work and study, or if the government wants our cities, towns and neighbourhoods to become yet another plaything for wealthy tourists and Airbnb landlords.

Frucor Suntory; Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.41 pm): Boosting local jobs is something I have always been passionate about and that is why it has been so exciting to see big-name companies establish themselves in Ipswich over the past several years. Last Thursday it was Frucor Suntory's time to come to Ipswich to kickstart work on their new beverage manufacturing facility at Swanbank's New-Gen Business Park in the electorate of my colleague, the member for Bundamba. Frucor Suntory is the Oceania subsidiary of international Japanese beverage manufacturer, Suntory Group. I joined Queensland Treasurer Cameron Dick and assistant treasurer Charis Mullen at the Swanbank site last Thursday to turn the first sod and inspect early construction works.

Frucor Suntory will be a major boost for Ipswich's local economy. It will support up to 450 jobs during the construction and installation phases and 100 long-term jobs when the facility starts operating in 2024. When it opens, it will produce up to 20 million cases of drinks each year with capacity to scale up further.

I am excited to see our city increase our manufacturing capacity. We are growing in value as a desired location for local and global investors, thanks to our skilled workforce, our proximity to road and rail infrastructure, and our willingness to take on new opportunities to grow our local economy.

I would like to thank the Treasurer for his hard work and his engagement with Suntory in the lead-up to this new project. The support of the Queensland government's Invested in Queensland program is showing international companies like Suntory that there are clear benefits to investing in Queensland. The major investors and employers that have set up in Ipswich over the last few years with the state government's support include Rheinmetall, Coles, Australia Post, Saab and Costco. Because of their investment in Ipswich, hundreds of new local jobs have been created and multiple economic benefits have flowed on to the rest of the region. I welcome Frucor Suntory's investment in Ipswich and I know that they are looking forward to engaging closely with our local community and other businesses.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to increasing investment in our state is clearly showing benefits. The state's unemployment rate is now at a record low of 3.2 per cent. Queensland is not only the perfect state to invest in but also we are ideally positioned for the renewable energy revolution. Our recently announced Energy and Jobs Plan will help to tackle climate change while creating 100,000 secure clean energy jobs. I want to acknowledge Minister de Brenni who is in the House for the work he has done on this. Our goal of 70 per cent renewables by 2032 is a massive game changer. To reach that target, \$62 billion worth of public and private investment will be put into clean energy technology and manufacturing. This will create incredible economic opportunities for Queensland workers, businesses and communities. As we head towards 2032, the Palaszczuk Labor government is accelerating their support for investment in Queensland.

(Time expired)

Housing

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.44 pm): Mr Speaker, as you and others are aware, I and others have raised the issue of affordable housing in this chamber for years before it was a headline. I had no crystal ball, only the reality of what was happening in my own community pre-COVID. The

announcement of a Queensland housing summit is welcomed, as the member for Redlands mentioned. However, we need to ask a question to ensure the wellbeing of all we represent, especially with the 2032 Olympics coming up.

After the letters, pleas and speeches in this chamber by myself and other MPs, why has it taken this long? Was nobody listening? To hear that the granny flat idea was first touted at a recent round table, given it has been raised for years, left many scratching their heads. Recommendations from the upcoming summit must translate to action, including how to prevent it ever happening again, as our housing crisis was preventable. The early indicators were all there. These need to include an independent analysis of all levels of government and how we can work together to address the factors that got us to this point and ensure all focus on immediate, if temporary, solutions whilst working on the permanent. This needs to incorporate economic factors, investment trends, building codes and all contributors that have been raised over multiple years, as well the current labour and material shortages.

With the volume of expertise paid for by taxpayer dollars to identify risks in every realm, how was it that safe and affordable housing was left off the list? This summit is the opportunity to effect real and immediate change. We need to be bold and own up to our collective and individual roles. There is no room for blame or shelving of responsibility. There is much we can do immediately, for example, an identification of any and all unused, unallocated and underutilised government land as has been requested that could be used for short and medium-term accommodation for our workers and to get Queenslanders out of tents and cars. I have spoken previously of one such site that I pleaded for three years ago that still sits in idleness, waiting for master planning. As well, there should be exemptions for a trial period on all transfer duties for pensioners who wish to downsize their properties to free up family-sized homes. A must is ensuring that NRAS remains or there is an equivalent replacement. We also need innovation, collaboration and proper identification of contributors, including on the impacts of short-term accommodation, as the member for South Brisbane brought up. Facts, not assumptions, are essential.

I have said many times that having a secure, safe place to lay our head at night is the responsibility of every level of government. It has been a relief in these last weeks to finally hear this echoed instead of the blame game previously utilised. Once we get this crisis sorted, may we not ever see this again and be proactive versus reactive, with the summit the catalyst for change.

Cape York Peninsula, Land

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.47 pm): Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a remarkable connection to land that spans over tens of thousands of years, relying on the land for sustenance and shelter. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connection to land goes beyond the physical realm of what meets the eye. First Nations people's connection to land includes seasons, creation spirits and heritage. Country is a place of belonging. It forms a strong foundation to self-identity, belief system and is, above all, home.

On 7 September, I had the pleasure of joining the Premier, Minister Scanlon and Minister Butcher in the Northern Peninsula Area in Cape York for an historical land handover ceremony. It was an absolute pleasure to be part of this momentous occasion, to witness more than 362,000 hectares of land on Australia's Cape York Peninsula being handed back to the Gudang/Yadhaykenu, Atambaya and Angkamuthi peoples in a very special ceremony between traditional owners and the Queensland Palaszczuk government. Made up of 319,300 hectares of national park and 42,799 hectares of Aboriginal freehold land, which is equivalent to 676,000 football fields, it included land formerly known as Jardine River National Parks, Denham Group National Park, part of Heathlands Reserve and Jardine River Reserve and two offshore islands.

It was such a moving ceremony and one I was very proud to be a part of: the traditional songs, the dancing, the stories about connection to land and the long journey for legal recognition as the original custodians of the land, and then, of course, the historic signing of the land handover between the Queensland government and the four traditional owner groups in Cape York. The land will be granted to the Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and the Atambaya Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of traditional owners.

The Queensland government and the Gudang/Yadhaykenu, Atambaya and Angkamuthi peoples, represented by Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation, have also agreed to joint management arrangements over the two national parks. I want to acknowledge the Premier and the Queensland government for their ongoing commitment to reframing the relationship with Queensland's First Nations peoples and actually being on the right side of history in writing a new chapter in our state's history.

The history of First Nations communities is one that is rich and diverse and is intrinsically linked to the land. The land handover ceremony is a positive step for First Nations communities to seize new opportunities and make sure their story, their history that has been passed down for many generations, continues long into the future.

Disaster Preparedness

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.50 pm): Just two days ago in this chamber, the Premier spoke about the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast for natural disasters. As someone whose roles prior to politics dealt with natural disasters regularly, I want to remind Queenslanders that preparation is vital. However, it is one of the Premier's remarks that reinforces the disconnect within this current government. She stated—

The clear message is that from flooding and cyclones to bushfires, heatwaves and giant hail, we experience it all in Queensland and now is the time to prepare.

Those were the Premier's words and Queenslanders know that when they are facing those types of incidents—and in the recovery—we turn to emergency responders, both paid and volunteers. Just as Queenslanders should be, those agencies will be preparing for the upcoming season. However, even before the storms start to gather, they do so under a dark cloud.

As Peter Gleeson reported in the *Courier-Mail* on 8 September, rumours are circulating that mass changes are on the horizon for our emergency services, especially our volunteer emergency services. It is time for this government to come clean. For over 2½ years this government has kept the Darby review into the SES a secret, and for over 12 months now the KPMG review into the structure of QFES has also been kept secret—secret from the taxpayers who bore the cost of both and, even more heartlessly, the volunteers who will be directly affected.

The bushfire royal commission, the IGEM report into the K'gari bushfires and, just this week, the IGEM report into our most recent disaster season highlighted issues that affect Queenslanders facing the wrath of Mother Nature and the volunteers who will bravely respond. Amidst all this concern and all this uncertainty, we also learned that we have facilities under the control of this government that are used by volunteers that have no toilets. It is like some sort of a Third World country.

The disrespect that this government has shown to emergency volunteers in Queensland is simply unacceptable. It is time for this government to release the reports. It is time for transparency. It is time to show those volunteers and those emergency service workers the respect they deserve. It is all well and good for the Premier to issue a warning for the upcoming cyclone and bushfire season, but more importantly we need to know that Queenslanders have confidence that our emergency services have the staff, the resources and the structure that they need to do their job.

If the rumoured changes are supported by these reports, the minister should say so. If not, the minister should explain why taxpayer funds were wasted. It is the least he can do for Queenslanders and the least he can do for Queensland's emergency volunteers.

Mansfield Electorate, Community Events

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.53 pm): I rise to speak about the celebratory events that have taken place in our wonderful Mansfield community of late. I was joined by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence to host a morning tea at the Mount Gravatt Bowls Club to celebrate the tireless work of our justices of the peace and commissioners of declaration. We have over 1,000 justices of the peace and commissioners of declaration in my community and it was fantastic to recognise those community members who have volunteered for 25, 40 and 50 years.

It was also an honour to attend the St George Indian Orthodox Church consecration in Mackenzie. Over 1,000 people gathered to celebrate this significant milestone. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government contributed \$35,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund towards this church.

It was a pleasure to also attend a service with the Brisbane Chinese Alliance Church, led by Reverend Jacob Kai Wing Luk. Jacob and his family are much loved in our community. I thank former member for Capalaba Michael Choi for facilitating this opportunity with our local Chinese families.

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School held a wonderful fete after a long hiatus. I say congratulations to fete convenors Brenda and Danielle and all the store convenors and volunteers on a great day. September would not be complete without the end-of-year sporting finals for our various

groups. I say congratulations to the Mount Gravatt Vultures, Mount Gravatt Hawks, Clairvaux Football Club and East Mount Gravatt Junior Rugby League for running another successful season for our children, young people and adult players.

Last weekend the Queensland Police hosted their annual Mansfield Park Run Cops and Robbers event. I thank Mount Gravatt East local resident Mick Morier for coordinating another sensational morning.

The Rochedale Estates hosted a superb community day for local residents who enjoyed great food, entertainment and information stalls. I say congratulations to everyone who coordinated the day, including Queensland Lifestyle Real Estate, Rochedale dentist, Rochedale vet, Queensland Police and the Rochedale Neighbourhood Watch group.

Finally, LESI Digital Music Education Centre held a marvellous family day attended by many local students and their families. These community events would not be possible without the thousands of hours put in by volunteers who make them a reality. Volunteers are the backbone of our community and I thank each and every individual in my electorate who has been part of these significant community celebrations. This is certainly what makes my community a great community to live in.

QPlas

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.56 pm): The government has an issue with delivering the environmental announcements they make. The \$100 million Resource Recovery Industry Development Program opened to businesses in September 2018. I have spoken before about how badly this program was rolled out—over \$811 million in applications but less than half of the \$100 million was actually spent. Today I am going to explain how this mismanagement impacted just one business.

QPlas from Townsville make composite products for agriculture, construction, mining, road and rail infrastructure, and transport logistic markets from 100 per cent wood residues and second-life plastics. They were approached by an entrepreneur about using hardwood waste and plastic waste to make composite products—anything from tomato stakes to rail sleepers. This is exactly what the fund was for: finding solutions for what to do with a waste product. QPlas applied for the RRIDP in August 2020. They were accepted into stream 2 in September 2020 and put in a full application.

In October the member for Townsville got in touch and QPlas took it as a congratulations on being successful. However, in November they were told they had just passed gateway 1 and were being considered for the next stage. A few weeks later they were told they had passed gateway 2 and would find out more in December that year. They were then told the panel would not be meeting until February 2021 and they would hear more then.

When they contacted the state development department in February they were told the RRID Program had been discontinued, but they did not need to worry because their application had been put into a new fund, the Recycling Modernisation Fund, and they would be the first cab off the rank for that fund. There was still no word and then in April that year they were told nothing else was required of them and they would hear soon. By December 2021 there was still no word, so I wrote to the Deputy Premier about the business still being in limbo, and I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 December 2021, from the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor MP, to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program [\[1683\]](#).

Finally, another seven months later and two years since first applying for support, in August this year they were told they were unsuccessful. This process is absolutely ridiculous. It is even worse when we factor in the cost of professionally putting together an application for this fund, which is around \$5,000, and some businesses have told me consultant costs have been up to \$15,000. The website for the successor grant program to this, the RMF, shows no projects approved for funding. We were the last state to sign up to the RMF and businesses in Queensland are still missing out because in other states grants supporting recycling projects have been there for months or, in some cases, even years.

The Energy and Jobs Plan includes similar recycling grant programs to these. We cannot allow the same mismanagement to occur. I urge the government to start caring about more than just how things look.

Townsville University Hospital, Brighter Lives

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.59 pm): I rise today to pay tribute to an excellent organisation, an organisation close to my heart, Brighter Lives. The team does so much important work supporting the Townsville University Hospital staff, patients and visitors.

Brighter Lives is the official charity partner of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. It has been committed to better health in our region for the past 30 years alongside our especially important volunteers, who brighten the lives of patients every day. It supports life-saving health services in Townsville and across our region by fundraising for vital equipment, essential training, critical research and world-class facilities. It is 100 per cent local. Every dollar raised stays local.

Thanks to the \$24,830 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund I had the pleasure to recently welcome the new Brighter Lives six-seater electric buggy with my dear friend Bandi Bear and hardworking chief executive officer Tanya Busoli. This six-seater buggy is a new addition and will transport patients around the Townsville University Hospital. It has room to carry a family, luggage and wheelchairs for our patients' convenience. Better Lives recently ran a naming competition for the new buggy. The winner was Wanda Woods with the name *Sunshine Sally*. Wanda won a \$100 voucher for her nominated name and it will no doubt bring a smile to many faces when they see *Sunshine Sally* buzzing around the hospital.

I know how lucky we are to have a dedicated team of Brighter Lives volunteers at the Townsville University Hospital and I thank them dearly for their important work. One of the team, Ms Karen Inch, has completed 38 years of dedicated volunteering service to the hospital foundation, now known as Brighter Lives. She was also the first volunteer at the old Townsville general hospital at North Ward. I have a community champion award, and when I heard of the extensive service Karen had given to our growing community I had no hesitation in awarding Karen this much deserved award as she is the perfect example of a community champion. I thank her for her dedicated service.

I also thank all those companies and organisations that reach out to Brighter Lives on a regular basis with their support to make a difference to those in need—like our 5th Aviation Regiment in Townsville for Operation Care Bear. Brighter Lives CEO Tanya Busoli said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some of these children. She also stated—

These families aren't having the best of times with their loved ones being in hospital, and allowing these patients to come and actually fly over Townsville and experience flying in a helicopter is something they will never forget.

The birth suites at the Townsville University Hospital are looking much brighter thanks to the support from Glencore's refinery and port operations. The new blinds allow better control of natural light entering the suites.

(Time expired)

MENTAL HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.02 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Mental Health Select Committee Report No. 1, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders*, tabled on 6 June 2022.

It gives me great pleasure during Mental Health Week to talk to this report. It would be rare to find someone in our community who has not been impacted by mental health, alcohol and other drugs issues or suicidality. The impact on the individual can be enormous—frequently fatal—and the impacts on families and society cannot be underestimated.

I acknowledge all people with lived experience and thank those who participated in the inquiry for their significant contributions. People told us stories of stigmatisation, poor service, trauma, estrangement from families and loved ones, and not being listened to or believed. They spoke of the challenges of getting a job, maintaining relationship or maintaining a home. They spoke of the challenges of getting diagnosis or treatment. First Nations people told us of the importance of healing the scar at the core of our nation as a key action to dealing with intergenerational trauma. They also told us how important it is that they are involved in planning, delivering and evaluating services for their communities.

We met people with lived experiences, volunteers and health professionals. We spoke with community organisations, public servants and private sector organisations. They are delivering services in innovative ways and often with nowhere near enough funding. Our committee considered other reports and examined more recent phenomena such as the emerging role of people with lived

experiences, ongoing efforts by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to achieve justice, the introduction of the NDIS, the impact of COVID-19, changing treatment modalities and workforce pressures. I believe that we have provided a way forward for current and future governments.

I first worked in a mental health unit when I was just 19 years of age. Thankfully much as changed since then, but much more needs to change. I am pleased to see the funding commitment in the recent budget and I am pleased to say that we have found a way to create a sustainable funding pool. We need to establish strong governance principles and make sure planning and commissioning of services involves a broad range of stakeholders, most importantly those people with lived experiences. With planning and decent funding, it should be possible to address the vast need across the spectrum of mental health services. Perinatal, child and youth mental health services are in particularly urgent need of improved service delivery and attention. We know that the vast majority of people develop mental health or AOD issues before the age of 25, so this is where prevention, diagnosis and early intervention need to be focused.

In addition to those just noted, the committee identified significant opportunities to improve mental health and wellbeing in Queensland: developing a wellness strategy; reducing stigma and encouraging help-seeking behaviour; development of workplace and small business prevention strategies; providing employment and housing support; implementing more person centred case management; increasing specialised services including acute and rehabilitation services, early psychosis and eating disorder services and suicide prevention services; reforming the primary healthcare system; addressing the missing middle and particularly utilising community organisations; ensuring NDIS empowers individuals towards independence; improving and expanding crisis and emergency care systems; increasing services for people in the criminal justice system; and targeted consideration for at-risk populations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the LGBTIQ+ communities. We need to develop a statewide trauma strategy and we need to dramatically expand our AOD services.

If unlimited resources existed to deliver services, our state would still face a major challenge delivering needed services due to workforce pressures. I welcome the government's Workforce Strategy, but mental health and AOD workforces have to be a key focus. It is simple to summarise the findings of the committee, but implementation will take courage, commitment, coordination, funding and ongoing efforts by governments and our community.

I would like to thank the Premier for initiating this inquiry and having the courage and leadership to tackle another major issue facing our society. I would also like to thank the secretariat, particularly Dr Amanda Beem, and the other committee members for their work, particularly the deputy chair, the member for Southport.

The Queensland Mental Health Commission often stated that across the spectrum of our system healthcare practitioners are working hard to help many people and there exists many pockets of excellence. We do start from a strong base but there is much to do. It is hoped that this report provides guidance and that we can move from pockets of excellence to a system of excellence.

The committee started and finished the inquiry listening to the voices of people with lived experience. While we heard stories of challenges, we also heard stories of hope and we heard their views on ways to fix things, do things better and empower people. It is hoped that this report demonstrates not only that we have listened to those people but also that we have made recommendations that will improve the lives of all Queenslanders. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.07 pm): I would like to simply incorporate into my brief contribution everything the member for Greenslopes had to say and then add some. I, too, give my thanks to all members of the Mental Health Select Committee for their time and effort, for the dialogue and conversation and for the opportunities we had to share some incredibly unique and moving experiences as we travelled around the state. I add to the chair's thanks a special thanks to Dr Amanda Beem and the team for the incredibly hard work they did in compiling the report.

If there is one theme that came out for me it is simply the word 'support'. We met with so many different groups across the state. We met with individuals. We met people with lived experience who came and shared their stories and their traumas. The common theme we heard was of an overwhelming need for us all to dig a little deeper in terms of our humanity and find ways to look out for others and provide greater support to those in need in our community. It was a roller-coaster of an experience but such a rewarding and rich experience. It was such a privilege, as a member of parliament, to be exposed to so many incredible people.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge some special people down my way. I particularly thank Bernice Smith and all the team at Goldbridge Rehabilitation Services, who have been there for decades providing support for people with drug and alcohol related issues. Thanks also to Katy and to Michael and Corinne Barrett at Transformations on the Gold Coast and to Mal and Edith Kennedy, who have toiled for years in supporting people through an incredible service called Set Free Care.

We started the process with a visit to Stepping Stones Clubhouse in Coorparoo, a suggestion of the chair, Joe Kelly. It was an incredible experience. That service truly sums up the word support. It is a community of people who have been coming and going each day for a significant amount of time who find unconditional love and support in that environment and so much practical assistance.

Continuing that theme, the concept of support is an important one. We heard on a number of occasions from various organisations that appeared, and what we are seeing even now as Australia wrestles with the current housing crisis, that there is a need not only for housing but also for supportive housing. There is a need to accommodate people in environments or settings where they can well and truly become part of a community of support where there are services provided to them. A great example of that was the testimony we heard from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union when they shared with us a little bit about the nurse-led service in South Brisbane that works with Micah Projects, Common Ground and a number of other services. They shared with us that for an investment of a few hundred thousand dollars a year they believe the service they were providing was saving some \$6½ million in diversions from mental health units, hospital beds, EDs, and in ambulance and police officer time. There are innovative approaches and I believe it is beholden on us, as we look through the recommendations of the report, not only to consider all the requests for more, but also to deeply consider some of those more innovative approaches that we see across the state.

I want to say thank you in particular to Mayor Ross Andrews in Yarrabah. We had an incredible experience at Yarrabah on the day we visited. A decade ago when I was the assistant minister for child safety I had the privilege of visiting a number of Indigenous communities. What I saw in Yarrabah was refreshing by comparison. I know there is still so much work to be done among First Nations people, but the team at Yarrabah in the health service and in their local council are a group of people who deeply care for their community. I do not think I have ever seen so many smiles and experienced so much warmth at a health service as I did in Yarrabah. I acknowledge and pay tribute to them.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.12 pm): I rise to comment on our Mental Health Select Committee report, *Inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders*. I was proud to be given the opportunity to participate in this committee and the work that was done over a six-month period. This committee could have gone on for so much longer and spoken to so many more people because the work that is in front of us in the field of mental health services and alcohol and other drug services is not going to end any time soon. While this report has presented 57 recommendations, I think we can all acknowledge that it does not end there and that there will be more work than we can ever deal with.

It certainly was not an easy process for me to be a part of, but I acknowledge that sometimes the hardest things to do, the things that most need doing, are definitely not the easiest things to do. I thank the committee members and the secretariat for their support in the work that was involved in assisting the committee. In all honesty, five minutes is not going to do this report justice.

Before I get to the recommendations I would like to highlight an aspect of this committee process that I think may be helpful to all members of this House. In considering how this committee would do its work we had discussion about how the process should happen. We were going to be speaking to some of the most vulnerable Queenslanders and in doing so, as parliamentarians asking Queenslanders to recount their stories, we had to acknowledge the trauma that they would be bringing to the table. The responsible thing to do was to make sure that our inquiry was a trauma-informed inquiry. As part of that, committee members sat down with the Clerk to talk about how as parliamentarians we approach Queenslanders and how we support them when we ask them to come forward with their stories.

I am very pleased to report that with the help of Parliamentary Services as best we could we ensured that the processes were trauma informed. When we had vulnerable members of the public coming forward to tell their stories we had support available for them: we had qualified, trained people who could talk to them before and after they gave their evidence because the value that we got out of some of the stories should be weighed against the impact that retelling some of those stories does have on people.

There were 57 recommendations and each of them is a massive story in itself. I have no doubt we will be talking about some of them in future sitting weeks as they involve changes to legislation and policy. Recommendation 5 in terms of reducing stigma and the need to have influential people talk about mental health and normalise what mental health looks like in the workplace was certainly a significant factor in determining my course in talking about my mental health issues. I would encourage people in Queensland who have some exposure and experience or have had mental health concerns to talk about them more often and more loudly just so that people know that people can have high functioning jobs, perform their tasks and carry on normal lives. That will only happen when we have more people in those positions openly talking about it.

I was also very pleased to see recommendation 17, which talks about mental health services for Queensland's first responders post separation. Given what we are hearing about some of my former workplaces at the moment, in particular the Queensland Police Service, I do not think that we can fully comprehend what some of those people who have since separated from the QPS are going through or have gone through. I note the QPS does have wonderful support for those in the job, but I think what we need is something post service separation; much like the veterans have. I am very pleased to see that recommendation and I commend the report to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.17 pm): I am most grateful to be able to make a contribution to the Mental Health Select Committee report. There are plenty of different views in this place about many different things. However, I know one thing we all agree on is this: mental health is a very serious problem. We will not find a Queenslanders who does not know someone who has suffered at the hands of it, and that goes for all of us in here as well. As the report found, almost one in two Queenslanders experience a mental health illness in their lifetime. In fact, in any 12-month period in Queensland approximately 20 per cent of adults and 14 per cent of children and young people experience a mental illness. We also know that Queensland consistently records suicide rates above the national average.

Mental illness does not discriminate. Whether it is a mum battling postnatal depression, a veteran struggling to transition to civilian life grappling with crippling anxiety or PTSD, a professional hiding alcohol abuse or a teenager with a debilitating eating disorder, it does not discriminate. We all recognise that and so this debate is an important one. I know my colleagues from the opposition on the committee engaged in good faith throughout the inquiry and I thank them for their contribution on behalf of the opposition. While I am on my feet I would also like to thank all those who took the time to provide written submissions and appear before the committee. Your contributions are valued.

Before I move on it is important to remember how we arrived at this juncture. A very brave mental health commissioner laid it all on the table, explaining how the sector was at breaking point. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists explained that the mental health system was on the brink of collapse. They pointed out that when it comes to mental health funding per head of population Queensland sat at the bottom of the list. There were pleas from all corners of the community that help was needed—from patients, parents, clinicians, advocates—and it was unanimous. I am proud to say that on this side of the chamber we backed those calls.

This inquiry was a necessary step but it cannot be a wasted one. Included in the recommendations of the report are genuine evidence based ideas that the government must consider and implement. I appreciate that it is not going to be an overnight fix but the government must use the momentum of this report to make tangible changes quickly. None of us in this place can let the pleas we heard from the sector, patients and their families be in vain. Just because a report has been written does not mean that the job is over. I say to the government: the job has just begun.

Recently, the opposition was contacted by someone who had tried to call Queensland Health's mental health access line, which should connect patients to public mental health services. After going through the automated section of the call, the individual's call was placed to the Redcliffe Hospital. The call was made midmorning during business hours. The phone rang out. Nobody picked up. For someone who might be at a low ebb or at their lowest ebb, that hurts. That is a small example and it might be an isolated case, but it might not be. It is a small glimpse that shows that mental health services in this state are not up to scratch. The government cannot let people fall through the cracks.

It is unfortunate that, given all of the work of the committee, the attention by the government seems to have been on one key recommendation. That recommendation was of course 1b), which the government used to slap an increase on payroll tax for businesses. I wish that the government jumped at the opportunity to rapidly implement some of the report's other recommendations as quickly as it did this one. Mental health is a sensitive issue. It is as sensitive as it comes. I was disappointed because it

was obvious that the government had used this sensitive issue as a Trojan Horse to cover for its inability to manage a budget. The solution to tax Queenslanders in the middle a cost-of-living crisis will exacerbate the very problem this committee sought to solve. Queenslanders are already under enough pressure and a new tax would only make things tougher in difficult times. A good government would acknowledge that but they have not. Properly funding and resourcing to the mental health sector is critical. However, introducing a new payroll tax would force small, medium and large businesses to pass on their costs to Queenslanders. Every Queenslanders will pay. I repeat: every Queenslanders will pay, even those suffering from mental health illnesses and those who can ill afford it.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system no matter where they live and nowhere is that more apparent than in the rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland where the incidence of mental health illness is greatest. We need to ensure that everyone with a mental health illness is looked after.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.22 pm): Our Mental Health Select Committee's inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health services for Queenslanders was truly a work of heart. From Brisbane to Bundaberg and Hervey Bay, from the Gold Coast to Yarrabah, and from Cairns to Kingaroy, we heard from mental health advocates, community organisations, public and private mental health practitioners, faith groups and peak bodies. Most importantly, we heard from Queenslanders with lived experience of mental illness, suicidality, and alcohol and drug issues. Theirs are the voices I remember most vividly. I am so grateful for their honesty, courage, forthrightness and insights. Thank you for sharing your difficult experiences out of your commitment to improving mental health for Queenslanders.

From the young mental health advocates who told us bravely that mental health treatment had made their situations worse rather than better to the Kingaroy Chamber of Commerce President, Damien Martoo, who described his family's heartbreaking experiences after the suicide of his son, you made our report better. In particular, I will never forget our first site visit to Stepping Stone Clubhouse in the electorate of the member for Greenslopes. One clubhouse member, whose name I am ashamed to say I do not recall, loudly demanded to know why the committee had no members who identified as having a lived experience of mental illness. He questioned how we could properly do the work of the inquiry without that lived experience. I admit in that moment I was deeply taken aback. How could we as members of parliament take that vulnerable step of admitting that we have a lived experience of mental illness? His challenge was a stark reminder to me of the stigma that is still attached to mental illness. I am really grateful to that gentleman for helping me think more deeply about the importance of each of us as leaders in being honest and vulnerable and sharing our stories. In fact, each of us came to this work with our own stories, our own experiences and our own insights. Like so many, my own family has lost too many people too soon to mental illness and addiction. Others have recovered from mental illness and addiction and built good lives.

I thank the mental health professionals who shared their insights with us. They include thousands of people with lived experience who work as peer workers and whose roles in caring for Queenslanders in mental distress are so critical. Lived experience peer workers not only care with real empathy for their clients; they also bring hope every day by demonstrating to people in dark periods of their lives that recovery from even serious mental illness is possible and that those experiences can be a force for good. Peer work takes many forms, like the Red Cross Sisters for Change program run at the Townsville Women's Correctional Centre where the prisoners themselves receive mental health first-aid training. Positive experiences are reported by facility workers, staff members and the prisoners themselves. Recommendation No. 15 of our report regarding the delivery of AOD services into correctional facilities and, in particular, to people on remand is particularly close to my heart.

Across Queensland, our mental health workers told a remarkably consistent story. You told us again and again that mental health is the poor cousin of health care and that alcohol and other drug services are the poor cousins of mental health care. One submitter challenged our committee not to add yet another unheeded mental health report to the pile.

Today's release of the Better Care Together and Achieving Balance plans shows Queenslanders experiencing mental illness, their families, friends and carers and the professionals who support them that our inquiry has made a difference. The extra \$1.64 billion in funding for mental health and AOD services over the next five years shows it too. This record funding will add beds, enhance rehabilitation care, provide more community care, grow child and adolescent services, improve crisis response and suicide prevention, and fund dedicated services for First Nations Queenslanders. It has the potential to save the lives of some Queenslanders and give others back their lives. But it is not going to be easy.

Thank you to the member for Greenslopes for his leadership and to all members for their bipartisanship. I thought it was disappointing to hear the member for Mudgeeraba's contribution undermine that bipartisanship. Our mental health inquiry was the first of its kind to provide a trauma informed response. I particularly congratulate the member for Macalister for her advocacy. I commend our report to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.27 pm): I rise to address the Mental Health Select Committee report. On 2 December 2021, the Queensland parliament agreed to a motion to establish the Mental Health Select Committee to undertake an inquiry and report on opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders. The Mental Health Select Committee members were then appointed. As the state member for Moggill, it was a privilege to be appointed to the committee. I acknowledge all other members of the committee: the chair, the member for Greenslopes; the deputy chair, the member for Southport; as well as the member for Whitsunday, the member for Traeger, the member for Pumicestone, the member for South Brisbane, the member for Macalister and the member for Rockhampton. I also acknowledge the committee secretariat led by Dr Amanda Beem. A very significant aspect of the Mental Health Select Committee was the varying range of professional and personal lived experiences and unique perspectives that the appointed parliamentarians brought to the inquiry.

On 15 December 2021, the Mental Health Select Committee invited stakeholders and Queenslanders to make written submissions to the committee. In total, 164 submissions were received. I take this opportunity to really thank all of those who submitted to the committee and those who attended individual committee hearing sessions. Their input was invaluable, whether it came from those with lived experience or, alternatively, expert professionals whose advice was provided. Many consumers and stakeholders provided important insights. They came from various hospital and health services, youth and First Nations organisations, not-for-profit and community groups, older persons' mental health services, alcohol and drug sector organisations and mental health service providers as well as those providing perinatal and infant mental health services.

There are a number of points I wanted to specifically highlight, but certainly all the recommendations are vitally important and absolutely deserve careful consideration and implementation by the Queensland government. I know that the Queensland government has given that commitment. Certainly, there are a number of matters related to health workforce, whether that be related to psychiatrists, addiction medicine specialists, psychologists, allied health staff, and nurse practitioners. It is certainly my view that more needs to be done in terms of having dedicated conjoint medical registrar training positions: those completing a fellowship of the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians or, alternatively, those undertaking training with the faculty of addiction psychiatry within the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

There needs to be collaboration between public and private sector providers but also, importantly, mental healthcare regional plans with respect to workforce and collaboration among hospital and health services and primary healthcare networks. We need enhanced strategies to include carers and the voices of those with a lived experience in both the design of mental health services but also to be included in service delivery reform. A whole-of-government trauma strategy must be implemented. As a specialist physician in addiction medicine, a former president of the Australian Medical Association and having previously served on the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council with the Queensland Mental Health Commission, I strongly believe that in order to deliver this strategy and many other recommendations Queensland does require a dedicated ministerial portfolio for mental health with such a portfolio residing with either the Premier or Deputy Premier or, alternatively, the Treasurer.

With the Queensland government having determined a funding strategy to implement these recommendations, perhaps the Treasurer, the member for Woodridge, could take on such an important responsibility to really collaborate and coordinate funded solutions with cabinet colleagues across various portfolios and departments, because many of these matters pertain not only to health but to education, child safety, law enforcement, corrections and other related areas. If there were not a dedicated portfolio, then perhaps a dedicated cabinet subcommittee because this ongoing work that needs to be implemented over the years ahead is very important. It does need a dedicated, collaborative and coordinated approach between various ministers and departments.

Alcohol and drug services are in need of urgent attention, particularly as they pertain to funded alcohol, tobacco and other drug services. I certainly do acknowledge the statement today of the Minister for Health. There are a range of harm minimisation programs and other interventions either actively implemented or under consideration which need to be funded and appropriately evaluated.

I encourage the state government to also consider re-establishing direct clinical advisory support services for clinicians similar to what existed previously via the medicines regulation and quality unit prior to QScript being implemented.

In conclusion, I want to say to all Queenslanders who participated and followed this inquiry: your voices have been heard. This was an important inquiry. I encourage all parliamentarians to support the implementation of this landmark inquiry and report. It provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.32 pm): This Mental Health Week I am very proud to rise to speak on the Mental Health Select Committee report. I state at the outset that I am in awe of the committee for endeavouring to undertake such a Herculean and wideranging bipartisan review. I congratulate all of the committee members for their work and certainly the chair. I was lucky enough to sit in as a substitute on the committee for just a day, which is why I wanted to speak today.

I also pay special tribute to our colleague, the member for Macalister, who in addition to being on this committee has also been so beautifully open about her own mental health journey. She makes such a contribution in this place. I find her to be a real inspiration. Everybody here would rightly say that we are so proud to call her a friend. I also acknowledge—I am not going to say ‘the bravery’—our colleague the member for Southern Downs for coming forward last year and staking his claim in saying that he needed to take time off. I know that every single member of the House at that time wished him well. It is really wonderful that we can do that. It was that bipartisan spirit that was brought by the committee to this report. It is one heck of a read.

How can any of us possibly hope to canvas the myriad topics covered in this report in just five minutes? Of course, none of us can. I just wanted to cover off briefly on a few areas that I identify with in my family and my life experience. Thank you to the member for Pumicestone for also sharing her experience; it is really important.

On the day that I sat in as part of the committee, one of the witnesses spoke to the committee about people’s transition into aged care. Although from memory that committee hearing was about six months ago now, I still remember this piece of testimony really vividly. The evidence was that for many people and their families the transition to aged care is really quite traumatic. It is a huge life event that is also quite upsetting for those families. I do not know why exactly, but those words really hit me like a thunderbolt and have stayed with me ever since.

Around the time of this hearing my nan’s health took a serious turn for the worse. Just as we had heard in evidence, my father and his brother had to find aged care for my nan fairly quickly. Up until that time, nan and pop had been living in their home in Auckland, Pakuranga with daily visits from family. They were completely self-sufficient and had hoped to live out the rest of their days in their little three-bedroom, weatherboard, shingle home in Pakuranga in which they raised their children basically from infancy. It is pretty amazing that in such a short period of time my nan was having falls and my pop could no longer care for her. It was a huge upheaval not just to nan and pop who actually dealt with it quite well but to the entire family. I have always been a person who says that a home is where you live and your house is where you live until it no longer suits your needs and then you find the next place to live that also suits your needs.

The idea of going back to New Zealand and not pulling up in the driveway of No. 27 The Boulevard in Pakuranga is an absolute wrench to me and the whole family. I can see very clearly why it would be so hard for so many people to transition out of that family home that they have probably lived in for their entire adult lives in a lot of cases and move into aged care. One lesson for us all from this work could be that we need to put some real thought into how we do that and how we prepare ourselves for what in many cases will be an inevitable life event as we age.

In the time left I just wanted to touch on the small business component. One thing which I did not find in my brief perusal but which I wanted to touch on was the impact of social media on small business owners. A lot of us think nothing of leaving a review but, from my experience and the experience that we had in our family business, those reviews really hit owners hard. I ask people to think twice and to be kind online.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.37 pm): It was an absolute privilege to be able to participate, listen and travel the state as part of the Mental Health Select Committee. I would like to thank—in what was a very bipartisan committee—the members for Greenslopes and Southport who worked very well together as our chair and deputy chair, all members of the committee from both sides of the House and the crossbench and also the secretariat and Hansard, because the content of what we heard throughout that committee’s entire travels in some of its hearings was quite significant, quite emotionally tolling and taxing. I just thank everyone for their efforts because it was a very important issue that needed to be brought to the fore.

Across our state, almost one in two Queenslanders experience a mental illness in their life time. Certainly, my family has had firsthand experience. I share this because it is important not just in this House but in our communities that we do share lived experience. I acknowledge the member for Macalister for the very eloquent way in which she has shared the insights into her lived experience.

For me and my family, my father took his own life 13 years ago next February. That had a significant ripple effect across my family and my community. To this day, a number of my family members will probably never get over the loss of him. We have lived experience.

It was a privilege to be able to sit on that committee and listen to and connect with other Queenslanders like Damien Martoo from Kingaroy who shared the loss of his son to suicide. He spoke of what he and his community are proactively doing through their chamber of commerce. I know that the member for Nanango was very keen to speak to this committee report because when the inquiry was announced she came forward and said, 'You need to come to my community. Nanango has one of the worst suicide rates in Queensland.' It was important that we took the opportunity to listen. Damien Martoo shared lived experience of interacting with state agencies, whether it be the Coroner's office or health services. He spoke of the need for trauma informed approaches. The committee heard that loud and clear and that was one of our recommendations. One of our other recommendations was to ensure that a peer supported workforce is something the government considers. I was pleased to hear the minister's commitment to funding mental health services.

It was shown in the Queensland Health report that we were one of the worst states when it comes to the funding of mental health services in the last decade. When one looks at the Queensland Health data around the workforce in my community of the Whitsundays and further afield in North, Far North and remote Queensland we find that there is significant underinvestment in workforce attraction and retention and investment is needed.

That is also going to need the support of the federal government. I was the first to call out during the committee hearings where the former federal government was failing regional and rural Queensland. When one travels beyond Noosa one cannot access psychology services, telehealth services, services for teenagers with eating disorders, psychiatric services for young children or paediatric psychiatric services. In my community I have headspace that operates only two days a week and that is not good enough. Through the discussions we had as a committee we made recommendations on those things. The issues were so significant that I think we could have filled another couple of committee reports.

I also recognise the impact that alcohol and other drugs is having across our communities. There are a lack of services and facilities and there is a need for co-investment to expand those services, particularly in regional, rural and remote Queensland. As pointed out in the statement of reservation, whilst philosophically I disagree with the funding model that the government has brought forward, I agree that mental health needs to be a priority of both sides of this House. We need to do everything we can to connect people and ensure their wellbeing is maintained. The suicide rate across the state is far too high.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.42 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mental Health Select Committee's report and its recommendations. The inquiry considered the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

The committee received 164 written submissions and undertook an extensive consultation process. We held four private hearings and 15 public hearings in Brisbane and across Queensland to hear from submitters, stakeholder groups, people with lived experience and members of the public. The committee heard evidence from 243 witnesses. We also conducted 11 site visits across Queensland from the Gold Coast to Cairns, and we had the opportunity to visit the Aboriginal community of Yarrabah. I acknowledge those who provided their statements and submissions, particularly those with lived mental health experience, alcohol and other drug issues and those who have experienced suicidality issues. It is rare to find anyone who has not been impacted in some way by these issues.

The committee heard numerous stories of the difficulties that people were experiencing in accessing mental health services and support. One of the biggest issues that I noted was the lack of youth mental health and eating disorder services in regional and remote Queensland. Recommendations 5 and 32 go to this point as well as being covered in other recommendations. There were a total of 57 recommendations.

One of our site visits was to Stepping Stone at Stones Corner. This is a great community organisation supporting people with lived experience. We heard from one young lady who had found out about Stepping Stone Clubhouse when she was 18 and not long after she had been diagnosed.

She had experienced a lot of mental health issues and it had been quite a long journey and very much a struggle. She found it very hard to come to the clubhouse at first because she was so unwell, but gladly this increased. She found meaningfulness, purpose, a place of belonging and acceptance. She became more social, made more connections and got involved in work. She has obtained employment which has helped her routine, structure and confidence. This is something that she did not think she would ever achieve.

Her comments really spoke of the importance of having supportive and welcoming community-based organisations that are developed in conjunction with the input of those with lived experience to ensure that the organisation is truly client focused. I hope we will see similar models in other locations. In Rockhampton and Central Queensland I would love to see something in that space. There are quite a lot of mental health services, but nothing as good as I saw at Stepping Stone, which is an amazing organisation.

I thank the secretariat and staff for the great work they did in compiling this report. I thank my fellow committee members, and particularly the member for Greenslopes for his leadership in this area. As a group we have varied skills which complemented each other and we produced a great report, I believe. I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (3.46 pm): I start by reiterating what other committee members have said and offer my sincere thanks to the submitters, the witnesses, the secretariat and committee members. The six-month government-led inquiry was not quite what the sector had been calling for. I think there are many more communities, organisations and individuals that we could have heard from. Nonetheless, the inquiry covered incredibly important ground and heard some vital evidence.

We heard ample evidence about Queensland's underfunded mental health sector. As the report sets out, health expenditure increases have not led to increases in mental health expenditure over recent years in Queensland. Over the past decade mental health expenditure has been below the national average. In 2019-20 Queensland had the lowest per capita expenditure on mental health services in Australia.

Submitters like Professor John Allan, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and the AMAQ were calling for funding increases of \$900 million, \$750 million and \$650 million to \$700 million per year respectively. The result in the 2022 budget was that the government announced an increase of \$350 million a year. Essentially, the government took the lowest estimate of what it would take to fix our mental health sector and halved it. In a wealthy state like Queensland where we have a budget surplus of nearly \$2 billion and based on the evidence that we heard from people across the state, this is quite disappointing. Our mental health system remains underfunded.

The committee heard evidence about the social determinants of health, including poverty and housing stress. There is acknowledgement in the report of the links between access to safe, secure and affordable housing and health outcomes, but the recommendations do not go far enough. Household debt and housing stress are among major triggers for anxiety, stress, depression and suicide. With the cost of housing and living only getting worse, I fear for the future of tens of thousands of Queenslanders.

Housing needs to form a central focus of the recommended Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy that is set out in the report. If the government is serious about supporting Queenslanders' mental health, universal housing is essential.

Our primary healthcare system is in crisis. We heard evidence on how vital GPs are in the mental health system. The ACA said that 60 per cent of GP presentations between 2017 and 2019 were related to mental health but warned that urban and regional areas will become progressively undersupplied by GPs to the years to 2030. We heard evidence on GP shortages. I have heard countless stories about GPs who are no longer offering bulk-billing, and many people are now struggling to afford a visit to the doctor.

Without good primary health care, our hospital services also become overburdened with people who eventually require more acute care. Then couple this with the extreme cost of accessing psychologists and psychiatrists, even for basic diagnoses. We need to not only expand general practitioner mental health, alcohol and other drug services, as noted in the report, but also lift the Medicare rebate cap and boost funding for primary health care.

I would like to briefly acknowledge some of the organisations in South Brisbane that are working hard to support people's mental health, connection and community—some of whom contributed to the inquiry. Brisbane Seniors Online, based in the Gabba, do vital work connecting hundreds of seniors with access to technology, with training on using computers, tablets and smartphones. They aim to bridge the generational technology gap, expand social opportunities for seniors and help people get online. Providing seniors with this kind of support and training is crucial to combating isolation, building community and ensuring people have access to crucial services.

Eating Disorders Queensland do vital work supporting people who are living with an eating disorder, their carers, loved ones and key support people, with individual and group therapy, peer mentoring and community building. EDQ's evidence to the inquiry pushed for a greater focus on prevention including the need for systemic change to diet and weight loss culture to address eating disorders.

Women's Health & Equality Queensland, just outside of South Brisbane, are leaders in women's health, gender equality and preventing violence, providing health services and counselling for women with experience of violence, and pushing for structural reform. They too stress the need for preventive work, advocating for school-based programs to support young women's self-esteem and self-image and mental wellbeing as part of the Queensland Women's Strategy.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Mental Health Select Committee's report. At the outset I would like to acknowledge the work of the chair of the committee, the member for Greenslopes, as well as all of the committee members who contributed to the inquiry and final report.

This was a substantial inquiry, with 57 recommendations—a body of work that has considered all aspects of the mental health continuum and identified significant opportunities to improve mental health and wellbeing in Queensland. I am confident that our government recognises those opportunities but, as the chair indicated in his foreword, 'it will take courage, commitment, coordination, funding and ongoing efforts' by all governments and our communities. The committee received 164 submissions, highlighting the significant interest in the inquiry, as well as holding 15 public hearings in Brisbane and across Queensland to hear from submitters, stakeholder groups and members of the public.

In the short time that I have I wish to particularly focus on two matters in the report, and that is funding and addressing the 'missing middle', particularly utilising community organisations. Increasing funding and expenditure for mental health and alcohol and other drug services in Queensland is clearly an important outcome from the inquiry. Creating a dedicated funding stream for this was equally important.

The 2022-23 state budget saw a commitment of an additional \$1.64 billion over five years and a capital investment of \$28.5 million to improve our mental health and alcohol and other drug services for a range of initiatives to support suicide prevention and deliver additional beds. This is the biggest ever investment in mental health services in Queensland.

In order to deliver this funding, we must have a sustainable funding model which fulfils the committee's recommendation of a dedicated funding stream to address Queensland's underinvestment in mental health, and this is what we have done with our mental health levy. Treasury modelling indicates this levy will only apply to around one per cent of all Queensland businesses. By the end of the forward estimates, the mental health levy will generate \$425 million each year—a sustainable and ongoing source of funding to assist Queenslanders in need. In the statement of reservation, the opposition opposed this funding source but provided no real solution on funding beyond statements such as 'prioritising funding from existing sources' and 'taking appropriate steps to identify waste'.

Another key focus for the inquiry was around what is known as the 'missing middle'. It is an area I am particularly interested in seeing addressed as, like all members of parliament, it is something I see in my own electorate. The 'missing middle' refers to the proportion of the community experiencing moderate mental ill health for whom there is a lack of services in particular because the current system focuses on the mild and acute ends.

As Queensland Health explained—

The 'missing middle' is sort of designed as those people who are too sick just for their GP to handle but not sick enough to come into the publicly funded mental health service, except by crisis usually, to go on to ongoing treatment.

They went on to explain that that is not a great definition because—

...it talks about the patient's problems rather than the system's problems. Geography, your income, the availability of services and capacity-health literacy and so on—actually make a big difference to how big the gap is and where you fit.

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health. I wish to thank them for their strong advocacy and their passion to see community health services restored to address the 'missing middle'. QAMH identified factors that it considered have contributed to the emergence of this 'missing middle' including a system which is designed around responding to crisis rather than actively supporting wellbeing or responding early in distress and a system which is notoriously difficult for the public to navigate due to service fragmentation and lack of integration within the system.

We also see high out-of-pocket costs associated with GP and psychologist visits, making it too costly for the vast majority of people. The mental health service gap faced by the 'missing middle' often means that people with mental ill health end up in crisis and attending an emergency department—which is a terrible outcome. I would like to see our government's record investment in mental health really address this issue—prioritise a level of care within the community rather than relying on that clinical end. I strongly believe this will make a difference in communities that I represent. I commend the report and once again thank the committee for their work on this very important inquiry.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to add my contribution to this debate on the Mental Health Select Committee report. It goes without saying that mental health is one of the most pressing issues of our society today. It is with us all every day. Mental health as a condition is not just an issue of the day. It has been with us for as long as humans have walked on this earth but, finally, as an issue, in the 21st century mental health is now well and truly out in the open. No longer do people need to suffer in silence. No longer do they have to hide their illness, embarrassed that they may be seen as weak or feeble. No longer do they have to hide in the background, afraid of what people may think or say about their illness.

Whilst we in this place recognise that this may be the case, sadly society today is still catching up on the impacts of the various forms that this illness can inflict. While sufferers no longer have to suffer in silence, for some the stigma of having the illness still weighs heavily on them and their families and loved ones. For sufferers this is typically hard. There is still, even today, an undercurrent that when people identify with this illness it can be seen by some as a form of weakness, something that you should suck up and move on with. Because, by and large, the visual signs of a sufferer are not easily recognisable, people think everything is normal with that person. Unfortunately, this still happens today. This still exists amongst those who do not want to acknowledge that this illness is an epidemic throughout the world and our collective societies.

The report we are debating here today clearly shows that there is a lot of work to be done in the mental health space. That is not denying the work already done to date by governments now and those in the past, but there is still a lot more work to be done to help sufferers. We all know someone who has had a mental illness in the past. Estimates today are that 45 per cent of our population will at some stage be affected by mental illness. Indeed, I know, whilst never discussed, that my own mother was an individual who did suffer from mental illness during her lifetime, but for her it was an era when mental illness was not discussed which was very hard for my family.

I, too, have had lived experience of mental illness in my past. It was debilitating. Your judgement of things that are important is impaired. You live a life of existence and survival. Days roll away into weeks and you barely notice it. Life is dark. For some, sadly, there is no return from that darkness. For others, like me, there is light in the form of loving support from family, friends and service providers.

It is our role as legislators to ensure that we do the best we can so that people who have mental illnesses have access to support, and this select committee report does that with its 57 recommendations ranging across a broad spectrum of what we know as mental illness. I would like to thank the select committee for coming to Hervey Bay to listen to people who have worked in my electorate to address our community's mental health issues.

I would like to acknowledge Tanya Stevenson from the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre; Darren Bosley and Peter Grumley from Fraser Coast Mates; Debra Gibson and Trevor Matthews from Flourish; and Steve Ober from Galangoor Primary Healthcare Services. I want to thank them for attending the committee hearings in Hervey Bay and for telling their stories about mental health support on the Fraser Coast. I also want to thank the Palaszczuk government for acknowledging that in the Fraser Coast region we, like everywhere else, do have the need for mental health services and for moving quickly to support rural and regional areas with support services and facilities across Queensland—facilities like the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment of \$39 million to build a brand new 22-bed acute mental health unit at the Hervey Bay Hospital which will soon be available to assist patients in early 2023. I had the pleasure of joining the committee when they visited the

under-construction new mental health unit and offshoot facilities like the Oasis Room retreat that is currently helping patients and their relatives who come to the Hervey Bay Hospital's emergency department.

I want to put on record my congratulations to the select committee for the invaluable work they put into this report, and I say this with genuine intent to every committee member who visited Hervey Bay: for showing a focused interest and enthusiasm for wanting to understand the level at which mental health impacts the community, thank you to you all. I want to congratulate the select committee chair, the member for Greenslopes, and the committee secretariat for the massive body of work that has been undertaken in the preparation of this report. The report is extensive and the recommendations are many. It will be good to see what outcomes come from these recommendations. Whatever they may be, I can see a brighter future for people in Queensland who suffer with mental health because of the work that has been done by the select committee. I again want to thank the Premier and Joe Kelly, the member for Greenslopes, for instigating this. I commend the report to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Tantari, adjourned.

CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2822, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.01 pm): I too rise to speak on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which was introduced on 26 May this year. It takes some action to increase the regulatory scrutiny of casinos and ensure they operate with high standards of integrity—unlike this government. It drew on the recommendations of the Finkelstein inquiry in particular; however, it was premature given that at the time the Bell inquiry in New South Wales and the Gotterson review had not been completed. The government would have known there would be recommendations coming from those inquiries and that those recommendations should have been considered by the committee but it decided to move on anyway.

The bill proposes to implement a range of reforms to the regulation of liquor, gaming and fair trading in Queensland, including: amendments that are aimed to strengthen casino integrity and modernise gambling legislation; introducing a framework for wager or simulated events; extending New Year's Eve gaming hours; and introducing a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising.

As we have heard from other speakers, the Gotterson review had very limited terms of reference. They were far too narrow. The actions of the government regulator and links between Labor and lobbyists were not able to be reviewed. Labor lobbyists like Anacta, with former state secretary of the Queensland Labor Party Evan Moorhead, could not have their actions taken into account.

What is it that the Gotterson review discovered? They discovered the Queen's Wharf financial commitment agreement. This agreement contains regulatory restrictions and compensation clauses which were addressed by Mr Gotterson. He said that whilst it was unlikely that the recommendation of a supervision levy could result in a compensation claim by the casino licensee, he recommended that legislation expressly negate the operation of the triggers that would result in that compensation. We are unsure whether this will be added to the casino bill at this time. It may be changed at a later stage. Today's *Australian* states—

The Queensland government signed an extraordinary contract with Star Entertainment in 2016 promising to compensate the casino giant if it hiked taxes or cut pokies numbers without corporate consent—

The regulator could not make a decision without Star approving it. This is just bizarre—

or if the company's gaming earnings dropped by \$5m.

...

The Queen's Wharf Brisbane Financial and Commitment Agreement bans the state from taking certain regulatory steps without the written consent of Star—

They have to get written consent from the person they are regulating—

including introducing or increasing any "taxes, levies, licence fees" or other gaming-related fees and cutting the number of pokies or table games at the establishment. Star would also be compensated if its gaming earnings fell \$5m or more in a certain period, the agreement states.

It is extraordinary. This should never have been agreed to at the start. Strangely, it is only now, after Star has spent billions of dollars on constructing a number of buildings across the road, including a casino, that this government is realising the mistake they made. Star hosted a fundraiser at the Treasury Casino for the Attorney-General, who was negotiating this, right at the time the government was negotiating this agreement, right at the time they were twisting Star's arm to use them as a guinea pig for the best practice industrial conditions that started the ball rolling on all of the problems we have in this state. All of the cost blowouts on Light Rail Stage 3, all of the roads around the place and the Townsville stadium started with the Star casino employment contracts. This government—via union coercion, I would suggest—has talked Star into agreeing to this. In return, they have given them this financial agreement. You really just cannot write this stuff. This is something we should be watching on TV rather than living through in the Queensland parliament.

Apparently, you also cannot run a review to look at all of these things, because that is what the Labor Party does when they get in trouble: they fall back on the Labor Party playbook. You first of all deny there is any issue to start with; then you blame everybody else; and then you instigate some sort of rigged inquiry—in this case, it was limiting the inquiry the reviewer could in fact do—and then if you have an issue with that you shoot the messenger. This is the Labor Party playbook, and you can see this in practically everything this Labor Party does. If you do not have any success with any of that, then you have to come up with a scapegoat. We have seen that in just about every inquiry this government has had over the last couple of years. They have denied it ever existed; they have started an inquiry; and then they have shot the messenger—usually it is the LNP. They shoot the messenger and then they come up with a scapegoat and somebody gets fired along the way. Let's wait and see who gets fired out of all of this.

Now we have 27 pages of last-minute amendments that have not gone before the committee. I noted the Minister for Education's comments that the LNP could not have it both ways. We could not have a committee hearing to look at this when we are complaining about the committee system. I am complaining about the committee system because it just does not work. We could have it both ways if we had a committee system that works in a bipartisan way and is not controlled by an arrogant government and a chair that just completely rules everything—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HART: I am not taking interjections from the member for Logan. I would say to the education minister that we can have it both ways. We just need a decent committee system, and we need this arrogant government to stop putting in last-minute amendments and send these to the committee where they should be thoroughly reviewed by a bipartisan—

Mr Power: They are, and by a bipartisan committee.

Mr HART: We had 27 pages of amendments dropped on this parliament 30 minutes before this bill started to be negotiated.

As I said, I do not agree that the Queen's Wharf financial commitment agreement should have ever been put in place. It should never have been put in place, but it is there and now we are seeing the government change the rules at the last minute on Star. I am not defending Star—do not get me wrong—but this is what is leading to sovereign risk in our state. They put contracts in place, they make agreements with somebody who is going to spend money and bring business to this state, and then they change it after the money has been spent. It is the same as what they did with coal royalties. They got companies which have in good faith built coalmines and then they changed the rules. That is exactly what they are doing here and they did exactly the same with land tax. People bought places based on what the land tax was and then they changed it.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HART: Now apparently it is tax avoidance. If you follow the tax rules, apparently it is tax avoidance. That is what the member for Logan would have us believe: that it is tax avoidance if you follow the rules. My point is that people will stop coming to this state and stop investing in this state if they have to work with a government that tells them one thing, gets them to invest and then changes the rules at the end of it. What is that called? It is called sovereign risk, and the Labor Party in Queensland are an expert at it. We need to support the amendments of the shadow minister.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.11 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Governance is really important, whether we are talking about the state, businesses or corporations, and it is particularly so when a corporation presents a potential risk. The governance and the governance controls around a casino are fundamentally important because this is where there is an opportunity for a lot of cash to change hands and it is where the government has made significant legislative concessions to stimulate activity in the CBD.

The framework that exists to protect the state and all Queenslanders from wrongdoing is fundamentally important, yet we find this Labor government were far too slow to this party. They took forever to come up with some legislative framework that would be able to be held above reproach, and then as they were trying to achieve that outcome they have rushed it in. We have had 27 pages of amendments come in 30 minutes before a very serious discussion about some very serious breaches of governance and controls, including potential criminal activity, money laundering and other such things. They have completely avoided the scrutiny of our committee system, which was established some years ago to try to stop this kind of poor governance that we see from this government.

We have seen the government abuse their numbers in this place to crunch through some amendments that have avoided the scrutiny of the people of Queensland and other potential stakeholders who might have had some opinions on them. We will never know what those opinions might have been before this becomes law because this government will use their numbers to force this House to their will. That is poor governance. We have legislation that was too slow and then it was rushed and is half-baked, and now it is not going to do the job it was supposed to do.

The government engaged in a couple of steps along the way. When there are governance breaches and failures interstate and there is a massive investment going on in our CBD from an organisation that seemed to be involved in some very shadowy activity interstate, wouldn't it be a good idea to have a review? A review would always be useful when it comes to these things. We hear those on the other side always going on about the Fitzgerald review that was held in this state many years ago. That was all encompassing, without limitations, and it allowed people to pursue whatever they needed to. It found a lot of bad things and it then brought some suggestions forward.

What happens when there is a political fix around a review? What would be the purpose of a government wanting a political fix around a review? We have seen this tactic several times and the people of Queensland need to understand this tactic. In the media cycle we have these days—particularly if you have 30 or more spinners able to get your story out—when a review is announced, people might think, 'Maybe we should trust them. They're going to review it. That sounds great.' However, what people miss is the terms of reference. When there is a very narrow terms of reference that prevents the examination of one of the offices that is a regulatory authority and its behaviour towards the organisation, when the review is not allowed to look at the deep pockets of money linked directly to the government that is then providing the regulatory framework for the organisation that has been found to be corrupt and in breach in other states, we have to ask whether the review was just a simple political fix. Was it some wallpapering over the cracks of potential corrupt behaviour and some poor governance that is in place? The review that we had, which was, if I can say it correctly—

Mr Power: The Gotterson review.

Mr WATTS: Thank you, member for Logan. The member for Logan has finally been able to contribute something worthwhile in this House and I appreciate it. It is certainly his finest contribution today. There is no doubt about that.

Casinos run well with good governance structures, with proper government regulation and with the ability for parts of government to let the light in and show what is happening. When that happens, they can be a great asset for the state. They present an opportunity for people to enjoy all that Brisbane or the Gold Coast has from a tourism point of view. Unfortunately, we do not have a casino in Toowoomba. We do have poker machines. I am sure our racetrack in Toowoomba would love to have a little boutique casino, but the people of Toowoomba would not want that unless there was a decent regulatory framework—unless there was the ability to let the light in and make sure there was no political interference and make sure such an organisation was not lining the pockets of people who then lined the pockets of the Labor Party.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr WATTS: We can discuss people who go to casinos and eat at their public restaurants. I am happy to discuss that. I think that would be a wonderful thing for people to do. I have been to level 19 and had a drink up there. It is a great view and it was a great opportunity to spend time with friends whilst I was on the Gold Coast. I do not see there is any problem with that at all, and I would encourage everybody to go and look at the great facility down there. What the member for Logan fails to realise is that going to a public restaurant in a casino is not a criminal activity or a risk of corruption.

However, if you are in charge of the regulatory authority in a ministerial position and you have one of your lobbyists who also is involved and you are then having functions put on and legislation is being presented and/or very slowly coming forward, people are going to ask questions. That is a terrible thing for people to ask questions of the government that they have elected. The way to avoid that is to

make sure that any reviews we have are wide-scoping and that they let the light in so that all of the people of Queensland and all of the people of this House can be reassured that there was nothing untoward and that there was nothing inappropriate going on.

We have seen, from this organisation, that there has been inappropriate things going on. We have to make sure that we have a structure written into legislation in this state to protect the interests of Queenslanders, to protect the interests of individuals, and to make sure that these organisations run in the best interests of our state and not the best interests of those in power, not the best interests of those who write the regulatory framework for them, not the best interests of their lobbyists, and not the best interests of any overseas people who might be trying to evade tax and/or other legislation.

The summary of this is really simple: first of all, it was too slow, and that leaves a window of opportunity for very poor behaviour, albeit potentially criminal, potentially corrupt. Then all of a sudden this is rushed through which means we do not let the light in; we do not get an opportunity to see and understand the kind of activity that has been going on. Then when it comes into this place, what we find is that it is half-baked and that some of the organisations still do not have to publish the things that the people of Queensland should know about. I thank the member for Logan for completely disrupting this House through the entire time.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.22 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 25 November 2022; the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Public Sector Bill by 25 November 2022; the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 25 November 2022; the Health and Environment Committee report on the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 25 November 2022; and the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report on the Water Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 December 2022.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.22 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, I be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice with the question to be put at 4.50 pm today.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.23 pm): I move—

The days, hours of sitting and order of business for the sitting weeks of 25 to 28 October, 8 to 10 November, and 29 November to 2 December 2022 contained in the temporary sessional orders circulated in my name be agreed to.

Temporary Sessional Orders for the sittings of 25 to 28 October 2022, 8 to 10 November and 29 November to 2 December 2022

(1) Hours of Sitting and Order of Business 25 to 28 October 2022

Unless otherwise ordered and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing and Sessional Orders, from 25 to 28 October 2022, the hours of sitting and Order of Business for each days sitting shall be as follows—

Tuesday 25 October 2022

*9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business **

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments
 Petitions
 Citizen's Right of Reply
 Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk
 Ministerial Papers
 Ministerial Notices of Motion
 Ministerial Statements
 Any other Government Business
 Personal Explanations
 Tabling of Reports
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—11.35am—

Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 4)

11.35am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Matters of Public Interest

3.00pm—5.30pm—

Government Business

5.30pm—7.00pm—

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

7.00pm—8.00pm—

Government Business

8.00pm—8.30pm—

Matters of Public Interest

8.30pm—9.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

Wednesday 26 October 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (5.00pm—6.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.15pm—

Government Business

12.15pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—5.00pm—

Government Business

5.00pm—6.00pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

6.00pm—8.30pm—

Government Business

8.30pm—9.00pm—
Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)

Thursday 27 October 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 5) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—8.30pm—

Government Business

8.30pm—9.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

Friday 28 October 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.30pm—

Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

(2) Hours of Sitting and Order of Business 8 to 10 November 2022

Unless otherwise ordered and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing and Sessional Orders, from 8 to 10 November 2022, the hours of sitting and Order of Business for each days sitting shall be as follows—

Tuesday 8 November 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (7.00pm—8.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—11.35am—

Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 4)

11.35am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Matters of Public Interest

3.00pm—5.30pm—

Government Business

5.30pm—7.00pm—

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

7.00pm—8.00pm—

Private Members' Motion

8.00pm—8.30pm—

Matters of Public Interest

8.30pm—9.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Wednesday 9 November 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (5.00pm—6.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.15pm—

Government Business

12.15pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—5.00pm—

Government Business

5.00pm—6.00pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

6.00pm—8.30pm—

Government Business

8.30pm—9.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)

Thursday 10 November 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 5) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(3) Hours of Sitting and Order of Business 29 November to 2 December 2022

Unless otherwise ordered and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing and Sessional Orders, from 29 November to 2 December 2022, the hours of sitting and Order of Business for each days sitting shall be as follows—

Tuesday 29 November 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—
Question Time

11.15am—11.35am—
Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 4)

11.35am—1.00pm—
Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—
Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—
Matters of Public Interest

3.00pm—5.30pm—
Government Business

5.30pm—7.00pm—
Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

7.00pm—7.30pm—
Government Business

7.30pm—8.00pm—
Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

Wednesday 30 November 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (5.00pm—6.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—
Question Time

11.15am—12.30pm—
Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—
Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—
Lunch break

2.00pm—5.00pm—
Government Business

5.00pm—6.00pm—
Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

6.00pm—7.00pm—
Government Business

7.00pm—7.30pm—
Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)

Thursday 1 December 2022

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege
 Speaker's Statements
 Appointments
 Petitions
 Citizen's Right of Reply
 Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk
 Ministerial Papers
 Ministerial Notices of Motion
 Ministerial Statements
 Any other Government Business
 Personal Explanations
 Tabling of Reports
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 3) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

Friday 2 December 2022

*9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business **

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—until 12.30pm

Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

I want to remind members why we are doing this. Due to the passing of the Queen and out of respect, the scheduled sitting week was postponed and the government committed to making up the three sitting days. In moving this motion today, I believe that this motion adheres to that commitment by ensuring that the various elements, either government or non-government, are accounted for. I have already circulated the updated sitting calendar for the rest of the year which means the House will sit again for three more weeks. These include two four-day sitting weeks and one three-day sitting week, noting that in the three-day sitting week, Remembrance Day falls on the Friday. We are sitting today, a Friday, when we would normally not be sitting. We are doing the Thursday timetable and, as such, we have made up one of those three days this week, meaning we have Tuesday and Wednesday still to replace in our sitting calendar.

We live in a vast state of great geographical challenges and to ensure that regional members and metropolitan members are able to get back to their electorates, the motion before the House proposes that we sit until 1 pm on the Friday sittings but sit slightly later on the other nights to make up the time. Government business has been spread across the sitting weeks. In respect of non-government business over the remaining sitting weeks, we will make up the matters of public interest, adjournment debates and allow additional time for the introduction of private members' bills. We have also ensured an additional one-hour private member's motion has been made up.

The program that we have circulated is more than reasonable. It makes up all of the government and non-government times that would have been lost as a consequence of postponing that sitting week, but it also sensibly allows members to get back to their electorates, whether it is for school awards, events or Christmas functions in their electorates, and not have to travel back on the Saturday which would have otherwise potentially occurred if we had been sitting a fourth sitting day on the Friday. I can assure all members that all hours—390 hours have been made up over this program, but still allow for the House to rise at one o'clock on the two Fridays.

I thank the Manager of Opposition Business for working with me on this proposal, but I do understand there is likely to be objection because the opposition want to sit late on the Friday. Why? I suspect for no other reason than to have an argument this afternoon. Would sitting on the Friday increase the hours that we would have sat? No. Would it mean there be any other business that otherwise has not already been accommodated in the revised program? No. Is there any other reason other than honestly just being belligerent for having the argument we are going to have now?

I did advise the Manager of Opposition Business that I was more than happy not to listen to any more debate on the casino bill—no offence, Attorney-General—so if they want to spend the rest of this afternoon debating this, then so be it. However, in all seriousness, what we have put forward accommodates everything that is required and fulfils our commitment that no time is lost as a consequence of the postponement, and provides a sensible finish time on those two Fridays for members to get back to their electorate. I really do ask for all members to consider supporting this, although I know those on the other side are unlikely to.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.27 pm): Let me start with trying to be very reasonable about what we are considering here this afternoon.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr POWELL: I will take that interjection from my colleague the deputy leader. I know it is not necessary, but as the Leader of the House explained, there is a reason we are sitting on Fridays; that is that there was a postponement of a week of sitting due to the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and, to be blunt, sitting on a Friday rather than convening an extra sitting week between now and Christmas makes a lot of sense.

I also acknowledge that finally the Labor government have adopted the longstanding LNP principle that we are happy to sit late on a Tuesday night, late on a Wednesday night, and late on a Thursday night. The so-called family-friendly hours that we constantly get told about by those opposite are not very family-friendly for me. It does not make a difference if we finish at 7.30 at night or 9.30 at night or 11.30 at night; I am not seeing my family. I know there are members on this side of the chamber, as well as members on the government side of the chamber, who simply do not get that family-friendly option, regardless of what time you pull up on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Fantastic! Extra time on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will hopefully allow us to not guillotine debate. Members will be able to speak on whichever piece of legislation they should choose. The government would likely still bring in their crazy political motions and that would not eat into time of government business. We could have more and more time for what we are elected to do and that is attend this chamber.

What do we take offence to, however, within this motion? It is that the government wants to pull up stumps at 1pm on Friday.

Mr Crisafulli: After setting the hours a few weeks ago.

Mr POWELL: Exactly. They will pull up stumps on a Friday afternoon at one o'clock probably to head off and have some Friday drinks. What is more likely is that somewhere around this great state of Queensland there is going to be a red carpet. There will be a red carpet somewhere—the Gold Coast maybe, the Sunshine Coast perhaps or maybe in the Whitsundays—and pulling up at one o'clock means the Premier can get to that red carpet. I suspect this is not about being family friendly. I suspect this is about being Premier friendly.

I can tell honourable members that whether we pull up at one o'clock or five o'clock, as I proposed to the Leader of the House, it is not going to make a difference to what time I get home. If I try to hit the Bruce Highway at one o'clock on a Friday afternoon, I will get home at exactly the same time as if I hit it at 5 pm. Clearly, this is another example of a checked out government, a checked out Premier, one who is more fixated on red carpets than on being in this chamber and debating the important things. I will also point out that the proposal put forward by the Leader of the House regarding the private member's motion is not to have an additional private member's motion; it is to add 20 minutes to the three remaining private member's motion debates, so the opposition and the crossbench lose out again.

I know a number of other colleagues on this side of the House want to contribute to this debate, so I will end my comments there. Again, while there is a lot in there that is sensible, there is a lot that we cannot support. The opposition will not be supporting this motion.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.31 pm): Honourable members will have heard of Friday knock-off drinks at five o'clock. Today the Labor government are changing that. It is not five o'clock; it is now one o'clock: one o'clock, finish work and have some drinks. Do honourable members know why? We know the CFMEU are the Labor Party's biggest donors, so they are probably learning something from the CFMEU, who now have a habit on a Friday of either calling a strike or some industrial action. They are only learning from their industrial paymasters. Members would already be able to see most of the CFMEU thugs down at the pub at this stage.

For goodness sake, only two weeks ago they negotiated with our Manager of Opposition Business to sit three full Fridays to make up for the official mourning period due to the passing of the Queen. Now all of a sudden that has changed. I think it is because they have experienced sitting from one o'clock to now, 4.30 pm. They say, 'Oh my gosh! Why are we here?' We know the Attorney-General bemoans being here past midday. Look at her now. 'Why am I here?', she is asking herself. I say to the Attorney-General that she is here because she is being paid nearly \$350,000 a year to be here. That is no chicken change or short—small change—whatever the terminology is. It is a lot of money.

Mr Crisafulli: Chickenfeed.

Mr BLEIJIE: Chickenfeed, that is what I was looking for. That is no chickenfeed for the Attorney-General to be here. We want to be here, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Government members interjected.

Ms Fentiman: How long has it been?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, it is difficult to conceive of the fact that I could barely hear the member for Kawana just then for all the noise coming from members on my right.

Mr BLEIJIE: I stopped because I wanted to hear the Attorney-General's interjection. I did hear the Attorney-General saying earlier, 'We want to finish for drinks at Star.' The Premier is a frequent visitor to Star. Whenever the red carpet is rolled out on the Gold Coast the Premier is there.

Ms Fentiman: For someone with cash-for-access fundraisers at the penthouse restaurant!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is seriously straying away from the motion before the House and I ask that he be brought back to the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the motion is about sitting hours of the House. Could you remain relevant to that?

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I put to you that I am debating the fact that the government wants to finish at one o'clock in the afternoon because they have events to attend.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, for Kawana, you do not need to put anything to me. Just remain relevant to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: I put it to the Leader of the House. The government are lazy. That is it. This motion says they finish at one o'clock on a Friday, because they are lazy, because they have a leader, a Premier, who has checked out of her job. That is why. They cannot go from two weeks ago negotiating a full day's work on a Friday to all of a sudden, at 4.30 pm on the first Friday we are sitting these extended hours, debating a motion to finish on the next three Fridays at one o'clock in the afternoon. I put to the House that the reason they are doing it is the Premier has checked out; the government have checked out. Do they not have a legislative agenda? Why are they afraid of sitting on a Friday? What are they afraid of?

We know that this House should be sitting. The reason we should be sitting as often as we can is there are serious issues that this House needs to debate. That is why the opposition always, at every opportunity, debate and fight against the curtailing of democracy in—

Ms Fentiman: But nothing so serious that would warrant a private member's bill!

Mr BLEIJIE: We will fight against this curtailing of democracy any day of the week. One of the reasons I would put to the Attorney-General is we need the time in the parliament to correct the mistruths of the government like we heard today—

Ms Fentiman: Did I miss a private member's bill?

Mr BLEIJIE: It is bizarre.

Mr Crisafulli: In the last three weeks when the forensic services lab was imploding and you were nowhere to be seen.

Mr BLEIJIE: Four weeks—I do not know what Attorney has had four weeks off in a long time. The Attorney was nowhere during the DNA debate. Not only has the Premier checked out but also the Attorney has checked out—where, I do not know. We have to use the time to correct mistruths like we have seen today. We need to have the opportunity to show and correct the Attorney-General—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was quite keen to hear the contribution from the member for Kawana, but it was hard to hear it over the hectoring that was going on from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Sandgate. Resume your seat, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: Parliament is used for all the opportunities. I see here in this debate the government are proposing to extend the sitting hours on a couple of the nights so they can clock off at one o'clock on the Friday. The Leader of the House would say that there is additional time for motion debates and so forth. If they were fair dinkum about opposition or crossbenchers having a more opportunity to speak in a sitting, then they would have more motion debates, more matters of public interest and more private member's statements.

As I was saying before the point of order was taken by the honourable minister, the opportunity for us in parliament and all these different avenues for the opposition is limited. We need every opportunity, as I said, to correct mistruths of the government such as what I was about to say before the point of order was taken. When the Attorney-General made a speech earlier—and I am going to be writing to the Speaker about this—she misled the House when she talked about a function at the Star at the Gold Coast. Star did not pay a cent for any function that I went to at the Gold Coast, which the Attorney-General was talking about previously. It is disgraceful that they would use this parliament in that way. What I said—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is in no way relevant to the motion before the House. I ask that the member be brought back to it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I was taking an interjection from the Attorney before.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Kawana. Member for Kawana, I have cautioned you to remain relevant to the motion, which is about the sitting hours of the parliament. Could you please direct your comments to the motion?

Mr BLEIJIE: We will be opposing the motion, which curtails the sitting hours. We will be opposing the motion to curtail—

Mrs D'Ath: It does not curtail the sitting hours at all. It does not curtail the hours—390 hours.

Mr BLEIJIE: Let's get to the point here, shall we? On the government's own motion we are knocking off at one o'clock on a Friday—

Mrs D'Ath: There are 390 hours.

Mr BLEIJIE:—because, as I say—and I will repeat it through the interjections of the Leader of the House—this government and this Premier have checked out. This health minister should check out. For the sake of patients across Queensland, I say to the health minister that she should check out.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the Leader of the House has taken personal offence at your comments. I ask that you please withdraw them.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The opposition would like more time between one o'clock and five or six o'clock on a Friday to talk about the health crisis in Queensland overseen by the health minister. We can offer a different point of view on the motion. I say to the health minister: the opposition would like the opportunity to sit between one o'clock and six o'clock on a Friday. We do not have the opportunity to talk about the issues that are important to the people of Queensland.

Mrs D'Ath: Yes, you do. Read the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: I did read the motion. Mr Deputy Speaker, the health minister is talking to me, not through the chair, and I am responding to these interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Kawana.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the House! Leader of the House, it would assist if you would cease quarrelling with the member for Kawana across the chamber and direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: I make the point that the government are afraid of democracy and afraid to turn up to do the job they are paid to do. I also note that the government are curtailing and guillotining this motion debate, which finishes at 4.50 today. The point is that this government has checked out. This Premier has checked out. If the Premier's priority is to finish at one o'clock on a Friday so she can go off to a red carpet event at Star casino, that is her prerogative. We will not stand for it.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.41 pm): This government is cutting short the Friday sittings that have been agreed to. I want to make a point about the gag motions moved by this government. This is the only government in the history of Queensland that has had a permanent running gag motion, introduced every sitting of parliament, so that it can shut down debate. It is the only Queensland government to do it.

Those opposite have no shame. This parliament should represent all Queenslanders—not just those who elected Labor members but also those who elected LNP members and the crossbenchers to speak and raise issues on their behalf, without fear or favour. Those who are elected to this place should have the right to speak on behalf of the people. Those opposite tell whoppers about the fact that other parliaments have gag motions. In the history of this parliament we have never seen anything like the gag motions that this government has been moving.

Those opposite have no tolerance for alternative voices. We know that there has been a culture of fear and damage within the public sector when it comes to speaking out against the government. We know what they have done to public servants when they have spoken out. It is extremely important that the parliament has respect for the diversity of voices of those who are elected on behalf of the people.

Even with the government's proposed agenda, these gag motions are not being removed. We know that they will continue to do that because they do not allow adequate sitting times, even with the temporary extension of sitting hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have long said that family-friendly hours, as stated by the government, were in fact a furphy because we could not go home to our families. Because we could not go home to our families, it made sense to have longer sittings—at least until nine or 10 o'clock at night—to enable business to be undertaken.

We have also railed against the way this government has abused its numbers to cut debate in the House through these gag motions. Now we have this motion before the House. There is an agreement that was reached only recently for Friday sittings, but those opposite want to pull up stumps at one o'clock. We have expressed a view that the Friday sittings should keep to the original proposed schedule, with adjournment at 6.30, in order for people to get on with the business before parliament. Obviously something has happened. The Labor members have looked at their diaries and decided that they do not want to be here on a Friday afternoon. Perhaps it is not comfortable listening to the issues of the day.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Leader of the House and member for Glass House, cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms SIMPSON: We have heard no good argument as to why they have suddenly changed with respect to Friday afternoons. As my colleague the member for Glass House outlined, you cannot hit the road at one o'clock on a Friday and make it back to the Sunshine Coast within a couple of hours because of the amount of traffic. That is another reason we need rail to Maroochydore. We need alternative transport, in addition to road upgrades.

I want to see us work here in this parliament rather than to see this government shut down debate. They have shown contempt for the people who want us to have the opportunity to speak in this parliament. For this government to come in here and curtail debate and curtail the opportunity to sit on Friday afternoons—it had only recently been agreed to by this House—I think is most unfortunate.

I come back to the point: why does this government persist with gag motions? There is no excuse that is defensible. I have heard no reason that stacks up. It is only Labor in Queensland that has perpetually done this—every sitting week. They have made it a standing part of procedures, as opposed to an ad hoc procedure. They have no understanding of history. It is only this government that has done it—systematically, on a weekly basis.

What is particularly galling is that ministers of the Crown have escaped the scrutiny of the consideration in detail of clauses. Many ministers never get asked questions on bills because the gag motion takes effect and suddenly all of the clauses and government amendments are passed. Then what do we see? Only a few months later, so many of those amendments come back before the House because the government has mucked them up. They do not do the appropriate work and undertake their own process of scrutiny, let alone allow the parliament to scrutinise on the floor of this House. It is not good enough to only have examination by committees external to this chamber. Ministers need to be held to account in consideration in detail. There used to be an opportunity to ask ministers questions on clauses.

We have also seen an abuse of the process whereby sometimes one amendment might have 20 pages of amending provisions, but this government has taken it a step further and cut down the ability to ask about individual clauses by these gag motions, by shoving legislation through. That is why we will speak up for the opportunity to see respect for the floor of the House restored, the opportunity for debates not to be gagged and the opportunity for consideration in detail to be restored, rather than ministers flippantly saying that it is our responsibility to manage the clock—after they have gagged debate. That is like getting kicked in the head and told it is your fault. Those opposite have a great way of disrespecting democracy.

It is time that we saw the removal of the gag motions that have systematically been applied by this government and time that we saw an understanding that we in this parliament work, with hours that allow us to do so. The government should restore the hours we have talked about for the Friday and the sitting hours during the week so that we do not see any more of this abuse of power that the members opposite want to defend, with gag motions and the removal of the critical consideration in detail stage.

I have no doubt that the ministers opposite would not be able to handle being asked questions in consideration in detail. Their predecessors had to perform more at this stage of debate. The way the government have abused their power on the floor of the parliament and essentially removed this stage through the gag motion, which has perhaps flown under the radar in terms of public scrutiny, is indicative that we have a lot of lightweights in the ministry—not like some of their predecessors. I may not have agreed with their philosophy back in the Goss days or even the Beattie days, but those governments had a lot more ministers who were capable of doing their job—fronting up in here, taking questions and certainly in consideration in detail, which was the detailed consideration of legislation, being able to answer questions. Quite frankly, the majority of current ministers have never done that in consideration in detail. They love the gag motion because it lets them off the hook in terms of scrutiny.

Let's see a restoration of proper sitting hours and a restoration of consideration in detail, with the ability to ask questions, as we used to be able to do when there was not a gag motion in place that sees things pushed through when the axe falls at a particular time.

I know that some ministers do not understand this. Others fully do; they just do not want to be accountable to the parliament. That is why I stand with my colleagues in opposing the government's motion. I also take the opportunity to explain why it matters to have consideration in detail restored, the gag motions removed and proper sittings that allow the people's voice across the parliament and not just the arrogant, dominant Labor members who force their will on others and do not respect the diversity of views across Queensland.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (4.49 pm): I have just seen great evidence of 30 years and 10 minutes wasted; 30 years and 10 minutes of not learning the lessons of opposition; 30 years and 10 minutes of not being—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Sandgate, resume your seat. In accordance with the motion agreed to by the House for the debate on this motion, the motion needs to be put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Sandgate, member for Glass House, please stop your quarrelling across the chamber so that we can hear the Clerk.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, order! I just called the House to order.

CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2848, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr WEIR (Condamine—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. Members, we have work to do. I have called the member for Condamine and he deserves to be heard. Members on my right, including you, member for Thuringowa, please cease your interjections.

Mr WEIR: The Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into this House on 26 May 2022. The original bill drew on the recommendations of the Finkelstein inquiry. The intentions of the bill were to strengthen casino integrity and modernise gambling legislation, introduce a framework for wagering on simulated events, extend New Year's Eve gaming hours and introduce a cross-border regulation scheme for charitable fundraising. As we have heard, the proposed legislation that is now before the House has altered dramatically in line with some of the recommendations from the Gotterson report. There are 21 pages containing 20 amendments which is a significant alteration. As we have heard, they are being proposed without going through the committee process. Many times in this House I have spoken about the committee process being incredibly important for the scrutiny of legislation before this House. It is the only chance the public has to have input into the formation of policy or to identify any areas that they are particularly concerned about.

As the member for Toowoomba North stated, in the area that we come from there is not a casino. Other towns in Queensland that are roughly the same size as Toowoomba—such as Cairns or Townsville—do have casinos. It is probably fast approaching a stage where Toowoomba would put serious consideration towards a casino. I know there has been some preliminary work done by some in that space. A casino can be somewhat controversial when it is first proposed into a community and that is because the community want to know that it is not going to have a harmful effect on their community. That is why the legislation before us needs to be held to account. Unfortunately casinos can attract a crowd which is not altogether suitable for a community and we can end up with money laundering, criminal activity and serious increases in gambling by those who have a weakness towards it.

While the Gotterson report made a number of recommendations, it certainly did not have the scope that we would have liked to have seen. This bill should have gone back to the committee so that all issues could have been scrutinised. It came up in the Gotterson report that cashless gambling be implemented for gambling transactions of \$1,000 or less.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Condamine, could you resume your seat. It being 4.55 pm, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, I call the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to reply to the second reading debate.



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.55 pm), in reply: I acknowledge and thank all honourable members for their contributions during debate of the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will now address some of the matters raised by honourable members during the debate. I remain concerned that after listening to the speeches of those opposite they still do not appear to have read the bill, the Gotterson report, listened to the press conference that I was at last week that I attended with Mr Gotterson or even just read the media release about the government's response to the Gotterson report. If the member for Clayfield had he would

have seen that I announced over a week ago that we would be introducing urgent amendments this week. The member for Scenic Rim has said that the Gotterson report did not even examine China UnionPay, which it clearly did. The member for Broadwater in his very rambling contribution to the House clearly had not read the Gotterson report when he continually referred to 'problem gambling'. It was a specific recommendation by Mr Gotterson to not use that outdated, offensive terminology.

The findings of the Gotterson report were shocking and they demanded urgent action from government. That is what we are doing and we make no apologies for doing so. I am astounded that some members opposite expressed surprise that we were moving urgent amendments. Last week I said publicly, 'As a priority, the government will progress urgent amendments'. The media release that I issued last week about the Gotterson report said we would be, 'as a priority, amending provisions in the Casino Control Act'. I am not going to begrudge people for not watching a press conference or missing a media release in their inbox, even if it is their job, but one would think that many members of parliament who have been here for many years would notice that something quite big has happened since we introduced these reforms and now we are debating this legislation: it was called an independent expert review into casinos led by Mr Gotterson.

The member for Clayfield came in here and criticised me for not properly acknowledging the work done by interstate inquiries, despite me doing so four times. It is clear the member for Clayfield was not listening because I, in fact, spent some time talking about how the recommendations from interstate inquiries influenced the development of this bill. For the benefit of those opposite I will again acknowledge the work undertaken interstate in relation to their inquiries and the legislation that has been passed as a result. Mr Gotterson acknowledged this work, noting that it informed not only his inquiry, but also this very bill before the House. Mr Gotterson also acknowledged that before his appointment to the review, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation had commenced an investigation into Star casinos and produced an interim investigation report dated 21 April. This interim report was provided to Mr Gotterson who said at paragraph 122 of his report that the material 'afforded a useful basis from which to inquire into the issues identified as being of particular interest and better to understand them.'

Those opposite have sought to question the terms of reference for the external review of the Queensland operations of Star. This is despite Mr Gotterson not requesting an extension of the scope of his review when the member for Clayfield wrote to him asking him to do so. Mr Gotterson did have, in fact, all of the powers of a commission of inquiry, including the power to compel witnesses to attend, and Mr Gotterson used this power. Mr Gotterson compelled three people from Star to attend interviews, produce statements and ultimately attend his public hearings. The member for Maroochydore stated that there was no power to protect witnesses. Again that is completely wrong. I note that on 23 and 24 August, pursuant to section 16 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, Mr Gotterson AO, KC ordered that there is to be no reporting or publication of any information that identifies or tends to identify any of witnesses A, B and C or persons 1 to 5.

The member for Clayfield also spoke about the scope of the review, saying it was too narrow and needed to look at links with unions and lobbyists. Again, clearly the member for Clayfield did not see the press conference held last week at which Mr Gotterson said—

In the inquiry I did conduct, nothing was thrown up which suggested that the current circumstances were in some way a product of, or derived from, the kinds of things that you're talking about. So it just didn't generate anything.

He also said in his report—

There was no suggestion ... that regulatory decisions were ones in which the Minister or Government of the day had improperly intervened.

There was absolutely nothing before Mr Gotterson and he found no suggestion of inappropriate interference.

We have also heard those opposite claim that the government and the OLGR had been 'caught napping' when it came to casino regulation. Clearly it is those opposite who have been caught napping, which could have been avoided if the opposition had accepted our offer of a briefing on the Gotterson report. Time and time again during the debate those opposite said, 'We'll make the regulator independent.' The member for Southport stated that there are questions remaining about the effectiveness of the OLGR and in one of the worst speeches I have heard from the member for Broadwater, when fumbling around, he also got it wrong when it comes to the OLGR. Mr Gotterson ultimately concluded that there is insufficient justification to fundamentally change the structure of the OLGR, particularly since the Queensland regulatory model has not been called into question nor is it one that has adopted a risk-based approach to casino regulation that has been the subject of criticism in interstate inquiries.

As many members noted during their contributions, we have seen a series of concerning allegations about casino operations from across the country over the past few years. The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the government have acted. After *60 Minutes* aired allegations about money laundering and junket operations at Crown Casino, the OLGR commenced an investigation into whether a similar problem existed in Queensland. In March 2021, the OLGR wrote to the Star in order to assess controls and operations under the Casino Control Act and in October 2021 began officially investigating them.

We have also heard concerns raised by the member for Clayfield about the interim OLGR investigations report not being released and, together with the member for Maiwar, he raised concerns that there have been no prosecutions against casinos in Queensland. The OLGR heightened its regulatory activity within Queensland casinos in 2020 due to the evidence of interstate inquiries into the Crown. The initial focus was on junket operations, subsequently expanding to an investigation of allegations raised in the media; casino operator gambling harm programs; and developing proposals for legislative amendments. The OLGR commenced prosecution action in relation to conduct by the Reef casino and this is set down to be mentioned on 25 October 2022. The OLGR commenced investigations into the conduct of the Star in October 2021. There are other investigations ongoing. As I said last week, to release an interim investigation report when there are prosecutions that may be underfoot, and therefore court action, is absolutely irresponsible. As a former solicitor, the member for Clayfield should understand that.

Much of the conduct of the Star did not represent breaches of the Casino Control Act. That is another reason why a significant penalty through disciplinary action is appropriate, with grounds for disciplinary action being much broader than what is in the current act. These new laws enhance casino integrity by requiring casino entities to cooperate with the regulator, including by self-reporting breaches and providing the regulator with enhanced information-gathering powers.

The bill also lowers the threshold for taking disciplinary action, introduces a new fine, to be increased to a maximum \$100 million, and provides more powers for the OLGR to establish breaches that may result in enforcement action. In addition, the most recent budget included funding to strengthen casino and gaming regulation to control integrity, probity and harm risks. This will underpin enhanced regulatory activity by the OLGR.

The member for Clayfield also stated that Mr Gotterson was unable to make a suitability finding about the Star in Queensland. As I have explained many times, that is because under the legislation only the Governor in Council can make a finding of unsuitability based on my recommendation. As I publicly announced last week, I have formed the view that the Star is unsuitable to hold a licence in Queensland.

In his report, Mr Gotterson also addressed the Queen's Wharf Financial Commitment Agreement regarding regulatory trigger events and compensation. He noted that the state legislature should not be fettered in its capacity to impose controls on casinos or compensate them in any way for having done so. The amendments that I will be moving in consideration in detail will amend the bill in line with this finding to ensure that no compensation is payable for regulatory actions taken in relation to casinos. Similar compensation agreements have been dealt with in this way in other jurisdictions.

During the debate we have heard the opposition resorting to the same tired talking points, making wild claims about hospitality and donations, despite those opposite having been the beneficiaries of free accommodation at Jupiters and free tickets to polo. They have even had to give back nearly \$25,000 in donations from the Star since 2018. Now we are seeing the Greens team up with the LNP on this issue too, just as they are on the Uluru Statement from the Heart it would seem.

In their contributions, the member for South Brisbane and the member for Maiwar spent much time speaking about donations. They completely ignored the fact that the Greens received nearly half a million dollars from high-rolling gambler Duncan Turpie since 2017—and not just once or twice. They have taken donations from a professional high roller twelve times in the past five years. The single largest of those—\$100,000, to be precise—appeared in the Queensland Greens coffers on the eve of the 2020 election. I guess it was not just the LNP preferences that got the member for South Brisbane elected; it was gambling money, too. When it comes to gambling, the member for South Brisbane does not have a leg to stand on. I would urge her to please save us all the moral grandstanding and hypocrisy.

The member for Maiwar criticised the effectiveness of a special manager. In fact, the special manager would be empowered to issue directions to the casino entity with which the casino must comply to ensure compliance with statutory obligations. A special manager would be empowered to very closely monitor the casino and its day-to-day operations through a statutory power that allows the manager to enter and remain in any part of the casino and also sit in on board meetings of the casino.

The special manager can also access all documents and records of the casino as they pertain to the management and operations of a hotel-casino complex. The special manager will be responsible for such investigations as directed by the government and will report back to the government on those investigations and on the remediation of a casino entity.

The member for Noosa stated that, whilst the bill proposes to remove barriers to cashless payments and cashless gaming, it does not propose any harm minimisation mechanisms. The bill amends the gambling acts to improve each act's capacity to address and respond to emerging technologies and cashless payment methods for gaming. Harm minimisation will be a relevant factor in any consideration and approval of cashless payment methods, systems and technologies.

In relation to amendments involving Trackside, the member for Noosa also stated that Trackside is an expansion on Keno racing as it authorises simulated sports wagering. It is important to note, again, that the bill does not automatically allow the sports wagering licensee to start conducting or offering wagering on simulated events or simulated contingencies in Queensland. Rather, the bill provides a framework for the detailed consideration and ministerial approval of virtual wagering products on a case-by-case basis. This is necessary to ensure emerging technologies and their market impact can be appropriately assessed and, where found unsuitable or contrary to the public interest in minimising the potential for gambling related harm, can be denied operation in Queensland.

I turn to changes regarding charities. I note the comments from the members for Currumbin and Noosa seeking a wider review of the not-for-profit sector beyond the scope of the amendments in this bill. However, introducing the deemed registration scheme for ACNC registered charities to operate in Queensland that is contained in this bill is an important step in an ongoing process to reduce the regulatory burden for charities operating across borders. The Queensland government is continuing to undertake additional work to support the work of charities and reduce red tape. To this end, amendments to reduce duplication in Queensland reporting requirements for ACNC registered charities commenced in late July 2022. My department is also continuing to participate in ongoing interjurisdictional discussions aimed at further harmonising fundraising laws and conduct requirements across Australia.

In conclusion, once again I thank members of the House for their contributions during the debate of the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mr NICHOLLS (5.09 pm): I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 14 (Confidentiality of information))

Page 8, line 17, before 'Section'—

insert—

(1)

2 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 14 (Confidentiality of information))

Page 8, after line 21—

insert—

(2) Section 14—

insert—

(2A) Also, subsection (1) does not apply to the extent it would otherwise prevent the public disclosure of the existence or outcome of any investigation under this Act of a casino licensee, a lessee under a casino lease or a casino operator under a casino management agreement.

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

Tabled paper: Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Tim Nicholls's amendments [\[1684\]](#).

Tabled paper: Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Tim Nicholls's amendments [\[1685\]](#).

This amendment to the casino control legislation is relatively straightforward. It provides for the insertion of two clauses. One clause permits the insertion of the second clause. At the moment, clause 14 of the Casino Control Act prohibits the disclosure of confidential information in certain circumstances; in particular, if it is disclosure of information that is described relevantly as 'confidential information'. Confidential information is of course defined in the legislation to mean information other than information which is publicly available about a person's personal affairs, business affairs, reputation, character, criminal history and so on.

We know that in the course of this investigation a number of salient reports have been made by media organisations and a number of legitimate inquiries have been made, most recently a report by the ABC and its state political editor, Rachel Riga. Ms Riga has made inquiries of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation in relation to prosecutions undertaken for breaches of legislation variously by either individuals, by employees of that organisation or by the operators themselves. In her report Ms Riga says—

The regulator was unable to say which casino operators had been fined, citing confidentiality provisions under the law.

This amendment purports to insert a new section (2A) in section 14 which provides—

... subsection (1) does not apply to the extent it would otherwise prevent the public disclosure—

and this is important—

of the existence or outcome of any investigation ...

It is about whether there is in fact an investigation underway and then the outcome of that investigation. If an investigation is underway, it is more than reasonable to assume that the party being investigated knows they are being investigated. The investigators from OLGR ask them for information; they visit their premises; they let them know. Under the amendments that we will later discuss, they actually will be giving them notices requiring them to provide information. In no way is it tipping the hand of the regulator at the time that they go forward.

Secondly, it seeks to find out the outcome of that investigation. If an investigation were made and there were no findings of any wrongdoing, no-one is harmed. The reputation of the casino is not harmed and the outcome is known to the public. At the moment, if there is an investigation, the outcome of that investigation is not known and whether the OLGR is doing its duty. I commend the amendment to the House.

Ms FENTIMAN: I understand the intent behind these amendments, but I do have to say that the amendments have not been thought through. Information is often released by OLGR in accordance with the Casino Control Act by the department in relation to investigations. I have said in this House that there are investigations ongoing in relation to the Ville Casino. I have said that there is a matter before the Magistrates Court in relation to the Reef Casino. There is nothing in the current act that prohibits that; however, there are some restrictions on releasing interim investigations where releasing information would prejudice ongoing prosecutions.

OLGR has on a number of occasions released information under the current act, including information about the number of investigations, resulting actions and a summary of the nature of those investigations. As I have said publicly, once current suitability investigations and other investigations are completed I am happy to let the community know the outcomes.

There also remains a risk that the provision would potentially impact on due process. If the effect of the amendment is to compel the department to release interim reports, it would prejudice the actions the department might take in completing its investigation. As I said, we do not want to jeopardise proceedings before the court.

Also, it appears the amendments proposed by the member would remove any obligation on past officers of the department, including inspectors, not to release investigative information. If someone leaves the employ of the OLGR and there is an investigation underway, under these amendments there would no longer be any prohibition on their talking about the investigation that is underway. I do not believe that the amendments have been properly thought through. The government will not be supporting the member for Clayfield's amendments.

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

In division—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask members for silence.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Capalaba is warned under the standing orders. Standing orders still apply during divisions.

AYES, 31:

LNP, 29—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 50:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pair: Bush, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Nicholls) negated.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.20 pm): I move the following amendments—

- 1 **Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 17, line 2, 'the entity'—
omit, insert—
any of the following happens
- 2 **Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 17, lines 5 and 6—
omit, insert—
 - (a) the entity contravenes a provision of this Act;
 - (b) the entity is convicted of an indictable offence
- 3 **Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 17, line 12, 'or'—
omit.
- 4 **Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 17, after line 12—
insert—
 - (3A) Section 31(1)(ba), before 'contravenes'—
insert—
the entity
- 5 **Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 17, after line 18—
insert—
 - (5A) Section 31(1)(ba), (c), (d), (e) and (f), ' ; or'—
omit, insert—
;
 - (5B) Section 31(1)(c), (e) and (g), before 'fails'—
insert—
the entity
 - (5C) Section 31(1)(d), before 'or any'—
insert—
the entity
- 6 **Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 18, line 7, 'or'—
omit.

- 7 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 18, after line 7—
insert—
(7A) Section 31(1)(f), before 'is required'—
insert—
the entity
- 8 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 20, line 19, 'further action'—
omit, insert—
further disciplinary action
- 9 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 21, lines 4 to 12—
omit, insert—
(b) recommend the Governor in Council take 1 or more of the following actions—
(i) the relevant casino licence be cancelled or suspended;
(ii) the casino lease or casino management agreement for the relevant casino licence be suspended or terminated;
(iii) the entity pay to the State a pecuniary penalty of not more than \$100m;
(iv) a special manager be appointed for the entity.
- 10 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 21, line 32, 'further action'—
omit, insert—
further disciplinary action
- 11 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 22, line 18, '\$50m'—
omit, insert—
\$100m
- 12 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 22, line 24—
omit, insert—
management agreement;
(vi) appoint a special manager for the entity.
- 13 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))**
Page 22, after line 32—
insert—
(10A) Section 31(15), after 'direct the'—
insert—
suspension or
(10B) Section 31—
insert—
(16A) Subsections (16B) and (16C) apply if—
(a) the Governor in Council decides under subsection (12) to take any of the following disciplinary action against a casino entity—
(i) suspend or cancel a casino licence;
(ii) direct the suspension or termination of a casino lease;
(iii) direct the suspension or termination of a casino management agreement; and
(b) a special manager is appointed for the casino entity.
(16B) Before the suspension, cancellation or termination takes effect, the Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister, take the following action by giving written notice of the action to the casino entity—
(a) change the day the suspension, cancellation or termination takes effect;
(b) if the Governor in Council is satisfied the suspension, cancellation or termination is no longer required because of the remediation of the management and operations of the entity—rescind the suspension, cancellation or termination to stop it taking effect.
(16C) Before making a recommendation mentioned in subsection (16B), the Minister must—
(a) consult the special manager about the proposed recommendation; and
(b) have regard to the implementation of the casino entity's plan for the remediation of the management and operations of the entity.

(10C) Section 31(17), 'Where a casino licence is suspended pursuant to'—

omit, insert—

If a casino licence, casino lease or casino management agreement is suspended under

(10D) Section 31(19) and (20), 'is terminated'—

omit, insert—

is suspended or terminated

(10E) Section 31(21), before 'termination'—

insert—

suspension or

14 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))

Page 23, line 22, before 'termination'—

insert—

suspension or

15 Clause 9 (Amendment of s 31 (Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure))

Page 23, lines 26 to 29—

omit, insert—

(12) Section 31(23), from 'to cancel' to 'agreement'—

omit, insert—

made under this section

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

Tabled paper: Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendments [[1686](#)].

Tabled paper: Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendments [[1687](#)].

Mr NICHOLLS: In particular, I want to discuss amendment No.9 moved by the Attorney-General. This is the amendment that proposes to insert the pecuniary penalty of \$100 million and changes the provision to allow for the appointment of a special manager. Given time is limited, I will address a couple of things the Attorney said in her reply to the second reading debate.

I make it abundantly clear that the LNP missed nothing in respect of the Attorney's statements, comments and press release. We fully expected amendments to be moved in this place. The normal procedure in circumstances where the minister is going to be moving 24 amendments on 21 pages, including many new sections, is that they would, as a courtesy, offer a briefing to their opposite number and say, 'These are amendments we are thinking of.' What we got was half an hour before the debate started all of these amendments dropping on the desk. The normal courtesy was not even afforded to me as shadow Attorney-General. So far as the offer of a briefing in relation to the Gotterson report goes, I can certainly say that my office did not receive that offer. I cannot speak for others.

Let me now turn to amendment No. 9. We have heard a number of comments made previously with regard to the fines that were to be introduced. If we go to the explanatory notes for the bill which was introduced after New South Wales and Victoria had already increased their fines to \$100 million—so had already occurred after they had introduced their legislation—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They had done so. The fines were there because the explanatory notes say that. The explanatory notes say that Victoria and New South Wales increased their fines to \$100 million. The explanatory notes state—

The Minister will be able to issue a judicially reviewable minor fine (of up to \$5 million), while the Governor in Council will be able to issue a non-reviewable major fine (of up to \$50 million).

On the consultation stage of it, the explanatory notes state—

Some of the affected businesses consulted suggested there should be consistency between jurisdictions in terms of the maximum pecuniary penalty ...

They go on to state—

However, this is not possible as the maximum penalty permitted in other States and Territories varies from \$1 million to \$100 million.

...

The Alliance for Gambling Reform advocated for a \$100 million maximum pecuniary penalty in line with Victoria.

The government's explanatory notes at the time of the introduction of the bill referred to \$100 million and—

... an upper limit of \$50 million will enable Queensland to levy the second highest possible pecuniary penalty ...

There has been no explanation. It is an arbitrary amount. The minister cannot actually justify how it has come about.

Ms FENTIMAN: I make no apologies for increasing the financial penalty from \$50 million to \$100 million. New South Wales passed their legislation for a penalty of \$100 million only last month. We are trying to achieve consistency. I make no apologies for increasing the penalties given what we have seen in the Gotterson report. I would urge the opposition to support it.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.25 pm): I move the following amendments—

16

Clause 10 (Insertion of new s 31A)

Page 24, line 28, before 'terminated'—

insert—

suspended or

17

Clause 10 (Insertion of new s 31A)

Page 24, line 30—

omit, insert—

section 31(9)(a)(iii) or (12)(b)(iv);

(g) the Governor in Council decides, under section 31(12)(b)(vi), to appoint a special manager for the entity.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 17, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.25 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Ms FENTIMAN: I move the following amendment—

18

After clause 17

Page 30, after line 1—

insert—

17A Amendment of s 50 (Casino licence fee)

Section 50—

insert—

(5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that the obligation to pay the licence fee continues for any period in which the casino licence is suspended.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 18 to 28, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.26 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Ms FENTIMAN: I move the following amendment—

19

After clause 28

Page 36, after line 2—

insert—

28A Insertion of new pt 9, div 3 and div 4, hdg

After section 90—

insert—

Division 3 Special manager**90A Definitions for division**

In this division—

agreement Act means any of the following Acts—

- (a) *Breakwater Island Casino Agreement Act 1984*;
- (b) *Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992*;
- (c) *Cairns Casino Agreement Act 1993*;
- (d) *Jupiters Casino Agreement Act 1983*;
- (e) *Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016*.

casino agreement means an agreement—

- (a) set out in an agreement Act; or
- (b) made under an agreement Act; or
- (c) ratified under an agreement Act.

90B Application of division

- (1) This division applies if—
 - (a) disciplinary action is taken against a casino entity under section 31; and
 - (b) as part of the disciplinary action the Governor in Council decides to appoint a special manager for the casino entity.
- (2) To remove any doubt, it is declared that this division applies regardless of whether—
 - (a) the initiating incident for the disciplinary action occurred before or after the commencement of this division; or
 - (b) other disciplinary action was also taken against the casino entity.
- (3) In this section—

initiating incident, in relation to disciplinary action, see section 31(24A).

90C Appointment of special manager

- (1) The Governor in Council may appoint a suitably qualified person to be the special manager, other than a person who is an associate of the casino entity under section 30A(4).
- (2) The special manager holds office on the terms and conditions decided by the Governor in Council.
- (3) The special manager is appointed under this Act and not the *Public Service Act 2008*.
- (4) The instrument of appointment for the special manager must state—
 - (a) the period for which the special manager is appointed; and
 - (b) the terms and conditions of the appointment; and
 - (c) any additional functions of the special manager under section 90D(2); and
 - (d) the investigations the special manager is to carry out; and
 - (e) any directions or instructions to the special manager relating to performance of the manager's functions.
- (5) The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister, vary the special manager's instrument of appointment by giving the manager written notice of the variation.
- (6) If the casino licence relevant to the special manager's appointment is cancelled or surrendered, the special manager's appointment ends.

90D Functions of special manager

- (1) The special manager has the following functions—
 - (a) to monitor the affairs of the casino entity in relation to the management and operations of a hotel-casino complex;
 - (b) to consult on and advise in relation to the content and preparation of the casino entity's remediation plan;
 - (c) to monitor the following matters—
 - (i) the suitability and efficacy of the casino entity's remediation plan;
 - (ii) the implementation of the casino entity's remediation plan;
 - (d) to report to the Minister and chief executive on the following matters—
 - (i) the suitability and efficacy of the casino entity's remediation plan;
 - (ii) the implementation of the casino entity's remediation plan;
 - (iii) the progress of the casino entity in fulfilling the entity's remediation plan.

- (2) The instrument of appointment of the special manager may include additional functions of the manager.
- (3) In performing the special manager's functions, the manager must comply with any directions and instructions stated in the manager's instrument of appointment.
- (4) In this section—
remediation plan means a plan for the remediation of the management and operations of a casino entity.

90E Powers of special manager

- (1) The special manager has all the powers necessary to perform the special manager's functions.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the special manager may—
 - (a) enter into and remain in any part of the hotel-casino complex, and any other premises occupied by the casino entity in connection with its casino operations for the purpose of performing functions or exercising powers under this division; and
 - (b) access all documents and records of the casino entity relating to the management and operations of a hotel-casino complex; and
 - (c) attend any meeting of the casino entity's board, or a related entity's board, or any committee or subcommittee of such boards if the meeting relates to the management and operations of a hotel-casino complex; and
 - (d) engage any person to provide advice or other services to the special manager in connection with the performance of the manager's functions.
- (3) The special manager may, by written notice given to the casino entity (an **information requirement**), require the entity to give the manager information the manager reasonably requires to perform the manager's functions.
- (4) The special manager may give a written direction to the casino entity requiring the entity take an action, or refrain from taking an action, stated in the direction (an **administrative direction**).
- (5) However, the special manager may give the casino entity an administrative direction only if the manager—
 - (a) suspects there is or has been maladministration on the part of the entity; or
 - (b) believes the direction is in the best interests of the entity, having regard to the purpose of the appointment of the special manager; or
 - (c) believes the direction is necessary to ensure compliance with any statutory obligation applying to the entity.
- (6) The casino entity must—
 - (a) comply with an information requirement given to it; and
 - (b) comply with an administrative direction given to it; and
 - (c) cooperate with the special manager in performing the manager's functions.

Maximum penalty—160 penalty units.
- (7) The casino entity is not excused from complying with an information requirement on the ground that the information is the subject of legal professional privilege.
- (8) Information does not cease to be the subject of legal professional privilege only because it is given to the special manager in accordance with an information requirement.
- (9) In this section—
related entity, of a casino entity, means an entity that is an associated entity for the casino entity under the Corporations Act, section 50AAA.

90F Reports of special manager

- (1) The special manager must report to the Minister and the chief executive on the performance of the manager's functions—
 - (a) as requested by the Minister or chief executive; and
 - (b) as required in the manager's instrument of appointment.
- (2) The Minister or chief executive may disclose a report made under subsection (1), or anything in the report, only if the Minister or chief executive is satisfied it is in the public interest to make the disclosure.
- (3) Reporting to the Minister or chief executive, or the disclosure of a report, under this section does not constitute a waiver of any privilege attaching to information contained in the report, including, for example, legal professional privilege.

90G Costs for special manager

- (1) The casino entity is liable for all of the following costs and expenses—
 - (a) the reasonable costs and expenses relating to the appointment of the special manager;
 - (b) the reasonable costs and expenses relating to the performance of the special manager's functions;
 - (c) the reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the chief executive in—
 - (i) administering the appointment of the special manager; or
 - (ii) assisting the special manager in the performance of the manager's functions; or
 - (iii) engaging consultants in relation to the special manager; or
 - (iv) advising the Minister on the entity's plan for the remediation of the management and operations of the entity;
 - (d) other reasonable costs and expenses prescribed by regulation.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1)(b), the reasonable costs and expenses relating to the performance of the special manager's functions include—
 - (a) the remuneration and allowances of the manager; and
 - (b) the salary or remuneration costs associated with the staff of the manager; and
 - (c) the manager's accommodation and other operating expenses.
- (3) The casino entity may be required to pay to the State costs and expenses in advance of those costs and expenses being incurred by the special manager and chief executive.
- (4) If the casino entity is required to pay costs and expenses in advance, the chief executive must give the entity—
 - (a) a written itemised account of the expected costs and expenses; and
 - (b) a written notice requiring the entity to pay to the State the expected costs and expenses within 28 days after the requirement is made.
- (5) Subsection (6) applies if, after giving the casino entity a written notice under subsection (4), the chief executive reasonably believes there is a shortfall between—
 - (a) the amount of the expected costs and expenses itemised in the notice; and
 - (b) the actual costs and expenses for which the entity is liable under this section.
- (6) The chief executive may require the casino entity to pay to the State the amount of the shortfall by giving the entity—
 - (a) a written explanation of the shortfall; and
 - (b) a written notice requiring the entity to pay to the State the amount of the shortfall within 28 days after the requirement is made.
- (7) If a requirement is made of the casino entity under subsection (4) or (6), the casino entity must comply with the requirement.
- (8) The amount of the costs and expenses the casino entity is liable for under this section is a debt payable by the entity to the State.
- (9) In a proceeding to recover an amount of the costs and expenses the casino entity is liable for under this section, a written itemised account of the costs and expenses given to the entity is evidence of the costs.
- (10) The chief executive may refund any amount the chief executive considers to have been overpaid by the casino entity under this section.

90H Obstruction or interference with special manager

- (1) A person must not obstruct the special manager in the performance of the special manager's functions, unless the person has a reasonable excuse.
Maximum penalty—120 penalty units.
- (2) In this section—
obstruct includes hinder, resist, attempt to obstruct and threaten to obstruct.

90I Relationship with other provisions, Acts, agreements and laws

- (1) This division applies despite anything to the contrary in—
 - (a) this Act; or
 - (b) an agreement Act; or
 - (c) a casino agreement; or
 - (d) a casino lease; or
 - (e) a casino management agreement.

- (2) In performing a function or exercising a power under this division, the special manager is not required to consult with a casino entity or any other person about how the function is to be performed or whether the power should be exercised, including, for example, by giving a casino entity an opportunity to be heard before performing a function or exercising a power.
- (3) The special manager is not civilly liable for an act done or omission made honestly and without negligence in performing a function under this division.
- (4) The *Public Service Act 2008*, section 26C does not apply to the special manager.

Division 4 Other matters

Mr NICHOLLS: This amendment is a lengthy and complex amendment. It covers some six pages and relates to the appointment of the special manager. The amendment is necessary to enable the Attorney to undertake the decision she foreshadowed last week on receipt of the Gotterson report in terms of being able to appoint a special manager rather than appoint an administrator, which is what the legislation currently allows.

There are number of issues and it goes to the point I made about having well thought out legislation and consulting beforehand. The amendment is lengthy and complex and deals with many powers. For example, proposed new section 90C states that the Governor in Council may appoint a suitably qualified person, but there is no definition of who a suitably qualified person is. There is no guidance as to who constitutes a suitably qualified person. In many pieces of legislation where appointments of people to offices of this type occur there is usually a definition of the qualification required. It may involve an accounting or legal qualification. It can involve someone with experience in operating casinos. That does not occur in this legislation. We have the appointment of someone who is said to be suitably qualified but there is no guidance as to what suitably qualified involves.

Proposed new section 90C(4)(a) states that the instrument of appointment for the special manager must state the period for which the special manager is appointed, but there is no outer limit. There is no term given and there is no extra time or minimum time or maximum time provided for in the amendment.

Proposed new section 90E deals with the powers of the special manager. The special manager has all the powers necessary to perform the special manager's functions but there is no delineation of what those powers ought to be and what functions are necessary in order to carry out that role, other than some further discussion. It is not defined and, again, it provides wide powers with no explanation. This section abrogates the legal professional privilege excuse in terms of providing information, which I note was part of Mr Gotterson's recommendations. However, there is no opportunity to examine the extent of it.

There is also a provision in proposed new section 90F in respect to reports of the special manager. The special manager must report. Then it goes on to say that the minister or chief executive may disclose a report made by the special manager under new subsection (1), but only if the minister or chief executive is satisfied it is in the public interest to do so. There is no right for the public to be able to understand what the special manager has reported on after they have been appointed. Presumably they have only been appointed after there has been a serious and egregious breach of some aspect of regulation, legislation or the Casino Control Act. I expect we will be coming back to discuss further to these amendments in due course.

Ms FENTIMAN: All I will say is that these arrangements are based on similar approaches implemented in Victoria and Western Australia. It provides additional flexibility to government, providing it with disciplinary action that, coupled with other disciplinary action, allows for the remediation of a licensee over time. We have taken Mr Gotterson's findings and recommendations. It was him who suggested that we urgently put in place a special manager, and that is what we have done.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 29—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.30 pm): I move the following amendments—

20 Clause 29 (Insertion of new ss 91AA and 91AB)

Page 36, line 3, '91AA and 91AB'—

omit, insert—

91AA—91AC

21 Clause 29 (Insertion of new ss 91AA and 91AB)

Page 38, after line 16—
insert—

91AC Remediation plan

- (1) The Minister may, by written notice given to a casino entity—
 - (a) direct the entity to prepare a plan for the remediation of the management and operations of the entity (a **remediation plan**); and
 - (b) require the remediation plan to provide for particular matters; and
 - (c) require the remediation plan to be submitted to the Minister for approval by a stated day.
- (2) The Minister may approve the remediation plan being prepared and approved in stages.
- (3) The Minister may approve a remediation plan for a casino entity only if satisfied that implementation of the plan is likely to achieve the remediation of the management and operations of the entity.
- (4) If a casino entity has an approved remediation plan, the Minister may, by written notice given to the entity, direct the entity to amend the plan by the day and in the way stated in the notice.
- (5) The Minister may approve an amended remediation plan for a casino entity only if satisfied that implementation of the amended plan is likely to achieve the remediation of the management and operations of the entity.
- (6) If a casino operator has an approved remediation plan, the plan, including any amendment of the plan, is taken to form part of the operator's approved control system.
- (7) If there is any inconsistency between an approved remediation plan for a casino operator and an approved control system for the operator, the remediation plan prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.
- (8) If given a direction under subsection (1) or (4), the casino entity must comply with the direction.
Maximum penalty—400 penalty units.
- (9) If a casino entity has an approved remediation plan, the entity must not contravene the plan.
Maximum penalty—400 penalty units.
- (10) A casino entity must not change the entity's approved remediation plan other than under a direction or approval of the Minister.
Maximum penalty—400 penalty units.
- (11) In this section—
casino entity means—
 - (a) a casino licensee; or
 - (b) the lessee under a casino lease; or
 - (c) the casino operator under a casino management agreement.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 29, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 30, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.30 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms FENTIMAN: I move the following amendment—

22 After clause 30

Page 38, after line 21—
insert—

30A Insertion of new s 114

After section 113—
insert—

114 No compensation payable for regulatory action

- (1) No compensation is payable by or on behalf of the State because of regulatory action that has an effect on—
 - (a) an entity that is or was concerned in, or otherwise connected to, the administration, management, operation or ownership of a hotel-casino complex or casino, including, for example—
 - (i) a casino entity; or

- (ii) an associate of a casino entity under section 30A(4); or
 - (iii) an entity associated with financing a casino entity or casino operations; or
 - (iv) an employee of an entity mentioned in subparagraphs (i) to (iii); or
- (b) the revenue earned from casino operations.
- (2) This section applies despite—
- (a) any other provision of this Act; or
 - (b) another Act or law, including, for example, an agreement Act; or
 - (c) any other instrument, including an agreement to which the State and a casino entity are parties.
- (3) In this section—
- agreement Act** means any of the following Acts—
- (a) *Breakwater Island Casino Agreement Act 1984*;
 - (b) *Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992*;
 - (c) *Cairns Casino Agreement Act 1993*;
 - (d) *Jupiters Casino Agreement Act 1983*;
 - (e) *Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016*.
- casino agreement** means an agreement—
- (a) set out in an agreement Act; or
 - (b) made under an agreement Act; or
 - (c) ratified under an agreement Act.
- casino entity** means—
- (a) a casino licensee; or
 - (b) the lessee under a casino lease; or
 - (c) the casino operator under a casino management agreement; or
 - (d) an entity proposed to be an entity mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c).
- compensation** includes—
- (a) damages; and
 - (b) another form of monetary compensation; and
 - (c) any other amount, whether described as compensation or not, payable under an instrument, including an agreement to which the State and a casino entity are parties; and
 - (d) liability to make payments under an instrument on occurrence of events specified in the instrument, including an agreement to which the State and a casino entity are parties.
- regulatory action** includes—
- (a) an amendment of this Act, an agreement Act, a casino agreement or any other law that provides for or regulates the management or operations of a casino; and
 - (b) the making of a regulation under this Act; and
 - (c) the appointment of an administrator under section 31 or a special manager under part 9, division 3; and
 - (d) an action taken, or failure to take an action, by a special manager; and
 - (e) the exercise of functions or powers under this Act, an agreement Act, a casino agreement or any other law that provides for or regulates the management or operations of a casino, including the exercise of regulatory or supervisory powers under instruments approved or created under this Act.

Mr NICHOLLS: Now we are up to the third amendment outside the long title of the bill. That says it all in relation to what I said earlier in the debate around this bill, and that is too slow off the mark, get caught out, then rush and then go half-baked. Now we have another amendment outside the long title of the bill.

This amendment is the amendment that is required in order to provide that no compensation will be payable to Star because of the actions of government, because of the deal that was done by the Labor government with Star back in 2016—the financial agreement deal. Let's deal with the agreement that was done by Labor back in those days. Let's see what Mr Gotterson says. The Attorney has been saying that it is a similar deal to the deal in New South Wales. Mr Gotterson says—

Provisions of a not dissimilar kind as they applied between the New South Wales government and Crown were abolished ... The triggers there were of a different kind from those in the Queen's Wharf Brisbane—Financial and Commitment Agreement. They extended, for example, to compensation for cancellation of the casino licence ...

He then goes on to say that he does not believe his recommendations would do so. He then goes on to say—

The State legislature ought not be fettered in its capacity to impose controls upon casinos in this State, and likewise there ought be no obligation upon the State to compensate the licensee for having done so.

The only difficulty with that is that the state legislature do not know the terms of the financial agreement—never seen it. It has never been provided. It has never been made available to the public to understand what it is that the state was on the hook for. It was not provided for. The act provides for a schedule and the schedule should be there. The act actually says that the agreement should be on the department of justice's website, but it is not—what a surprise! Nonetheless, we are now being asked to amend this legislation because of a deal Labor did. We know that when they did the deal they, in fact, insisted that Star take an extra 400 electronic gaming machines and pay them \$40 million for the privilege of doing so.

The financial agreement that the Labor government entered into lock, stock and barrel—and they cannot pass it back to the LNP or anyone else: this is all their own good work—is now an agreement that Mr Gotterson says, 'Potentially, in order to avoid any uncertainty or doubt, we are now going to have to make changes to,' and this legislature does not even know the terms of the agreement we are being asked to agree to make changes to. It highlights, as I have said, the way this government runs the state. Hopefully it will be all over in two years time.

Ms FENTIMAN: I just cannot keep up. Is it that we were too slow to act or now we are too rushed? Something has happened between when we proactively introduced this legislation—when Mr Gotterson highlighted in his report how well we are strengthening casino regulation and congratulated us for that. According to the opposition, we acted too slowly but now we are rushing things.

The reason there are amendments outside the long title of the bill is that we had an inquiry in this state and we had an eminent former Court of Appeal judge make recommendations to change the legislation. I do not know what they are complaining about. All we are doing here is making it clear in legislation that no regulatory action to strengthen—make more accountable and transparent—casinos in this state will trigger compensation under a financial agreement, as recommended by Mr Gotterson.

I have absolutely no idea what the contribution from the member for Clayfield was about. I do not understand it. I absolutely do not understand what their position on this is.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 31 and 32, as read, agreed to.

Clause 33—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.35 pm): I seek leave to move amendments outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms FENTIMAN: I move the following amendments—

23 Clause 33 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))

Page 39, after line 19—

insert—

agreement Act, for part 9, division 3, see section 90A.

casino agreement, for part 9, division 3, see section 90A.

24 Clause 33 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))

Page 39, after line 21—

insert—

special manager means a person appointed under section 90C.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 33, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 34 to 116, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.36 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.36 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

RACING INTEGRITY AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 24 February (see p. 236).

Second Reading

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.37 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Palaszczuk government strongly backs our racing industry not only because it delivers thousands of jobs but because of its important contribution to the social fabric and wellbeing of our community, particularly regional communities. We want to see it go from strength to strength, and that is what drives the reforms in the bill before the House today.

The bill before the House reflects the Palaszczuk government's steadfast commitment to growing the racing industry and to improving the integrity of the industry. As I said in my introductory speech, the Palaszczuk government has listened to the Queensland racing industry's concerns in undertaking a thorough review of the Racing Integrity Act and its operations—and we have responded.

The centrepiece of the bill is a creation of a new independent Racing Appeals Panel to review the decisions made by stewards under the rules of racing. Review by the new panel will replace the current process of internal review by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and external reviews by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

These reforms will deliver a system which will see most reviews finalised more quickly and by a specialist body with knowledge and experience in the racing industry. The panel chairperson will be required to have at least five years legal standing. For most hearings, two additional panel members will be selected from a pool of appointed persons with racing or other relevant expertise. A racing participant who is unhappy with a decision made by a steward will need to lodge an application for review more promptly, and the panel will determine most matters within seven days.

Another important reform to address the industry's concerns will be the changes to when decisions can be stayed whilst they are reviewed. The new statutory time frames within which an application for review to the panel must be determined means that stays will only be available for a limited time frame before a matter is decided. Further, under the new model a stay will not be available when a decision is appealed to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal if the panel has determined that the breach of the rules involved a serious risk to animal health or welfare, human safety or the integrity of racing.

The bill also makes a number of unrelated minor amendments to the Racing Integrity Act. These include: providing for the publication of stewards' reports and elevated readings of prohibited substances; removing redundant provisions regarding fingerprinting requirements for a bookmaker's licence; standardising the time a racing bookmaker's clerk can act as agent at 12 weeks in each year;

more consistently regulating the use of telecommunications systems for the taking of bets; providing for the delegation of certain powers of the minister; prohibiting attempts to influence witnesses before inquiries; and amendments to ensure compatibility with the Human Rights Act 2019.

The bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee for consideration on 24 February 2022. I thank the committee for their detailed and thorough consideration of the bill. I especially want to thank the committee chair, Kim Richards, the member for Redlands; and the deputy chair. Kim always does an excellent job with my bills, and she has not let me down this time. The committee's inquiry into the bill included a call for public submissions, a public hearing and a public briefing. I thank all of the stakeholders who provided submissions to the committee and those who took the time to appear before the committee to brief themselves on the various aspects arising from the bill.

The committee tabled a comprehensive report on the bill on 8 April 2022 which includes five recommendations: first, that the bill be passed. I want to thank the committee for its support of the bill. I note that this support reflected the tenor of submissions to the committee, which were overwhelmingly supportive of the bill. This included submissions by the Australian Jockeys' Association, Racing Queensland, the Queensland Jockeys' Association, the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds and the Queensland Law Society. We have Australian jockeys, Queensland jockeys and a group of people who are in this industry who made submissions. This is a testament to the way the government has listened to stakeholders concerned about the current arrangements and comprehensively consulted with stakeholders as it refined their proposals in the bill. Can I also say that I met with them personally in my office. We went through a number of issues and I thank them for their advocacy. It was great to talk to them directly to allay any concerns. We walked out feeling that this was the best way forward. The other four recommendations of the committee invite me to clarify certain matters in my second reading speech, and I am happy to do just that.

Recommendation 2 of the committee report requests clarification of whether a racing decision under the bill includes a decision made by a steward under the Rules of Racing irrespective of whether the rules especially refer to a steward as the decision-maker. The proposed section 252AB of the bill provides: a right of review of a racing decision of a steward; to take disciplinary action relating to a licence or approval; to take exclusion action against a person; or to impose a penalty, monetary or non-monetary, against a person.

Racing Queensland pointed out that some of the Rules of Racing referred to QRIC itself rather than a steward as the entity making a decision. They sought clarification of whether the decision made by a steward in that circumstance would be reviewable by the panel. I advise the House that QRIC does not currently exercise functions under the Rules of Racing via delegation to a steward. Stewards, by virtue of their appointment, possess the relevant powers under the Rules of Racing rather than through delegation. A racing decision is intended to capture decisions made by a steward under the Rules of Racing irrespective of whether the rules expressly refer to a steward as the decision-maker. This bill focuses on the power to impose sanctions upon a person involved in racing, which in Queensland are exercisable by stewards.

Recommendation 3 requests clarification of the meaning of 'extent' concerning the ability to appeal decisions of the panel only on a question of law relating to the extent of the disqualification action. This issue was raised by the Queensland Law Society. It was suggested that the use of the word 'extent' in the proposed section 252AU(2) may be confusing and that it could refer to either the size of the penalty or to the extent to which the penalty is appropriate. I advise the House that 'extent' in this context is intended to refer to the size of the penalty; in other words, where a penalty is a suspension or disqualification of three months or more, an application for an appeal can only be made about whether that penalty is appropriate. The appeal cannot re-examine whether the person was guilty of the offence. In effect, we are not going to re-examine this. These are the referees or the stewards making decisions. They make them in relation to a panel looking at it all, and this is about not re-looking at this issue.

Recommendation 4 requests clarification about the time frames intended to apply to the publication of stewards' reports. The body of the committee report discusses feedback from stakeholders proposing indefinite publication of stewards' reports as occurs in other Australian jurisdictions. Racing Queensland noted some practical concerns about the proposals in the bill as it uses the information in stewards' reports to perform its statutory functions and requested that, if this information is not available online, a process be developed to enable it to receive stewards' reports after the reports are removed from the QRIC website. The submissions of Racing Queensland and the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds both argued that indefinite publication is necessary for the public to have adequate access to the information.

I understand the issues raised and the feedback provided to the committee; however, I am concerned that an indefinite publication could be incompatible with the Human Rights Act 2019 because of the potential impact on privacy and a person's reputation, particularly long after the occurrence of the incident concerned. Stewards' reports may contain personal information and allegations of offences as well as findings of fact and penalties. A balance needs to be struck between the consideration of human rights, especially when it comes to unfounded allegations or historical offences, and the need for transparency.

I particularly note that Racing Queensland raised concerns that access to the information in stewards' reports is used to perform its statutory functions. Section 53A of the Racing Integrity Act permits QRIC to enter into an information-sharing arrangement with the relevant agency to assist QRIC or the relevant agency to perform its functions. The chief executive officer of the Queensland Racing Board is prescribed in the Racing Integrity Regulation 2016 as a relevant person who may enter into such an arrangement for an agency. Therefore, it would be open to Racing Queensland to enter into such an information-sharing arrangement to assist in performing its function should it be required. I encourage them to do so. The government believes that the bill provides the appropriate balance and commits to monitor this matter to ensure this publication length is appropriate. We will continue listening to stakeholder feedback, and if there is evidence of the need for further consideration we will look to review it.

Recommendation 5 requests clarification about the eligibility of employees of QRIC, persons registered or licensed by QRIC, and board directors of licensed racing clubs for appointment to the panel. I remind the House that the overarching purpose of this bill is to continue to deliver on the government's commitment to improve the system for stewards' decisions to be reviewed. It is critically important that the panel conducting these reviews is seen to be impartial and independent.

The bill proposes to insert section 252BD which excludes several categories of people from eligibility for appointment to the panel. Each member of the panel, including the chairperson and deputy chairpersons, are appointed by the Governor in Council and their suitability for appointment will be carefully scrutinised through the significant appointment process. The provisions in the bill will ensure the panel has the necessary level of expertise to review stewards' decisions, while demonstrating to the community that the integrity of racing in Queensland is being promoted and secured.

The government is committed to getting the best people possible appointed to the panel. This will be achieved by conducting an open recruitment process. Over and above the eligibility criteria, this recruitment process will call for applications from people with the key capabilities suitable for the review of stewards' decisions whilst maintaining the independence and impartiality of the panel and its decisions. I said at the beginning of my second reading speech that this is a government that listens, and I have listened to stakeholders during consultation. They have clearly told me that it is important to have people appointed to the panel who have relevant knowledge and expertise about racing in Queensland.

As is the case with all appointments to government bodies, information on a person's suitability for appointment must be obtained and carefully scrutinised for all appointments. This includes formal checks of criminal history and bankruptcy. Proposed nominees for appointments to government bodies are also asked to declare whether there are any reasons why they should not be appointed, including any conflicts of interests. I further draw the attention of the House to proposed section 252BA(a), which requires the panel and its members in performing their functions and exercising their powers to act independently, impartially and fairly. It is the only way this panel is going to work. They have to be respected by the industry.

The bill makes it clear that a person who has been a member or employee of Racing Queensland in the two years prior to appointment and persons who hold licences for clubs or venues issued by Racing Queensland are not eligible for appointment to the panel. The bill does not include similar exclusions for persons licensed by QRIC or QRIC employees. Persons registered or licensed by QRIC include bookmakers, riders, jockeys, trainers, stablehands and kennel attendants. QRIC employees include, amongst others, stewards and vets. These persons would be required to disclose a conflict of interest through the significant appointment process and in accordance with proposed section 252BA in the bill.

There will be some circumstances where a registered or licensed person may not be deemed suitable for appointment to the panel, and consequently their appointment would not be appropriate. Examples of this may include an existing licensed bookmaker or an existing steward employed by QRIC. Such individuals would have clear conflicts of interest and therefore would not be sufficiently

independent and impartial to be suitable to serve as panel members. However, there may be other circumstances where presently licensed persons or employees of QRIC, such as a jockey, stablehand or vet, may be deemed suitable for appointment to the panel based on their relevant knowledge and expertise—for example, an experienced jockey or QRIC vet nearing retirement who is passionate about being involved in the racing industry and would like to seek appointment as a panel member. It would be unfair to exclude such persons from consideration or require them to discontinue their immediate involvement in racing, and lose their income, from the time of application until their appointment is considered. Similarly, a recent preliminary search of licensed jockeys in Queensland found that, out of nearly 240 jockeys, 40 were identified as not being active. Some of these inactive jockeys may be suitable for appointment to the panel given their knowledge and experience in the industry.

The bill proposes to insert new section 252BF that enables a member to be appointed to the panel on the conditions stated in the member's instrument of appointment. This could include a condition that they relinquish a licence or employment with QRIC or an interest in an animal. Under proposed section 252BF, persons such as an inactive or retiring jockey or vet or other participant could be appointed on the condition that they surrender their relevant interest upon taking up their role on the panel. They should be given that opportunity if they are deemed suitable.

These sections will allow us to recruit highly experienced racing experts without automatically ruling them out, while at the same time ensuring they do not suffer personal detriment during the appointment process. This has been the experience in other jurisdictions, including the Victorian Racing Tribunal, which has included members who are former jockeys, stewards and vets. I think they would make excellent panel members.

Racing Queensland sought clarification in their submission about whether the eligibility restriction on members of a 'committee' of a licensed racing club in proposed section 252BD(2) includes the directors of clubs that are structured as companies rather than incorporated associations. The word 'committee' is a general term, intended broadly as a group of people acting on behalf of a larger body. The use of this general term includes various governance bodies of licensed clubs and industry associations, irrespective of their corporate structure. For example, members of a governing board and directors of a corporation could fall within the common meaning of the term. The use of 'committee' in the bill is consistent with the use of the term in defining an 'eligible individual' for appointment to the Board of Racing Queensland under the Racing Act.

In relation to the use of the word 'employee' in the proposed new section 252BD(2)(d), the term 'employ' is already defined in the Racing Integrity Act as including 'to engage whether or not for payment'. Directors of a club structured as a company would therefore also fall within this exclusion category as they are 'engaged' to manage the affairs of the club. It is pretty clear that 'committee' means licensed club. We believe they have a clear conflict and we think that is a step in the right direction. We do not want one club making a decision about another.

The racing industry in Queensland now has more than 43,000 individual participants across all three codes and supports over 13,500 full-time-equivalent jobs. As I said at the outset, the Palaszczuk government strongly backs racing, not only because it delivers these thousands of jobs but because of its important contribution to the social fabric and wellbeing of our community, particularly regional communities.

I was proud to be racing minister when this House originally passed the Racing Integrity Act in 2016. There were many amendments I know, but then it was not my original bill. That legislation was crucial to restoring public confidence in the industry, and I recall that the LNP fought against it every step of the way.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I am a fixer. On this side of the House, we have a strong record of delivering important reforms around integrity, animal welfare and financial sustainability and of building new infrastructure that has given the industry the confidence and certainty it needed to overcome the systemic problems it once faced, and now it can grow for future success. The impact of our reforms is clear. Since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected, the annual economic contribution of the racing industry to the state has increased by almost 60 per cent to \$1.9 billion. Racing in Queensland is stronger than ever, and it is getting stronger every single day because of what the Palaszczuk Labor government has done to support this industry. If members go out and talk to the industry, they will be told what we have done to support them every step of the way. I have been to three regional meets recently, and I was commended at every single one of them for what we have done for racing in this state.

The bill we are debating today builds on our strong record, and just wait until we implement the point-of-consumption tax because it will grow the pie for this industry. It will give them the leverage to really take it up to New South Wales and Victoria. I am proud to be part of it. I love racing in this state. I love the people who are in the racing industry. I am so supportive of our strong record. I am looking forward to seeing the new Racing Appeals Panel in place soon to further improve integrity and animal welfare in the industry.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I am getting a few interjections from those opposite. I urge them to go to a racetrack near them and enjoy a day of racing. When they are there, they should ask the people in the industry just one question: how happy are you under a Palaszczuk Labor government and under Minister Grace? I guarantee that the answer will be that they are very, very happy. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I call the member for—

Ms GRACE: I move that the—

Mr LANGBROEK: I am on my feet, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Ms GRACE: Oh, were you called? I am sorry, I did not realise you were called. I had not sat down.

Mr LANGBROEK: Madam Deputy Speaker, do I have the call?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Surfers Paradise.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.59 pm): It is my pleasure to rise and speak on behalf of the shadow minister who, in the 57th Parliament, having been the shadow in the 56th Parliament—

Ms GRACE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was still on my feet. I still had time on the clock. I was about to finish up. My time had not expired. I was still on my feet when someone rose seeking the call. I seek a ruling in relation to this. I was actually on my feet; I did not sit down and I had time on the clock.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Tallebudgera State School, Parking

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.01 pm): For years now, the Tallebudgera State School and the school community has been suffering with a critical shortage of parking for parents and carers. The lack of parking is, quite frankly, dangerous for our kids and it is causing major road use problems for both road users and local businesses. Parents and carers are forced to queue through the roundabout and use the bus lane for parking, creating a traffic hazard that is extremely dangerous just to pick their kids up from school. Many parents have contacted me to try to get more parking for the school. Jennifer said—

I witnessed a boy run across the road into the side of an oncoming car. It is beyond a joke and it has gone on for way too long.

Shirley said—

It is not only the parents picking their kids up from school who are affected, it is very dangerous for all of us who live out there. The ducking and diving as parents try to get parks in no parking spots is very dangerous. Trying to get home during school time is hopeless.

Sue said—

Is it going to take a tragedy before the government does anything?

Why does it always take a tragedy before this state government listens and acts? Our community has been crying out for a parking solution for years. I will not wait for a tragedy. I have spent hours talking with distressed parents and members of the Tallebudgera State School P&C. I have arranged traffic meetings with stakeholders and Tallebudgera State School. I have launched a community petition. I have spent hours doorknocking and letterboxing the petition all over the catchment area to try to get support so that the minister might listen and take some action. Today I have a petition signed by 611 people. I table an electronic version of the petition for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition titled 'Petition for better parking at Tallebudgera State School' [[1688](#)].

I have spoken about this issue on the floor of parliament numerous times, I have asked various ministers questions on notice, and I have also written to the Minister for Education imploring her to take action to fix Tallebudgera State School's parking problem. I have put our solution on the table. Adjacent to the school is a large undeveloped, state-owned parcel of land that has been vacant for so long and the Tallebudgera State School and I have proposed that that be repurposed for parking. Frustratingly, the minister has advised us that the land we have proposed has been determined unviable and unable to be used for additional parking. Disappointingly, over this whole period of time—years, in fact—not one solution has been proposed by the minister. This is not good enough. I have also requested the minister to disclose the review which determines the land unviable so that we can ensure that our option has been exhaustively looked at.

I will not give up on Tallebudgera State School. I will not give up on our community. I will continue to fight for the parking that our state school community deserves, and I will continue to ensure that the Minister for Education hears our pleas. I will not give up on this issue for our Tallebudgera State School. They deserve safer parking options.

Resilient Homes Fund; Queensland Floods, IGEM Report

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (6.04 pm): Like many others in the House, my electorate was severely affected by the floods that ravaged much of South-East Queensland in February. People who have called my community home for decades and who had never been flooded found themselves inundated following what was nothing short of a torrential downpour with significant impact. Indeed, it has been reported that Deagon was the locality with the highest number of insurance claims in the whole of the state. In response, the Palaszczuk government and the federal government jointly announced the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund to assist with residential recovery efforts. It has provided a beacon of hope to many devastated home owners.

I know many locals from my community have submitted their expression of interest to this program and whether it is for the voluntary home buyback, resilient retrofit or the home-raising, many home owners have had, and are continuing to have, their applications progressed as soon as possible. I strongly encourage flood affected home owners from my community to apply for the Resilient Homes Fund if they have not already, as investing in resilience measures for homes in areas subject to flooding can significantly reduce the effort, cost and time to recover from disasters.

I would like to express in that context my sincere gratitude to the Department of Public Works, the QRA and the hardworking assessors who have been working tirelessly to roll out this program. It is no mean feat working through more than 4,500 household applications statewide, but they are doing a great job. On that point, I would like to express my gratitude to the home owners in my community for their patience and ongoing resilience.

I also want to take this opportunity to refer to the IGEM review report regarding the emergency response to the aforementioned flood, released earlier this week. As Minister Ryan said, the IGEM supports continual reflection, continual review and continual improvement of our emergency management systems and, by and large, is recognised as the gold standard. In this IGEM report released this week, the damning independent review shines a light on the lack of action taken by a lazy lord mayor and his entire LNP administration who failed to request emergency alerts for residents early enough after severe rains began during the February floods. In fact, of the 94 total warning alerts sent out by councils across the state, this self-satisfied LNP Brisbane City Council sent just three—three—not to mention the fact that the first warning came after many of the homes in my community were already flooded, already inundated. If it were not so serious, it would be laughable. Many of my constituents have consistently raised concerns regarding this lack of warning and this report corroborates it. I urge Adrian Schinnerer to swallow his pride and apologise.

Toowoomba South Electorate, Business Disability Awards

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.07 pm): Tonight I would like to reflect on the Business Disability Awards which have now become a fixture of the Toowoomba community. I want to pay tribute to the co-founders of these significant awards which have now become a fixture on the Toowoomba calendar. To Kim, Paul and David, your vision a decade ago to advocate for people living with a disability in the business community, whether it be profit or not-for-profit, to be supported is to be really commended. It is now a complete fixture on our social calendar. I think of the people who walked with them along the way to support them—people like Gay at Jazzy Lane Hair Studio and Robert Cheek at Purple Truck Driving School.

I want to acknowledge a couple of the winners from the awards held last month. Firstly, the Judy Antonio Memorial Award, presented by her husband, Mayor Paul, was won this year by Sharon Boyce. Sharon is well known and has recently been appointed to the Brisbane Olympics Legacy Committee. Sharon is an outstanding advocate and she will make a great contribution to that committee. She was a very worthy and deserving winner of that award this year.

Next was the Elissa Flanagan Aim High Scholarship. The winner of that award this year was young Fraser Wiedman who works at Impressions on Scott. He is going to use the proceeds from that award to proceed with a barista course. Young Fraser is a very worthy winner. I have to pay tribute to Kim, the wonderful emcee of the evening, who spoke so beautifully on that night. It was wonderful to again be with the family of Elissa, in whose honour that award is named. Elissa passed away in a car accident on the way home from these awards a number of years ago. Elissa was Kim's niece. To Elissa's family, this is such a wonderful award and it is so pleasing that Elissa can be honoured in that way.

I want to acknowledge Joshua Brown as Outstanding Employee of the Year through Angie's Domestic Duties. Angie's is a Toowoomba institution and again a great supporter of these awards. Nadia Brady was Volunteer of the Year. She works with a range of volunteer organisations throughout the community. Congratulations, Nadia. The Indigenous Champion of the Year went to the Jaydon Adams Memorial Foundation. An emotional Lizzie Adams accepted that award. She is not just the president of Brothers but also CEO of Goolburri Aboriginal Health Advancement. Lizzie is a wonderful advocate throughout our community.

The Outstanding Employer went to McDonald's Toowoomba, to Mark and Heidi Ward. I want to pay tribute to them and what they do throughout the community as an outstanding employer and for their advocacy for people living with a disability. I want to note Wilsonton State School received an award for social inclusion and Westbrook Gardens, for innovation and access.

Again, to the founders of these awards, to Kim, David and Paul, who is now taking over the Loads of Love campaign in Toowoomba, I say thank you. These are important awards throughout our community and they are to be commended for their vision.

Interruption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Racing Integrity Amendment Bill, Debate

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Honourable members, before I call the next speaker, there was confusion at the end of the last debate before the automatic adjournment. The minister had the call and had six minutes remaining. The member for Surfers Paradise should not have been called. The debate on the bill stands adjourned in the minister's name.

ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

Redcliffe Area Youth Space; Anzac Day Trust Grants Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.10 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak about the Brisbane North Primary Health Network's four commissioned safe spaces in our region. One of those is at Redcliffe being run out of the Redcliffe Area Youth Space. I want to congratulate the Brisbane North PHN and Redcliffe Area Youth Space for establishing this program. It is a fantastic program that is commissioned across the region. The whole Safe Space network aims to create community based movement to embed safety and enhance wellbeing in existing neighbourhood facilities.

Importantly, the Safe Space network has been co-designed with community to support people experiencing emotional distress or suicidal crisis to help keep people well and out of hospital. These safe spaces are a response to a call from people with lived experience for new approaches and options for mental health crisis. They are intended to make it easier for people to access mental health support before and in the early stages of crisis as an alternative to emergency departments.

At the Redcliffe Safe Space people experiencing emotional distress as well as their carers or support persons can expect to be greeted by peer workers who will help them settle in, offer refreshments and discuss strategies and available supports to manage their crisis. Safe Spaces are

community based services that complement Queensland Health's hospital based crisis support Safe Spaces. Queensland Health is represented on the North Brisbane Safe Space Steering Committee to enable coordination between the implementation of crisis support spaces and safe spaces. This being Mental Health Week, I think it is a great time to acknowledge the official launch that was held recently. I have already visited the site and I will be going back shortly with the PHN to see the great work they are doing. I want to congratulate them on that service.

I also want to briefly mention the great announcement this morning by the Premier and the Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veterans' Affairs about the Anzac Day Trust Grants Program. I am thrilled to see that the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex Service Men and Women, Redcliffe sub-branch; the RAAF Association, Queensland Division, Redcliffe Branch; Redcliffe District Ex-Servicewomen's Club; the RSL, Queensland Branch, Redcliffe sub-branch; and Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Redcliffe sub-branch have all received funding through this trust. I want to acknowledge the words of the assistant minister, who talks about these trust programs delivering much needed funding to the many ex-service organisations dedicated to supporting the Queensland veterans community. I thank the government for these grants and the organisations for the great work they do.

Seniors Month; Comments by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.13 pm): It is Seniors Month, something that is very close to my heart. To celebrate, Pimpama Probus is hosting the Probus Seniors Expo. The Expo is next Tuesday, 18 October and it runs from 10 am till 2 pm at the Pimpama School of Arts hall. There is free entry, free morning tea, free sausage sizzle, an hourly lucky door prize, and I am doing the official opening of the Seniors Expo.

This month of celebration kicked off on Saturday, 1 October, the United Nations International Day of Older Persons of which I am proud to say I am one. That perhaps might have had something to do with the chuckling that was going on before. There are some special considerations given to older persons. Indeed, my wife and I experienced special consideration recently. We were on holidays and went to an iconic restaurant where you cannot book. One has to line up outside and wait to be invited in. That was quite an interesting experience in itself but it was well worth the wait. The special consideration was after placing our order we heard the server say to the head waiter, 'Could you take this elderly couple upstairs where they will have more room?' We had a bit of a chuckle and thoroughly enjoyed our time and special treatment. The specialty of the house that everyone lined up for was a very inexpensive lobster soup, and it was delicious. I encourage all members to get involved in Seniors Month events this month if they have not done so already.

Another important area that we as local members get involved in is our P&Cs and P&Fs. I am hosting a special networking event next Tuesday at my office. We will have some special guests: the P&C Queensland president and the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund unit is coming along as special guest speaker as well as a spokesperson from Sport and Recreation Queensland to give people a bit of an insight into what they might be able to do.

I will devote the rest of my remaining time to the disappointing way those opposite handled the member for Ferny Grove's disgusting, misogynistic comments in this place. The Premier said, 'I've had a chat to him and he's apologised.' Really? Is that it? Is that all she is going to do? What is worse, though, is the Attorney-General and Minister for Women simply said the same thing. She said, 'He has apologised. I think that's the end of the matter. Nothing more required.' She shrugged her shoulders and asked what all the fuss was about. I called out, 'As long as he's sorry it's okay! He can say whatever he wants to say as long as he apologises!' I was quite rightly warned for my outburst by Mr Speaker. I fully understand his decision and I accept it. My sentiment rang true, though, with many, many people. The sentiment was that this government minister can say whatever he wants to say whenever he wants to say it as long as he apologises for it.

Rockhampton, Racing Facilities

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.16 pm): Facilities for female jockeys at Rockhampton's Callaghan Park are receiving a major upgrade as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to regional and country racing. The \$2.3 million upgrade is well underway and will triple the capacity for female riders. The Rockhampton Jockey Club could only cater for four female jockeys in the current

rooms. This investment will take the number up to 15 with improved recovering facilities. The new facilities have supported 23 jobs during construction and are scheduled to be completed in time for the second running of the Archer next May.

Our government understands how important events like the Archer and the Rockhampton Cup are to our city of Rockhampton. This is why our government is delivering a new and sustainable funding model for Racing Queensland which sees all bookmakers pay their fair share no matter where they are based. It will also see improved flood resilience for the administration offices of the jockey club. Sitting beside the Fitzroy River means Callaghan Park will always face some risk of flooding. By moving their offices up to the first floor, they can reduce the impact of future natural disasters and allow the Rockhampton Jockey Club to get on with the job of delivering great events for our region.

The new female change rooms were just the latest improvements at Callaghan Park that have assisted the thoroughbred industry throughout Central Queensland. These new female-friendly facilities and improved flood resilience come after the delivery of 40 new stables and eight feed rooms in March. Central Queensland is an essential part of the racing industry's footprint and this project will deliver enhanced amenities for the club. Rockhampton Jockey Club is one of the busiest racing facilities across the state with close to 40 meetings staged each year. It is the busiest racing club outside the south-east corner and it is a nursery for our young jockeys and aspiring trainers.

Racing plays a key role in Central Queensland. On an annual basis it contributes more than \$55 million to the local economy, providing more than 450 full-time jobs. The Callaghan Park upgrades are fitting of the club's standing as one of Queensland's regional racing centres, catering for the ever-growing number of female riders whilst also providing much needed flood resilience to our club.

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.19 pm): I want to say a few words about the government's Energy and Jobs Plan. I have to say that it has been almost surreal this week to hear the government talking about this plan. It is almost as though we suddenly have a heap of extra Greens MPs in this place! Of course, that may well be the case in a couple of years time, and I would say that is precisely why the government has shifted its tone so quickly and clearly on climate and coal since the federal election result.

Seriously, though, there are some really good things in this plan. There is progress on things that the Greens have been calling for for years: more publicly owned renewable energy; earlier retirement of coal-fired power generators; and, finally, a job security guarantee for energy workers. It is obviously not just the Greens; ENGOs, business groups, economists, climate scientists and unions like the ETU have all worked really hard for this.

At the 2020 state election the Greens brought a plan for 20 gigawatts of new, publicly owned renewable energy by 2030. This plan proposes 22 gigawatts by 2035. It is not quite on the mark but it is real close. We do not yet know how much of that will be privately owned, though. For all the talk about publicly owned assets, under this government's current policy and plan the best indication we have yet is that up to half of Queensland's power generation could be privately owned. We should be aiming for a 100 per cent publicly owned renewable energy system, not a mishmash of public and privately owned or a mix of renewables and dirty polluting gas. The government's plan includes no time lines or plans to entirely get off gas. In fact, it includes a new gas plant at Kogan Creek.

The government also plans to keep opening up new coal and gas projects indefinitely. Let's be clear on this: Queensland's fossil fuels, no matter where they are burnt, will make climate change worse. It is the same atmosphere. It will heat our climate and lead to more disasters, disease, food insecurity and conflict. We are staring down the barrel of another devastating flood season so, no matter what positive climate impact the Energy and Jobs Plan has on our domestic emissions, this government's climate policies will make climate change worse.

The new energy plan, I guess, is a clear indication of Labor trying to stem the bleeding to the Greens. If they want some more policy suggestions, we have plenty. I will give them a few more: stop approving new coal and gas; update our statewide emissions reduction targets so that they do not reflect those of the former Morrison government; include resource sector workers in transition planning; and bring our entire energy system back into public hands.

The timing of this seismic shift in Queensland Labor's energy policy is no coincidence. Queensland Labor now holds only two more seats in federal parliament than the Queensland Greens. To any Queenslanders who are excited about this progress I would say: just think what we can achieve when power sharing becomes the norm in this place, with more Greens elected into the Queensland

parliament. To the minister I say: good work, I look forward to the detailed briefing and you're welcome—no need to thank us personally—for the Greens having won you the factional clout you needed to get this plan through cabinet.

Queensland Greens; Logan Hospital, Nurses

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.23 pm): I can assure you that no-one on this side is thanking the Greens for the votes against the ETS that held back the transition to renewable energy in this country.

Ms Pease: Imagine where we'd be now if we had an ETS.

Mr POWER: The interjection is: imagine where we would be now if the member for Maiwar was not a supporter of cutting the ETS. It is absolutely shameful. The comments he made are misleading to this House, because we know that the Greens are actually cynical when it comes to this transition. When given the chance, they voted against the ETS purely for politics.

I do not want to talk about the failings of the Greens; I want to talk about the fantastic nurses at the Logan Hospital. These heroes are so often masked up, rushing from job to job. I want to recognise them as heroes because this week is Emergency Nurses Week. We know that they do tremendous work, not just this week but every single day, at the Logan Hospital. We know—we take this very seriously—that there is real pressure, in a growing community, on our health services. That is why we are delivering. It was Labor that put in place the new emergency and co-located children's emergency at Logan Hospital. It was Labor that restored the neonatal and post-birth services, including the one at Logan West, that were cut by the LNP. It was Labor that built the new Munruben Ambulance Station and the Yarrabilba station—services that simply never would have been delivered because the LNP is focused on cuts.

The very nurses we are celebrating today, these heroes hidden behind masks, are some of the people who would have been sacked if the LNP had continued on their way of sacking nurses. We know that there would have been even more pressure, because it is a growing area that suffers the most from LNP cuts. When it comes to cuts, the LNP knows how to cut services in hospitals, whether that is neonatal services or nurses or whether that is by not building.

Growing areas need a committed government. That is why I am proud that our health minister comes from an outer suburban growing area, knows about the pressure on services and is committed to solving those problems. They are not about politics. They are not about destructive attacks on our hardworking workers. I take the opportunity to reject their attacks on the workers at Logan Hospital and to celebrate these heroes hidden behind masks—our nurses at the Logan emergency centre.

Theodore Electorate

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.26 pm): I rise to talk about a couple of issues in the Theodore electorate. Before I do that, I want to welcome some guests here tonight from the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. They are lovely people. The Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade and the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade were the first ones to volunteer their time during the bushfire situation in 2019. They are always the first people to get out there and do everything they can to help the community in its time of need. A lot of members have also gone down to New South Wales to help out their colleagues there.

I want to talk about some local issues in the electorate. There has been a petition about the proposed Hope Island train station. The government has allowed for only 179 car-parking spaces at that proposed train station. We are looking for at least 500 parking spaces. At the moment, a lot of local businesses and a local government department use that facility to park their vehicles, so between 50 and 70 parking spaces will be continually used by those vehicles. If we do not build a proper car park here, drivers will be forced to park in local streets. The streets in that area are simply not designed to cater for that. There will be great difficulty bringing an ambulance or a fire truck in there in an emergency. I say to the government: I know that you have done it in other places, and we need a proper 500-space car park here to cater for the local area.

In November 2018 I asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, about the construction of an auxiliary lane between Helensvale Road and Brisbane Road on the M1. This would prevent a lot of congestion on the M1 motorway because a lot of vehicles get on at Helensvale Road heading south and get off at Brisbane Road, which is the next exit. An auxiliary lane would reduce congestion dramatically. In response to the question the minister stated—

The construction of a southbound, auxiliary lane between Exit 60 at Helensvale Road and Exit 62 at Brisbane Road is included in the managed motorways planning project.

That response was provided almost four years ago. How long do people have to wait? This will make a real difference to traffic in that area. I say to the minister: it is part of the planning. Let's get on with it. It will make a real difference for that section of the M1.

Greenslopes Electorate, Milestones

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.28 pm): There are so many milestones in Greenslopes, with so little time tonight to bring them to the attention of the House. The first one is for me: Mikey interpreted my first ever speech and I would like to say thank you to Mikey and all the Auslan interpreters who connect our community.

The World Wellness Group in Stones Corner turned 10—10 years of providing multicultural and refugee health services. In that time Rita Prasad and her team have become national leaders in this space ensuring that health is a human right.

East's Rugby celebrated 75 years. Just a few years ago in this House I spoke of their clean sweep of Brisbane and Australian club rugby, but their real success comes every week getting so many people involved in rugby, inclusive of all ages, genders, abilities and all aspects of diversity. They encourage good rugby on the field and great community spirit off the field. Congratulations to all the Tigers for life, especially David Waldie, club president.

Greenslopes Private Hospital, formerly Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital, has been a central part of our community and Queensland for 80 years and Chris Went ensured it was celebrated in style last Friday night. The work it continues to do for the veterans community is outstanding and I want to acknowledge the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, which is Australia's only dedicated veterans health research facility. It has been a big part of my family's life, with my wife working in oncology there for 24 years and my daughter now working there for the last three years, and I even worked there for a year about 20 years or so ago.

Ms Bates: A great CEO!

Mr KELLY: A great CEO. Our entire community is very proud of Australia's biggest and best private hospital. Based in Coorparoo, the Brisbane School of Distance Education serves our entire state and it is celebrating 100 years this year, ensuring that all Queenslanders can access educational opportunities.

St Stephens Anglican community has hit the tonne. They are 100 too. It was lovely to join them for a very special service on Sunday, even better to watch 100-year-old parishioner Nancy cut the 100th anniversary cake. It is a vibrant community that does so much good work well beyond their own congregation.

Finally, the grand old dame of Coorparoo, the Coorparoo School of Arts and Memorial Hall is 130 years old. Starting as the Coorparoo shire chambers, it has served as a school of arts, an RSL sub-branch and is now a vibrant community hub. A dozen volunteers, including me, preserve the history of this hall, keeping it in good repair and ensuring the community utilises it seven days a week. Each week we see hundreds of people using this hall. They use it for martial arts; dances of all sorts, even a bit of—Opa!—Greek dancing once a week; fitness; and a myriad of community celebrations. It is truly the centre of our community.

I want to particularly acknowledge president Ron Baker who has done so much to preserve Brisbane's built history. Ron calls the hall his second wife and I know his first love Barbara is so proud of Ron's passion for historical buildings. I celebrate all of these organisations not just for these milestones, but because they are truly building community.

The House adjourned at 6.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting