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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 28 October 2022

Subject	Page
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	3233
Reports	3233
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 33, 57th Parliament— Annual Report 2021-2022.....	3233
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 34, 57th Parliament— Annual Report of Former Committees 2021-2022	3233
SPEAKER'S RULING	3233
Matters of Privilege and Points of Order	3233
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	3234
Polished Man	3234
School Group Tour	3234
TABLED PAPERS	3234
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	3234
Cost of Living	3234
Day for Daniel	3235
Indian Community	3235
State Fossil	3236
World Teachers' Day	3236
Northshore Hamilton	3237
Labour Force Data	3237
Education	3238
Gold Coast Light Rail	3238
Public Trustee, Fees and Charges	3239
Agriculture Industry, Cost of Living	3239
Cost of Living, Rebates and Concessions	3240
Climate Change	3240


Table of Contents – Friday, 28 October 2022

Diwali; Day for Daniel	3241
FairPlay; Emerging Athletes Pathways	3241
Housing and Homelessness	3242
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	3242
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates	3242
ABSENCE OF MINISTER.....	3243
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	3243
PERSONAL EXPLANATION	3243
Comments by Member for South Brisbane.....	3243
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	3243
Forensic and Scientific Services	3243
Forensic and Scientific Services	3243
SPEAKER'S RULING.....	3244
Withdrawal of Member for South Brisbane.....	3244
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	3244
Energy Assets	3244
Forensic and Scientific Services	3245
Affordable Housing	3245
Forensic and Scientific Services	3246
Regional Queensland, Health Services.....	3246
Forensic and Scientific Services	3247
Cost of Living	3247
Forensic and Scientific Services	3248
State Fossil	3249
Forensic and Scientific Services	3249
Cost of Living	3250
Youth Crime, Relocation Sentencing	3250
Federal Budget, Climate Change.....	3251
Coolooloa Recreation Area, Management Plan	3251
Biosecurity.....	3252
CFMEU	3253
Cost of Living, Rebates and Concessions.....	3254
Pioneer Dam	3254
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT.....	3255
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Annual General Meeting	3255
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3255
Second Reading	3255
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time	3257
Resolved in the affirmative	3257
Consideration in Detail.....	3257
Clause 1—.....	3257
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendment	3257
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendment	3257
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to	3260
Resolved in the negative.....	3260
Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.....	3260
Clause 1, as read, agreed to.....	3260
Clauses 2 to 7, as read, agreed to	3261
Insertion of new clause—.....	3261
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments	3261
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments	3261
Amendment agreed to.....	3261
Clauses 8 and 9, as read, agreed to	3261
Clause 10, as read, agreed to	3262
Clauses 11 to 32, as read, agreed to	3262
Clause 33, as read, agreed to	3263
Clauses 34 to 50, as read, agreed to	3263
Clause 51, as read, agreed to	3264
Clause 52, as read, agreed to	3264
Insertion of new clause—.....	3264
Amendment agreed to	3265
Clause 53, as read, agreed to	3265
Insertion of new clause—.....	3265
Amendment agreed to	3265
Clauses 54 to 61, as read, agreed to	3265
Clause 62—.....	3266
Amendment agreed to	3266
Clause 62, as amended, agreed to	3266
Clauses 63 to 65, as read, agreed to	3266

Table of Contents – Friday, 28 October 2022

Clause 66—	3266
Amendment agreed to	3266
Clause 66, as amended, agreed to	3266
Clauses 67 to 74, as read, agreed to	3266
Clause 75—	3266
Amendment agreed to	3266
Clause 75, as amended, agreed to	3266
Clauses 76 to 84, as read, agreed to	3267
Clause 85—	3267
Amendment agreed to	3267
Clause 85, as amended, agreed to	3267
Clauses 86 to 94, as read, agreed to	3267
Schedule, as read, agreed to	3267
Third Reading	3267
Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be read a third time	3267
Resolved in the affirmative	3267
Long Title	3267
BUILDING UNITS AND GROUP TITLES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3267
Second Reading	3267
ADJOURNMENT	3268
Water Infrastructure	3268
Stretton Electorate, Policing	3268
Moore, Mr N	3269
Springfield, Brisbane Lions	3269
Office of the Health Ombudsman; Braun, Dr W	3270
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	3271
Palliative Care	3271
Braille House	3272
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Adjournment speech, dated 28 October 2022, by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the member for Miller, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding Braille House (original speech also prepared in braille)	3272
Currumbin Community Special School	3272
Mount Ommaney, Small Business Awards	3273
ATTENDANCE	3274

FRIDAY, 28 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.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Reports


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table reports of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, report No. 33 titled *Annual report: 2021-2022* and report No. 34 titled *Annual report of former committee: 2021-2022*. I commend the reports to the House.

Tabled paper: Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 33, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2021-2022 [[1778](#)].

Tabled paper: Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 34, 57th Parliament—Annual Report of Former Committees 2021-2022 [[1779](#)].

SPEAKER'S RULING

Matters of Privilege and Points of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, there is a need to remind all members of some basic and important rules of the House. A genuine matter of privilege suddenly arising may be raised by a member at any time under standing order 248. To satisfy the requirements of standing order 248, a matter, firstly, must be a matter of privilege and, secondly, must be a matter that has suddenly arisen and requires immediate redress. The reality is that few matters fall within the definition of a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Matters that may fall into that category include members being unable or prevented from entering the chamber, strangers being present in the House and interrupting proceedings and required material not being available for proceedings before the House. It is not a matter of privilege suddenly arising to accuse a member of some action that occurred in debate hours before, to allegedly correct the record of another member's speech, to allege that another member is misleading the House, to put a member's own position on the matter, or to introduce another topic or material.

A point of order is essentially a question as to whether the present proceedings are in order or allowed by the rules of the House or parliamentary practice and procedure generally. A member's point of view is not a point of order; it is merely disorderly. It is not a point of order to allege that another member is misleading the House or put the member's own position on a matter, or introduce another topic or material. Persistent deliberately disruptive or frivolous matters of privilege being disorderly may result in a member being warned under standing orders 252 to 254.

Members need also to remember that standing orders and practice and procedure also prevent unparliamentary language and personal reflections on other members. These rules are aimed at ensuring civilised debate and questioning on issues rather than personal attacks across the chamber. What is unparliamentary by necessity lies in the realm of who is in the chair, but generally it is any language or expression that is unworthy of the dignity of the House or parliament as an institution. Standing order 234 provides that imputations of improper motives, personal reflections and unbecoming or offensive words in relation to another member are disorderly. A member has a right to require the withdrawal of such personal reflections. I would, however, ask that members utilise this right when truly offended and not simply as a tactic to display mock outrage whenever their name is mentioned.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.


Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Capalaba, you are both warned under the standing orders. I am giving a statement which relates to the dignity of the House and not making reflections on other members and you are pointing. Have you not listened to the statement? This is a House of debate and scrutiny and I trust this will provide some guidance for members.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


Polished Man

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Polished Man is a campaign in October each year to raise funds to support women and children affected by violence. One in two children experience violence each year. One in three women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

The Polished Man campaign encourages people to paint one fingernail blue to spark important and powerful conversations and raise awareness and funds to end violence against women and children. I have duly polished one fingernail blue in support of this worthy cause and my daughters have taken great pleasure in painting that fingernail.

Over the last eight years Polished Man has raised nearly \$8 million and engaged over 100,000 people from around the world to get behind this movement. The funds raised support trauma prevention and recovery programs in Australia and around the world. Together we can create a safer world for women and children. I commend the Polished Man campaign to the House and I hope next year we may see more polished pollies.

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace in the electorate of McConnel.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan)—


[1780](#) Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2021-2022

Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart)—

[1781](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes: Erratum

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cost of Living


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): We all know that Queensland households are facing cost-of-living pressures. That is due to things like flooding and natural disasters, international conflict and the rises in fuel prices, ongoing effects of the pandemic, impacts to supply chains, and inflation and interest rate rises. Queensland is not immune to these headwinds. We know how tough some families are doing at the moment and just how important it is to ease the pressures on Queensland households. That is why we are delivering \$6.8 billion in concessions for Queenslanders this financial year. This includes a \$175 cost-of-living rebate on power bills—a total of \$575 in electricity bill rebates since 2018. Recently we announced \$55 off our SEQ water bills to get Wivenhoe Dam ready for storm season.

In this year's budget there is \$540 million to support around 54,700 low-income households through housing rental rebates so Queenslanders can get assistance with housing affordability; nearly \$154 million in funding for the School Transport Assistance Scheme so people can travel to and from school; \$180.7 million for the oral health scheme so Queenslanders can receive important dental care as well as a range of other concessions.

Today I can inform the House that we have made it even easier to access these concessions and rebates with a new and improved Smart Savings website. With just a few simple questions, Queenslanders will now be able to quickly identify a list of potential savings they may be eligible to receive. These are things like day-to-day living costs including energy, water, rates, transport, health, education, training and housing. This makes the application process easier and less stressful, which is especially important for those doing it tough.

There is assistance for: Queensland seniors to be able to apply for up to five government concessions in one easy process; people with a disability can apply for repairs and maintenance to their homes; Queenslanders wanting to retain and get a new qualification to help them find work; and people who need help to pay for a pair of basic prescription spectacles once every two years. Eligible Queenslanders can also apply for dental care support and a range of medical aids and equipment such as mobility aids, artificial limbs or vehicle modifications. While a lot of cost-of-living pressures are out of control, we are doing all we can to assist Queenslanders during these challenging economic times.


Day for Daniel

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): There are certain events which change our lives, alter our community and which leave scars that will remain despite the passage of time. There are pivotal incidents which horrify us, which will haunt us, but ultimately, out of despair and tragedy can come hope and change in time. Today is a Day for Daniel and it is such time. It is now 19 years since 13-year-old Daniel Morcombe was abducted and murdered on the Sunshine Coast as he set out to do the most innocent of things: to buy his mum, dad and brothers Christmas gifts. All of us are aware of the shock wave of his abduction and the ensuing eight-year history of his disappearance and the ultimate arrest and conviction of his killer.

What has since evolved on this day is we not only remember Daniel but also reflect on what his parents, Denise and Bruce, have achieved with their quiet resilience that history will not repeat. Each year this day is a reminder of their commitment to educate children on how they can stay safe. Each year it provides lessons of how their communities can protect them from harm. Each year this day reminds us that it takes courage to speak out when we suspect or know a child is experiencing harm. Each year it reminds us of the incredible bravery of victims and survivors. It is the responsibility of all of us in every community to ensure all children are safe.

Central to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, which Denise and Bruce established, is education in support of young people in not only their physical environment but also, crucially and increasingly, their online environments. Our government is a proud supporter of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and the tireless work it does to achieve its key aim to keep kids safe. I encourage all members of the community to get involved in this important day, whether by participating in an event at their local community, taking part in the Walk for Daniel on the Sunshine Coast—which I understand some members may have participated in this morning—or simply wearing red to raise awareness. I ask everyone today to take a moment to remember Daniel and to reflect on the crucial work his parents continue to undertake.


Indian Community

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): Last night it was a pleasure and privilege to acknowledge and honour the Indian community's contribution to Queensland. The annual reception here at Parliament House celebrated their culture, values and lifestyle and also the social and economic contributions they make to our state. At the heart of the evening was the celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights—the Indian community's affirmation of hope, commitment to friendship and goodwill, a celebration of life, a triumph of good over evil.

While reflecting on our close cultural bonds, it also allowed us to reflect on our growing economic and trade ties. India was our second largest trading market last financial year at \$19.4 billion. With the Asia-Pacific changing, our government is moving to find new markets and more products to sell to an emerging powerhouse. I am proud to lead a government that provides multicultural communities with

world-class services and a lifestyle they seek and deserve in health, education and community services; a safe, secure society; a strong economy offering jobs, hope and opportunity. A diverse and united Queensland means a stronger and better Queensland for all. I am committed to building a more inclusive, harmonious society in this state and the Indian communities contribute to that in so many ways.

State Fossil

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): Queensland is known for many iconic things. In fact, we have nine state emblems that identify the state: our coat of arms, our state flag, our state badge, the Cooktown orchid, the koala, the Great Barrier Reef, the brolga, the sapphire—

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane.

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane—

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need any assistance from members to my right. Member, you are warned under the standing orders. If I hear any further interjections during today's debates, you will be removed from the chamber. That was completely disorderly. On another note, no comments were directed through the chair. As I understand it, I do not have a government; it is the executive's government. Have I made myself clear?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am proud of the work we are doing to protect koala habitat in this state and the great work that the Minister for the Environment is doing. Also in terms of the koala hospitals we are giving funding to places like Australia Zoo and Currumbin.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, a lot of words from the Greens but no action. Let us get back to this statement. I am pleased to advise the House that we have another emblem to add to the list.


Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, but was that the member for Currumbin? Well, we could add the member for Currumbin to that—the member for Mermaid Beach, sorry. Yes, definitely not the member for Currumbin; the member for Mermaid Beach. We might give him a tie I think. We will give him a tie.


Some 9,000 Queenslanders voted the Muttaborrasaurus langdoni as our state fossil emblem, named after the Central Queensland town of Muttaborra where it was discovered in 1963 by local grazier Doug Langdon near the Thompson River. The Muttaborrasaurus will be a proud representative of Queensland's past. It is also a popular and growing part of our rich tourism experiences today.

Outback tourism is worth nearly half a billion dollars to our economy and our fossil discoveries and dinosaur trails are a key part of that, including the Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre where a giant replica of the Muttaborrasaurus is found—a proud investment by our government under our successful Works for Queensland program. We have invested in a dinosaur tourism roadmap for experiences like the Australian Age of Dinosaurs in Winton, with recent investments from our government of \$5 million to make it even better. We have the Riversleigh Fossil Centre and the Flinders Discovery Centre and museum. The new fossil emblem will be confirmed with a change to the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005 and will only add value to our rich outback experiences.

World Teachers' Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.44 am): I want to say 'hats off to our teachers', the theme of our World Teachers' Day we are celebrating today. I want to thank all of our hardworking Queensland teachers who bring dedication and passion to the job each and every day. They play an integral role in giving Queensland children the very best start in life. Our government is committed to ensuring all Queensland students have access to a world-class education and we know that our teachers are the foundation for this. To the 54,000 teachers and 18,000 teacher aides, today, and every day, I take my hat off to them and say, 'Happy World Teachers' Day!'


Northshore Hamilton

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.45 am): Brisbane's transformation continues to build momentum in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032. Plans to transform Northshore Hamilton into a world-class riverfront precinct have taken another step forward. I have approved a development scheme amendment for the Northshore Hamilton priority development area adjoining the Brisbane River in the suburb of Hamilton. This will cement Northshore as a world-class lifestyle, recreation and events destination right here in our state's capital. It will also be the future home of the Brisbane athletes village for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, presenting an incredible pipeline of opportunities for Queensland with lasting economic and community benefits.

This paves the way for a new civic and open space zone, transforming an additional 1.2 kilometres of this prime waterfront location into a vibrant mixed-use precinct for Queenslanders to enjoy for generations to come. It will be one of the biggest contributions of Brisbane riverfront parkland since South Bank. A new civic heart will be located along Macarthur Avenue to maximise the huge economic, environmental and social value of this new riverside parkland. As Queensland's largest waterfront urban renewal precinct, Northshore will support a mix of retail, residential, entertainment, cultural and commercial uses. This development will drive investment in Queensland's future, delivering new roads, road upgrades and a new public realm to be enjoyed during Brisbane 2032 and beyond.

Developing the athletes village within this area means Northshore will host 10,000 athletes and team officials for the Olympic Games and more than 5,000 people for the Paralympics. Following the games, the athletes village will boost housing and commercial property supply, providing more than 1,750 apartments along with commercial and retail space to support South-East Queensland's fast growing population. This city-shaping project presents an incredible opportunity to showcase Brisbane's iconic waterfront to the world, boost the local economy and deliver a long-lasting legacy for our state. And picture this: one day you will be able to start your day with breakfast at Northshore, get a ferry to the new Eagle Street precinct for lunch, walk to the new Albert Street Cross River Rail station, get a train to the Gabba for a game, get a train to Suncorp Stadium for another game, catch a show at Brisbane Live or the new theatre at QPAC and then head over to Queen's Wharf for a nightcap. That is our vision for Brisbane—a vibrant, connected city as exciting as anywhere else in the world.

Labour Force Data

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.48 am): Queensland's economic performance continues to demonstrate the strength of our ongoing economic recovery. Nowhere is this borne out more clearly than in yesterday's release of regional labour force data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Ms Palaszczuk: Tell us about it!


Mr DICK: I will; thank you, Premier. In the year to September 2022, many regions of Queensland have experienced big surges in jobs growth and big falls in unemployment. Even as the number of people in the labour market surged by 3.7 per cent, unemployment in Townsville has halved to 2.6 per cent. That means an extra 11,800 people in Townsville have a job today compared to a year ago, an increase of 10 per cent.

In Cairns it is a similar story, with the number of people in jobs rising by over 10,000. On the Sunshine Coast, with an extra 8,500 people in jobs, unemployment is down to 2.9 per cent. On the Gold Coast, the number of people in work is 15,100 higher than it was a year ago. This strong jobs growth is also being seen in outer suburban areas as well. In Moreton Bay North, employment growth is almost 11 per cent, with 11,500 more people in work than in September 2021. In good news for ministers de Brenni, Fentiman and Enoch and the members for Macalister, Logan, Jordan and Scenic Rim, I am very proud to say that our community, Logan-Beaudesert, has experienced the strongest jobs growth in Queensland. There are now 17,800 more people in work in Logan-Beaudesert than there were in September 2021, an increase of 11.1 per cent.

Queenslanders know the best way to tackle the rising cost of living is to get a job or find a better job. For those who need more assistance, our government has invested in a program of \$6.8 billion in concessions, an increase of more than 10 per cent this year alone. Our government delivers these concessions because it is the right thing to do. We can deliver these concessions because of the

strength of our economy. The Palaszczuk Labor government is proud to have delivered the strongest performing economy in the nation. Our record jobs growth, the highest of any state or territory, is backed up by our record budget surplus. As the federal Treasurer made clear on Monday night, the path ahead is not smooth. Geopolitical and economic storms lie ahead—and actual storms too as we approach a third successive La Nina event. For whatever lies ahead Queenslanders are battle hardened. We are ready. Queenslanders know the Palaszczuk Labor government will be with them every step of the way.

Education


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): I proudly join the Premier and everyone in the House in wishing every single teacher in Queensland a very happy World Teachers' Day. It is wonderful to see members on both sides of the House wearing their ribbons. I would also like to acknowledge that today is Day for Daniel, Australia's largest national day of action to raise awareness of the importance of child safety, harm prevention and protection, and I acknowledge the great work Denise and Bruce do in our schools.

We all know that education and teachers change lives. I would like to place on record my thanks to every single teacher in Queensland's state and non-state schools for all of their hard work, dedication and passion. They do an amazing job. Do not just take my word for it. I will share with the House the results of the 2022 School Opinion Survey which is being published today. The survey was completed by 100,000 parents and caregivers, 100,000 students and 51,000 staff. I am delighted to see that students, staff and parents and carers who participated in the survey are supportive of their state schools and think they are doing a great job as we continue to strive for continuous improvement.

Here are some findings: 92 per cent of parents and caregivers responded that their school was a good school; 96 per cent believe teachers expect students to do their best; 93 per cent say they can talk to their child's teachers about any concerns; and 90 per cent feel teachers are interested in their child's wellbeing and that their child feels safe at schools. These are great results. When it comes to staff, 92 per cent of staff said their school was a good school and has an inclusive culture where diversity is valued and 92 per cent of principals said they feel well supported by the department to lead their schools. In relation to responses from students, 96 per cent of students said that they felt their teachers expected them to do their best; 90 per cent felt their school encourages students to respect one another; 82 per cent felt their school was a good school—that is probably about right; and in special schools, 97 per cent of special school students said their school was a good school, with 98 per cent feeling their teachers care about them and encourage them to do their best.

The Palaszczuk government is proud of our investment in state schools, ensuring a world-class education with good jobs and even better services for communities right across Queensland. I know it, school communities know it, Queenslanders know it and this survey proves it: state schools are great schools. Once again I wish every teacher a very happy World Teachers' Day.

Gold Coast Light Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.54 am): I also acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their great contributions and acknowledge the Day for Daniel. I also acknowledge that it is World Teachers' Day and acknowledge in particular two transformational teachers for me in the state school system, Carolyn Lingard and Graham Iffland.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is going for gold on transport. This morning we are opening another round of community consultation for a future stage of the Gold Coast Light Rail. For the first time Gold Coast locals will see what light rail would look like from Tugun to Coolangatta, including through the growing Gold Coast Airport. This morning the airport has come out and supported it, saying that stage 4 is key to the city's long-term connectivity. Stage 4 of light rail from Burleigh to Coolangatta will create a seamless light rail link from the Helensvale heavy rail station to the New South Wales border.


It is not just stage 4 reaching a milestone, on the weekend I was pleased to be on the Gold Coast in my old stomping ground of Broadbeach with Queensland senator Murray Watt and the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and member for Gaven to turn the sod on major construction for stage 3 of the light rail from Broadbeach to Burleigh. This project will extend light rail access right the way down eight stations to Burleigh, reduce congestion on Gold Coast roads with better public transport options and will support 760 jobs on the Gold Coast. We already know the incredible legacies left by previous state and federal Labor governments from stages 1 and 2. Stage 1, of course, commenced under the then federal and state visionary transport ministers, the now Premier and the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese.

Now it is time for a new legacy. Not only has light rail transformed the Gold Coast; it also is loved by local residents. For the week ending 16 October I am pleased to report that patronage on the Gold Coast Light Rail was at 100 per cent of pre-pandemic levels—the first mode of public transport to do so. The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering better public transport services because we want to see more people on it. Since elected we have made public transport more affordable by freezing fares and keeping fare adjustments at or below inflation to help out Queenslanders with the cost of living. We introduced the Fairer Fares initiative in 2016, providing off-peak discounts, concession discounts and the ‘eight and half-price’ deal.

Mr Hinchliffe: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Sandgate in achieving that. This has saved Queenslanders more than \$388 million at the hip pocket as they deal now with the inflation pressures left by the Morrison LNP government. We also made go card fares 30 per cent cheaper than paper tickets, and that will continue as we roll out smart ticketing, a system that New Zealand is now copying from Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government is also delivering up to 30 per cent discounts on vehicle registration fees for seniors card and pension card holders and allowing Queenslanders to pay their rego monthly via direct debit in more manageable amounts—again helping them with the cost of living in practical ways. The more we help Queenslanders with the national cost-of-living pressures, the more we help our great Queensland lifestyle.


Public Trustee, Fees and Charges

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.58 am): Supporting vulnerable Queenslanders is a high priority for the Palaszczuk government. That is why last week I was pleased to table the report of the review of the Public Trustee’s fees and charges. We all know that the cost of living is rising. In recognition of this I also announced some fee relief for Public Trustee customers, in particular for those whose assets are under financial management. This is the most significant review of the Public Trustee’s fees and charges in two decades and has been underway since 2020, starting with the benchmarking of fees with other state public trustees and comparable private sector providers.

The review included consideration of the recommendations of the report of the Public Advocate and, specifically, the 13 recommendations made about Public Trustee fees and charges. PricewaterhouseCoopers was engaged by the Public Trustee to complete the review. The review found that the Public Trustee’s fees and charges are reasonable and generally at or below those charged by public trustees in other states and comparable private service providers. From 1 November, there will be an ongoing moratorium on charging separate realty property fees and separate incidental outlays for financial management customers. We have also placed a 12-month freeze on annual increases to fees and charges from which all Public Trustee customers will benefit.

These changes will provide immediate fee relief for the Public Trustee’s customers while we consider the longer term impacts of the report’s findings. The Public Trustee is self-funded and the report confirms it has been working hard to keep its fees and charges as low as possible. The report acknowledges, however, that as a self-funded agency there are challenges for the Public Trustee when balancing the need for ongoing financial sustainability and community expectations. This review is the first step in a longer journey and more work and consultation will be done to ensure that the Public Trustee’s fees and charges model is contemporary, efficient, sustainable and fair.

Agriculture Industry, Cost of Living

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.00 am): When it comes to helping Queenslanders with cost-of-living pressures, our primary producers know they have no better friend than the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our primary producers benefit from having a Labor government that knows the impacts that droughts and natural disasters have on agriculture and the government can and does lend a helping hand. In this year’s budget alone we have an estimated \$25.3 million in concessions.

Although the recent rains make it seem that the drought has passed, conversely 44.9 per cent of Queensland is still drought declared. Some shires have been drought declared since 2013. My department assists our primary producers with drought support through recent reforms, assisting more


producers going forward. For new primary producers, QRIDA has First Start Loans to assist new entrants to agriculture and is helping existing producers with PIPES loans. Of course, we have doubled the PIPES loans to \$120 million each year.

After natural disasters, which Queensland faces all too often, the government is there to help support our producers. As AgForce says, every farmer needs a friend and every farmer knows that there is a government here that is delivering day in, day out to ensure that they remain productive and processing. We know that climate impacts have a flow-on effect on food and groceries and that is why in our government, with industry, we act.

Just last week we were in the Lockyer Valley, on the Sunshine Coast with the member for Nicklin and at Burpengary with the member for Kurwongbah to announce the provision of our RED Grants, creating good jobs in regional Queensland and making a difference to Queensland businesses, to Queensland workers and to Queensland consumers. RED Grants were developed by Labor, delivered by Labor and supported by good Labor members right across this state.

Only Labor will continue to support our farmers through ongoing concessions, future RED Grants and action on climate change to support farmers during droughts and other disasters. By helping our farmers we help Queenslanders with cost-of-living pressures. It is only this side of the House that has realistic policies when it comes to agriculture and action on climate change.


Cost of Living, Rebates and Concessions

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.02 am): Cost-of-living pressures are impacting all Australians and this is particularly so for seniors, who have told me that making their fixed incomes stretch to cover cost-of-living increases is challenging. Whether it be grocery prices, fuel costs, electricity bills, insurance premiums, rent or mortgage payments, tight household budgets are under strain. That is why the Palaszczuk government allocated a record \$6.786 billion for concessions and rebates in the 2022-23 state budget. Within that record allocation, my department is administering \$725 million worth of targeted concessions and rebates to those who need it most, including eligible seniors and those on a disability, aged care or Department of Veterans' Affairs pension.

For example, a retired couple in their seventies, living in their own home in Moggill with no dependants, with seniors cards and on the pension, is eligible for a \$372 electricity rebate, a \$120 water rebate, a \$200 rates rebate and an \$81 rebate for reticulated natural gas. They would also receive a discount of around \$170 on car registration and the \$175 cost-of-living rebate on the current electricity bill. They are entitled to discounted travel on public transport, saving 50 per cent on fares. This is the Palaszczuk government putting more than \$1,100 back into the pockets of eligible Queensland seniors. The Palaszczuk government also provides concessions and rebates on a broad range of government services including long-distance rail services, spectacles, medical aids and dental services.

Through these concessions and rebates, my department has partnered with Smart Service Queensland to deliver over 2.4 million instances of support. We are promoting the availability of concessions and rebates through our Seniors Savings pop-ups in local shopping centres and seniors events across Queensland. We also welcome today's launch of the Smart Savings website, where Queenslanders can quickly identify a list of potential savings they may be eligible to receive.

Climate Change


 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.04 am): It is great to finally have a federal government that takes climate change seriously, investing \$25 billion in climate action over the next decade, with \$62.6 million locked in to this budget to support small to medium enterprises to fund energy-efficient equipment upgrades. This complements the work that we are doing here in Queensland with our EcoBiz program, alongside CCIQ.

Across the state, more than 1,000 businesses have registered for EcoBiz. From RACV in Noosa and White Whale Coffee Roasters and Cardzilla in Cairns to Guymer Bailey Architects in Toowong, businesses are signing up to save money and the environment at the same time. In fact, 90 per cent of participating businesses have already recorded an increase in productivity and savings. Many businesses have been able to reduce their waste, water and energy usage upwards of 40 per cent within a year.

On top of that program, our Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver \$35 million for our Queensland Business Energy Saving and Transformation program, targeting small- and medium-sized businesses. The QBEST program will deliver support for businesses to purchase energy-efficient equipment and smart technology such as fans, pumps, heating ventilation and air conditioners, and to implement energy management systems. In fact, independent modelling indicates that, under our Energy and Jobs Plan, lower wholesale electricity prices will flow through to lower retail bills, with the average annual bill for a small business to be \$1,495 lower by 2032 than without the plan.

These programs are just a couple of the ways that the Palaszczuk government is doing our bit to ease the national cost-of-living pressures and inflation that we know are impacting everyone in our communities. Unlike the former federal government that did not have a plan and tried to hide the cost of energy due to their failures, on this side of the House we actually have a plan to drive down emissions and energy bills. We are able to do that because we have kept our assets in public hands. Unlike other states and the former Newman government, we do not want profits going to corporate shareholders; we want them going back into the pockets of Queensland businesses and households. That is why we are investing to deliver cleaner and cheaper energy, owned by Queenslanders for Queenslanders.

Diwali; Day for Daniel

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.07 am): Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is the most significant annual celebration in India and, indeed, in many other countries around the world. It has quickly become one of Queensland's biggest and most celebrated cultural events. Observed by hundreds of millions of people around the world, Diwali is steeped in tradition and meaning.


Coinciding with the Hindu New Year, Diwali symbolises the spiritual victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. It is a time of celebration, restoration and hope for the future. With the lighting of millions of candles, festive lights and fireworks, this simple but poignant tradition also marks the triumph of light over darkness. That is a message that is needed around the world, particularly in places of ongoing conflict and famine.

It was an absolute pleasure to emcee the Premier's annual Indian community reception here at Parliament House last night, with approximately 400 people in attendance. It is always an honour to attend those events and join families, friends and the broader community as they mark this special time. Those celebrations are always filled with incredible sights, sounds, colours and aromas. Diwali events are truly like no other.

I thank all the organisations and individuals involved in bringing Diwali to life across Queensland and for their tremendous efforts to help build united, harmonious and peaceful communities throughout the state. The growing popularity of Diwali in Queensland is a testament to our strong multicultural identity. It is when we move beyond tolerance to the celebration of diversity that we truly begin to harness the beauty and opportunity that our differences present. Diwali truly encapsulates celebration perfectly. I hope all Queenslanders have a happy Diwali that is filled with joy and light. I wish all members and their families a year ahead filled with peace and prosperity.

I also take this opportunity today to acknowledge Denise and Bruce Morcombe and their family. I thank them for their service to keeping children safe and to encouraging us all to have challenging conversations with our children.

FairPlay; Emerging Athletes Pathways


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.09 am): We know that there are few Queensland families who have not been affected by the big increases in Australia's cost of living. For some low-income families, the skyrocketing cost of living can mean more difficult choices about whether to put petrol in the car or pay for their children's sport participation fees. What we do not want is for stretched family budgets and the cost of living to be barriers to young Queenslanders getting on the team and staying active and resilient.

In 2019 the Palaszczuk government launched the FairPlay voucher program. For eligible low-income families it is a very popular initiative. FairPlay vouchers can be used to meet membership costs at participating sport and active recreation clubs and registration and participation fees of up to \$150. This year we have committed \$7.4 million for 50,000 FairPlay vouchers to help family budgets go further. An evaluation of FairPlay will start in the New Year to assess the improvements we can make to help more low-income families slay the inflation genie and keep their young Queenslanders active and healthy. The next round opens in January.

We also understand that the cost-of-living pressures on emerging athletes and their coaches are real issues. Our aim is to give young Queenslanders the opportunity to become podium ready for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games or just continue to fulfil their ambitions in whatever sport they choose. To achieve a personal best, athletes need equipment and competition experience. In so many ways this all costs money.

In the year to June 2022, the Emerging Athletes Pathways program reimbursed almost \$1 million in expenses to help aspiring athletes, their coaches and officials make ends meet. This is tangible assistance for these athletes 18 years and under with the cost of accommodation and travel to compete at championship events. Recently, we have increased payments for emerging athletes lining up at state events more than 125 kilometres away from \$200 to \$500 and from \$400 to \$600 for national events. The Palaszczuk government is committed to making sure Queensland's emerging athletes can focus on winning performances rather than the dollars and cents.

Housing and Homelessness

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.12 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering more housing and better services for Queenslanders. Last week, the Premier and the Treasurer announced an additional \$1 billion injection into the Housing Investment Fund helping more vulnerable Queenslanders sooner, which means that now we are investing a record \$3.9 billion in social and affordable housing in Queensland. We are continuing to exceed our targets for the commencement of social housing with more than 900 commencements since the launch of the second Housing and Homelessness Action Plan last year. In partnership between the Palaszczuk government and tier one community housing provider BlueCHP and the federal government, I recently marked the 4,000th social housing home completed by the Palaszczuk government since 2015.

We are not just building more homes; we are also providing better services to those who need it most. In fact, last year we provided almost 200,000 forms of housing assistance to Queenslanders. This includes products and services to help Queenslanders sustain or retain a private market tenancy including our rental security subsidy, RentConnect, bond loans and rental grants.


During last week's housing summit there was a strong focus on the lived experiences of Queenslanders who have faced homelessness. These are the people whom our housing service centres and our wonderful staff meet with every day and support; people like Andrew who was recently sleeping in a tent after a relationship breakdown. Andrew was put in touch with staff from the Bayside Housing Service Centre. Andrew said, 'The staff helped me into motel accommodation so I could move out of the tent, and that made a big difference to me.' From there, Andrew enrolled in the Skillsets for Successful Tenancies—Dollars and Sense tenancies skills course to build up his knowledge and confidence to sustain a tenancy in the private market. Once he completed the course, Andrew worked with a RentConnect officer to complete a private rental application. Andrew was able to find an affordable home in a good location through the help of our Housing Service Centre.

Our wonderful Housing Service Centre staff also helped single dad Michael with a Helping Hand Headlease to get him back on his feet and in his own home in the private rental market. Our staff at the Toowoomba Housing Service Centre helped Dezley and her five children to settle into their new private rental home. Dezley said, 'I cannot thank RentConnect enough. They have been amazing.'


Our government will continue to listen to the voices of those with lived experience, including some of the most vulnerable groups of people in our community—young Queenslanders and women aged over 55—when we are developing and implementing housing solutions right across our state.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY


Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting yesterday. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) by 27 January 2023 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill by 16 December 2022.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am): I advise that the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and the Minister for Public Works and Procurement will be absent from question time in the House today as the minister is attending the important energy ministers meeting at which I am sure the Palaszczuk government's Energy and Jobs Plan will be discussed. I therefore advise the House that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will take questions on behalf of Minister de Brenni during question time today.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 8 November 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Comments by Member for South Brisbane

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (10.16 am): I want to give a personal explanation for my interjections earlier. There is land clearing going on right now out at Deebing Creek—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member, you will resume your seat.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. After the statement I made earlier trying to clarify with regards to points of order as well as matters of privilege suddenly arising, perhaps it may be timely to remind members what personal explanations are actually used for. It is not an opportunity for members to mention a particular matter; it is about personal explanations. Land clearing is not one of those. I will now ask you to leave the House for one hour under standing order 253A.

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry member, did I hear a reflection on the chair? Was that a reflection on the chair, member for South Brisbane?

Dr MacMAHON: No, Mr Speaker.

Whereupon the honourable member for South Brisbane withdrew from the chamber at 10.17 am.


Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right will also direct their comments through the chair.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

Forensic and Scientific Services

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.17 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. On 20 September the health minister said that every forensic lab sample had gone to concentration stage since June. Can the minister explain why she said this change had been made when public documents show it had not occurred until 19 August?

Mrs D'ATH: I am happy to check with my department the accuracy of the statement that has just been made to assess when that occurred. Certainly, the instruction was given in June by the director-general to change back to the previous policy in relation to the concentration testing.

Forensic and Scientific Services

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Since issues with the lab were first raised the minister has said there were no systemic issues with the lab, there was no benefit whatsoever for a commission of inquiry and it was completely unnecessary while the LNP was just playing pure politics for even raising the issue. Will the minister guarantee that not calling this inquiry earlier has not compromised victims getting justice?


Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I took the advice that was given to me at the time. We had announced that we were doing a review of the FSS. When I became aware of the submissions that had been put forward through the domestic violence task force, which Margaret McMurdo headed up and released a report on, showing that the Queensland Police Service had asked for additional tests and showing results much higher than the advice I had been given up until that time, this government moved very quickly to initiate a commission of inquiry.

There is a commission of inquiry going on right now. All of this evidence will be tested in relation to why this policy changed, who made this decision and the consequences of that. We have already had an interim report handed down and we are acting on that interim report in relation to statements put to the court and making sure those statements are corrected and also going back through samples to ensure that they are identified and taken through the further steps.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S RULING


Withdrawal of Member for South Brisbane

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to make a clarifying statement. On reflection, I now suggest that the member for South Brisbane leave the House under standing order 253 which is for the remainder of the day. That will be communicated to the member.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Energy Assets

 **Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Can the Premier please advise the House of the benefits of keeping Queensland's energy assets in public hands and are there any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question. On this side of the House we have had a couple of election campaigns where we have been of the very firm view that we should keep our electricity assets in public hands. We know very strongly the views of those opposite. I am yet to see any plan that they have or any comments as to whether or not they support our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. There is no way that this Energy and Jobs Plan could have been released to the public if it were not for the fact that our major assets are in public hands. Today the energy ministers are meeting and Minister de Brenni is proudly speaking to all the other ministers about our comprehensive Energy and Jobs Plan.

Because Queenslanders have spoken loudly and clearly about the fact that they want their assets kept in public hands, we have been able to provide them with a dividend. They have been able to get a \$175 energy rebate. As I said in my ministerial statement, over the last four years this has meant \$575 in energy rebates for Queenslanders. We know that those opposite had a very clear plan to sell off our energy assets to the highest bidder. How do we know that? It was in the Strong Choices plan. The member for Clayfield remembers that very clearly and he remembers the election campaigns that followed. On this side of the House we will continue to keep our assets in public hands.

It is interesting to see that in Victoria they are copying us. They are very clearly setting up a government owned corporation for renewables. It is a very good move on their part. In New South Wales we saw their energy assets sold off. Now we see the impact that that is having. They cannot control the market, they cannot control their assets and they are not able to put in place the plans that we have such as building the big transmission line down the east coast which will spark billions of dollars of investment in renewables. That is already happening with over \$10 billion in investment and the expression of interest is growing.

I can inform the House that there is even more appetite for investment into Queensland. We will be able to make further announcements over the coming months and years. We have a very clear plan. On that side of the House is the laziest opposition we have ever seen. In two years they have had no plan. No clear plans and no policies have been released. After two years there is nothing.

(Time expired)

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, you are warned under the standing orders.

Forensic and Scientific Services

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Regarding the number of DNA samples affected by the 2018 threshold change, on 20 September this year the minister said, 'I am hoping we have all that information and exact numbers within a month.' Some 38 days later, why are victims of violent crimes still waiting?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. Thirty-eight days when we said a month—how petty are we now getting? Seriously! I understand there is an incredible amount of work going into identifying these samples and ensuring that the process is done accurately and thoroughly. In talking about—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, the minister is being responsive in answering the question.

Mrs D'ATH: In talking about what actions I am taking, I want to know why the member for Mudgeeraba has not taken any action to correct the record or to apologise to the health workers in the regions who, in this chamber yesterday, the member said were duds—said they only employ duds. I know that outside this chamber she tried to clarify all of that, but she has not done it in here. Why would that be? Would that be because if she did—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to standing order 118B, relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: The question asked does pertain to other matters, Minister for Health. I will ask you to come back to the question.

Mrs D'ATH: I am sure I will get plenty of opportunity to talk about other issues. I have answered the question.

Affordable Housing

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government will deliver more affordable housing for Queenslanders and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. I know she is working hard to ensure that there are affordable homes in the Redlands for the people she represents. One of the reasons the state government is assisting the Redland council with their Housing Strategy is to make sure that there is a variety of affordable homes in the Redlands so that people can choose to live there or choose to stay living in the Redlands, a beautiful part of the world.

For most people, housing is the biggest part of their household budget, whether that is paying the rent or paying their mortgage. Ensuring housing in our state is affordable is one of the most important ways we can help families to make ends meet. That is why we have been working closely with local governments, with the federal government and with industry to unlock housing supply right across the state. That is why the Premier convened a summit of all stakeholders recently. We have been releasing a range of policies all designed to ease pressure on the state's housing market.

Today, I can announce that on 1 November we will open applications for our new Growth Acceleration Fund. This is a \$50 million fund available to local governments and developers—low-interest loans to help them deliver the infrastructure that will unlock new land, whether that is roads, water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure. We have already allocated \$15 million of that funding to Caboolture West, Queensland's first priority growth area, where 70,000 people will eventually call home in 30,000 dwellings and in the process create 17,000 jobs. This is in addition to our \$150 million Catalytic Infrastructure Fund.

While we in the Palaszczuk government are continuing to deliver initiatives that will unlock affordable housing, what plan does the LNP have? Last night I was disappointed to hear that Peter Dutton's only solution to the housing crisis is to force people to raid their retirement savings. That is a policy that we know will drive up prices and leave people retiring in poverty. It is especially offensive to suggest it for older women, who we already know are unlikely to have enough funds in their superannuation accounts to retire comfortably. This bloke does not know if he is in Yeppoon or 'Yeppen'.

Those opposite might want to call our regional health workers duds, but the only duds I can see are in the LNP, whether that is sitting opposite over there or down in Canberra. We will continue to deliver new initiatives that will unlock affordable housing for Queenslanders.

Forensic and Scientific Services

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. When did the Attorney-General first request a briefing on the forensic lab issues possibly impacting thousands of criminal cases in Queensland?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. Obviously, last year when there were reports in the *Australian* newspaper, I sought information from the health department about the lab, and I have worked with the health minister since that time. The health minister wrote to me requesting that we re-open the coronial inquest into Shandee Blackburn's matter. I wrote to the Coroner, and of course that inquest has been re-opened. I think Queenslanders can have confidence that Walter Sofronoff, a former president of the Court of Appeal, is now examining these issues and has all of the powers of a commission of inquiry. He is the best person, the most experienced and most qualified person, to be thinking about the implications for the justice system.

I am very proud that I am working closely with my colleagues, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and the Minister for Health, to support victims of sexual assault. We have embedded a sexual assault specialist into Operation Helix, which is now working through those DNA samples and working with victims. I think it is really important that as we go through this process the government has committed to implementing all of the recommendations in the interim report and providing a very high level of service that is trauma informed to victims of sexual assault.

I have met with the Queensland Sexual Assault Network and service providers to make sure that any women who come forward with concerns about what they are reading and hearing about the inquiry get a response that is trauma informed and that they are supported. To that end, we announced an additional \$1 million for sexual assault services to support women who come forward.

We have, I think, the most experienced and qualified person to go through the commission of inquiry. We will implement the findings of the interim report, which is what we are doing. I look forward to getting the recommendations from Walter Sofronoff and his team and to working through them to make sure there is justice for victims of violence and that we do hold perpetrators to account. It is incredibly important.

The government is also working through the 188 recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, which looks at wideranging systems change to make sure we have a criminal justice system that puts victim survivors at the centre, that we have a criminal justice system that is trauma informed, that we can hold perpetrators to account and support victims of violence. That is what this government will do each and every day.

Regional Queensland, Health Services

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer tell the House how the Palaszczuk government supports the provision of better health services across regional Queensland?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. As the member for Maryborough knows, and as all members on this side of the House know, our government does that by backing the front line and by backing frontline health workers wherever they work in our great state. We do that by supporting and strengthening the delivery of public healthcare services right across regional Queensland in particular.

As I said when I tabled the report on state finances for the 2021-22 financial year earlier this week, expenses for the last financial year were down \$931 million but employee expenses were up. That has been the commitment of our government through this entire term of government. As the member for Maryborough knows well, it is not the approach of those members opposite. He knows what they wanted to do to healthcare services and support services in the electorate of Maryborough. When I was health minister I was very pleased to work with the member for Maryborough to keep the Wide Bay Linen Service open. This service supports local jobs and the local health service and was championed by the member for Maryborough. That is a service that the Newman government, supported by the Leader of the Opposition, wanted to close. It is a service they wanted to cut.

Mr Saunders: Shame!

Mr DICK: You are right, member for Maryborough: it was a shame. The Wide Bay Linen Service did more than just survive: it grew and it now employs more people. It is now servicing more hospitals across regional Queensland. It is a great example not only of the amazing doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who work in our hospital and health services and clinics throughout regional Queensland but also those ancillary and support services that support the delivery of health care, including cooks, cleaners and linen services around the state. That service now washes more sheets, towels and scrubs for health workers. The scrubs are the shirts and pants of our frontline workers. I will say this: as far as our government is concerned, those pants are the only duds in health in regional Queensland. They are the only duds. For anyone to suggest—including someone who wishes to be the health minister of this state—that our health workers in regional Queensland are duds, that is simply wrong. It is just not right; it is something that should be condemned. Our government backs regional health workers and those members opposite want to sack them. We back 'em; they sack 'em.

Forensic and Scientific Services

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Attorney-General. In February this year a QPS paper made headlines, saying that around half of the samples collected from the penis of a sexual assault suspect could not even find the suspect's DNA. What action did the Attorney take in February to ensure women who have been through some of the worst trauma of their lives get justice?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. As I said in the answer to the previous question, since last year I have been working with the health minister and receiving briefings from the department about the performance of the forensic service. Obviously since that time we have announced a commission of inquiry. The health minister announced earlier this year that there would be an independent review and terms of reference, and of course further evidence came to light and then there was the announcement of the commission of inquiry.

Again I want to say that I think Queenslanders can have confidence that we have the best person to lead this inquiry to get to the bottom of what has happened. The interim report has been issued and the government has accepted those findings. I can also add that respected molecular biologist Professor Frank Gannon is providing advice and independent oversight in relation to the issuing of witness statements and further analyses of relevant samples. Cases are being reviewed right now for any potential miscarriage of justice, including those that involve victims of crime and their families. As I said, we have specialist workers now embedded in this police operation to ensure that all of our interactions with victims and families are trauma informed.

Queensland Health is working very closely with the Queensland Police Service to work through these matters as quickly as possible. We have commissioned task forces to respond to the findings internally and assist with the implementation of the interim findings from the commission. I acknowledge that the findings of the interim report may be incredibly retraumatising for some victims, and again that is why we provided Queensland Sexual Assault Services with additional funding. Women who may be directly affected will be coming forward, but no doubt this will prompt other survivors of sexual violence to also come forward and we need to make sure that our services are supported.

As I said, the commissioner made clear in his interim report that the immediate priority was to address any potential miscarriages of justice, and that is exactly what the government is doing. Our three departments are working very closely together and working very closely with specialist sexual support services. I do not want to pre-empt any of the findings of the commission of inquiry. They are doing extensive work. They are reviewing an extensive amount of material. As I have said—and could not make clearer—Queenslanders should have confidence that we have the most qualified person for the job leading this commission of inquiry.

Cost of Living

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise the House on how the Palaszczuk government is providing concessions and cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know he is a very strong advocate for the people of Toowoomba and will welcome the concession sites the Premier announced today. Can I say he looked resplendent in the traditional costume he wore to the Diwali celebrations that were held here last night. He has a very strong multicultural community and they will greatly benefit from this.

We know in these unpredictable inflationary economic times it can be very tough for families, particularly those with young children. I am excited about what is happening in the space of early childhood education and care. We have pulled together all of the concessions, and I urge everyone to go onto the Smart Savings Concessions and Rebates website where they will find things like electricity rebates, cheaper transport, water rebates, medical treatment rebates, subsidised rents, bond loans and the list goes on.

I am particularly excited about what we are doing in my portfolio for cost-of-living relief. I am very much looking forward to working with the federal government on the fantastic package of childcare relief they just announced in the budget. That will work together with our \$1 billion program over four years to make kindy free or cheaper for 40,000 families. More details will come about that very soon. The website will be launched and people will be able to go on the website to see whether they will get free kindy or cheaper kindy. That is fantastic news in that space. The federal government is also working with us about early childhood teachers and extra places in university for teachers. We know that children get the best education if they have the best educated teachers and early childhood teachers.

In my portfolio, we have textbook and resources allowances and the School Transport Assistance Scheme. We are working to supply digital devices for every student and we are rolling out a \$10 million program to provide, I think, 10,000 devices to the most needy parts of our state. We are rolling out the devices so no child is left behind. We support students and families who live away from home to attend school and we increased the subsidies going to those students as well. We have higher payments coming for apprentices, a nation-leading public sector wages policy and cost-of-living adjustment increases. We are well on track to doing our bit in Queensland to relieve the cost-of-living pressures. When we look at any alternative policies or alternative plans, unfortunately, member for Toohey, the cupboard is bare from those opposite.

Forensic and Scientific Services

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Police. The QPS began raising concerns about the DNA lab in December last year. Why did it take six months for the minister to ask for a briefing?

Mr RYAN: One of the factual references in the member's question is actually misleading. When reports were made public in the media, I did seek information from the Queensland Police Service. I have said that publicly and it has been reported in the media that I sought information from the Queensland Police Service in respect of the matters that have been raised publicly since November.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: With respect to the member, that information is public and he has made an imputation in his question contrary to that public information. In any event, I sought information from the Queensland Police Service and information was provided. As I have said publicly, the information that was provided to both the commissioner and me did not reflect the seriousness of this matter. Nonetheless, the seriousness of this matter has now prompted a commission of inquiry. The commission of inquiry will consider these matters and make its conclusions.

In respect of the Queensland Police Service response in respect of supporting victims of crime and delivering justice for those victims of crime, I commend the commissioner and the Queensland Police Service for establishing Taskforce Helix. Taskforce Helix is re-examining these matters that are the subject of the inquiry, with a view to ensuring that those victims of crime get justice and are also further supported. In fact I again commend the commissioner and the Police Service for ensuring that there are support workers associated with this approach with Taskforce Helix, including—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your ruling. We acknowledge there is an inquiry. An inquiry is not sub judice. The ministers are not fronting the inquiry. They cannot hide behind it. The questions are about what actions occurred before that inquiry.

Mr SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, the question as the minister has heard it contained information which he believed was not correct. He has addressed that. The question had multiple parts. He is addressing those points and he is being relevant to the question as asked.

Mr RYAN: As I was saying, the Queensland Police Service have taken these matters very seriously and have established Taskforce Helix to further investigate these matters. They are also providing support to victims who may be impacted by this particular matter. I commend the Police

Service in respect of this. Once again, this is a matter of seriousness and the government has responded to that seriousness by establishing a commission of inquiry led by the former president of the Court of Appeal, Walter Sofronoff, one of the finest legal minds in Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: I have every confidence that Walter Sofronoff will review all matters and will consider those matters as part of his commission of inquiry work and will provide appropriate comments and conclusions in respect of that work.

State Fossil

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. Can the minister inform the House about what the state's new fossil emblem means for tourism in outback Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I want to thank the member for Ipswich for the question. I know she is a real fan of science and inquiry and understanding the world around us. Isn't this a great opportunity to celebrate that here in the great state of Queensland and to celebrate the way that people can come to Queensland and see more and understand more?

Last weekend it was terrific to be at the Queensland Museum to announce Muttaborrasaurus as Queensland's official fossil emblem. A public ballot to find the state's favourite fossil inspired almost 9,000 Queenslanders to have their say. Unearthed in 1963 near Muttaborra by grazier Doug Langdon, Muttaborrasaurus langdoni is Queensland's clear favourite, capturing more than double the nominations of its nearest rival. Muttaborrasaurus joins nine other state emblems, and I acknowledge that the Premier went through them earlier today.

The big winner out of this is tourism in outback Queensland. Around 122,000 visitors travel to the outback every year to walk in the footsteps of the dinosaurs that once stomped around Queensland. We are, as a consequence, on the cusp of not only a great outback Queensland dinosaur rush in terms of tourism but also an outback Queensland dinosaur rush in terms of discovery—of new fossil records and of new understanding of our prehistoric past. Citizen scientists are diving into the region's transformation as the Southern Hemisphere's palaeo capital. Palaeontologists believe there are many more discoveries to be made, reminiscent of the great fossil finds of the 1800s in Europe and North America.

In this House we know exactly where the dinosaurs are. There are so many examples on the other side. One finding I had last night was, during the contribution to the debate, the member for Everton demonstrating one of his many prehistoric views and attitudes which are so outdated they are fossilised.

Outback Queensland is turning up new fossils all the time and we know that the LNP is great on the dinosaur rush, too. They recently discovered a whole new vein of fossilised policies and the living example of it is they found the new member for Callide. Hiding is young, hiding is new, but when you have a new discovery, sometimes you find it is hundreds of thousands of years old. LNP members know that. There is a whole lot that they know, and they know that it is all good. LNP members know that if they dare vote with their conscience on some matters, they will be relentlessly stalked by the apex creditors at LNP headquarters. It is the same herd of dinosaurs that hunted down a popular female MP and replaced her with the new member for Broadwater.

(Time expired)

Forensic and Scientific Services

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. Damning evidence about the DNA lab was first raised publicly in November last year, yet the Premier did not call a commission of inquiry until June. Is the Premier's definition of 'swift action' waiting six months while facing repeated whistleblower concerns, multiple media stories, a QPS report and over a dozen calls to act from the opposition?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is no. Let me say this very clearly: we have put in place the best person to get to the bottom of all of these matters. This is a respected person who will conduct the commission of inquiry. That is right—not a politician, not the LNP, but a respected person. That person, Walter Sofronoff, will be reporting to government.

These are serious issues. Let me acknowledge the seriousness of these issues. The government has taken action in terms of making sure that there is a hotline where people can raise the issues and will be supported by a person who has the necessary experience to deal with victims. I look forward to receiving that report in mid-December when the recommendations will be handed down. Until that time, as there are numerous matters under investigation, I will let Walter Sofronoff get to the bottom of this. I know his inquiry will be comprehensive and thorough. Then the government will look at those recommendations. Until that time, there is speculation being put by those opposite. I say to those opposite, let the commission do their job. Let the expert, Walter Sofronoff, do his job.

Mr Dick: What about their speculation on the laptops? What about that speculation?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. That is exactly what we will do, and I look forward to receiving that report and those recommendations in the middle of December.

Cost of Living

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Can the minister update the House on how, through the minister's portfolio, the government is reducing the cost-of-living pressures on families?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for the question. I know how passionate he is about cost-of-living pressures and how this government is supporting the people of Queensland to lower the costs. On this side of the House, we understand that the rising cost of living is placing huge pressure on a lot of families here in Queensland. Thankfully they have now gone, but the Morrison government previously spent four years pork-barrelling—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Southern Downs, this is becoming a habit. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BUTCHER: We know that they were spending money on wasteful projects which sent inflation up. We know that they kept wages down. That has created this current national cost-of-living and inflation crisis here in Queensland, so ably identified by the federal Treasurer in his budget speech this week. Whether it is the price of petrol, the cost of rents and mortgages here in Queensland, or even the weekly shopping bill, we know Queenslanders are feeling the pinch. That is why the Palaszczuk government is taking action to ease these pressures.

In preparation for the La Nina weather event and the rain coming, I made a decision to lower Wivenhoe Dam's full supply level to 80 per cent. I made this decision to help with the flood storage capacity to help keep South-East Queenslanders safe. At the same time, we also made a decision to allow the people of South-East Queensland to utilise the drain-down of Wivenhoe Dam and give them a \$55 discount on their next water bill to cover that use. Residents who are connected to the South-East Queensland water grid will automatically receive the \$55 credit on their next bill. Not only that, we made a decision at the last election to give our regional Queensland irrigators on our government water schemes across the board a 15 per cent discount. On top of that, the horticultural companies now get a 50 per cent discount on the water they use for their crops.

Speaking of regional Queensland, we have a fantastic workforce in our health system in regional Queensland. Any of those members opposite who support the shadow health minister saying that our health workers in Queensland are duds should hang their heads in shame. They should all be backing themselves to say to the Leader of the Opposition that she needs to be sacked. She should not be sitting in this chamber on the opposition front bench while calling our health workers in regional Queensland duds. Our health workers in regional Queensland are the best health workers we have. You know what? Their jobs are safe with us because we back them every day of the week. We do not call them duds. We do not go to regional Queensland having round tables and then sit in this chamber and call our health workers duds. You need to be sacked, member for Mudgeraba.

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Youth Crime, Relocation Sentencing

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Premier. KAP's relocation sentencing policy recently gained support from the majority of councils across the state who voted for the establishment of diversionary facilities at remote locations for youth crime offenders. In light of this, will the Premier now put in place an alternative to the courts of relocation sentencing for juvenile crime offenders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question and for his interest in this matter. It is one that we are taking very seriously. There are issues around the remoteness of locations when it comes to support services and diversionary programs. Whilst I have an understanding that the member would like people to be located closer to their communities, unfortunately that cannot be the case in all instances. However, where we can put in place programs that can be done in local communities, we will look at those.

There are several projects that are being rolled out at the moment, including projects which are centred on dealing with the traditional owners of the land and running relevant courses, talking about the importance of on-country and young offenders actually understanding their history. I am happy to talk to the member further, and I am quite sure the minister is also happy to talk to the member further, but taking young people out to remote locations with little supervision is not necessarily the answer and could cause more harm than good.

Federal Budget, Climate Change

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister please update the House on the federal budget and what it means for the reef and action on climate?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Jordan for the question. It has been a good week for the environment with investment in both climate and nature. The federal government has delivered \$1.2 billion for the reef. However, importantly, we know that the biggest threat to the reef is climate change which is why it was fantastic to see investment to make electric vehicles cheaper, electric vehicle infrastructure, community batteries and support for businesses and farmers to drive down emissions.

It complements the work we are doing here in Queensland with our \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan, which will deliver Australia's largest renewable energy supergrid—creating 100,000 clean energy jobs and reducing emissions at the same time. It does not matter whether it is federal or state: Labor governments are delivering real policies that drive down emissions, deliver cheaper power bills and keep publicly owned assets in state hands.

We have heard a lot from those opposite about the federal budget but very little about climate change and what was in the budget in that space. That is hardly surprising given that they went to the last election proposing to scrap our renewable energy target altogether. The opposition leader might as well be called 'Dyson Crisafulli' because there is such a policy vacuum on that side. Then we heard from the federal Leader of the Opposition, who shed some light on the LNP's policy. Apparently it is nuclear, despite the fact that we know that nuclear energy is the most expensive form of energy we could choose. I think that insight begs the question: what is the position of those opposite? We have heard very little. There is no policy, no private members' bills and no shadow cabinet meetings, apparently. Is it because they do not want to tell Queenslanders where they are going to put the nuclear energy? I suspect it is not in the electorate of Broadwater. Maybe they are silent because they do not want to hear the views of some of those opposite. I would not want to hear the views of people like the members for Condamine, Gympie or Callide. We have heard some interesting views from him already.

We know that they oppose sensible reforms that would drive down emissions. Electric vehicles? Apparently they are going to destroy the weekend. Supporting farmers to reduce methane emissions? Apparently it will end the Aussie barbecue. Investing in wind farms? The brains trust of the LNP, Matt Canavan, said that investing in publicly owned wind farms was 'useless'. They even hate the Containers for Change program. You would have to be worried if you were the member for Clayfield or the member for Bonney.

We have heard comments from the Liberal National Party's Teena McQueen that 'the good thing about the last federal election is a lot of those lefties are gone—we should rejoice in that'. That is either the position of the LNP or the position of the Leader of the Opposition, which is that they have no policy on climate action, which is disgraceful.

(Time expired)

Cooloola Recreation Area, Management Plan

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister provide updates or a date for the release of the sustainable visitor capacity study for the Cooloola Recreation Area as well as the long-awaited Cooloola Recreation Area management plan and the revised Great Sandy area management plan?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Noosa for the question. I know that she has been a strong advocate for some of the work that is going into these plans in her community. I understand that work is underway at the moment on the Great Sandy National Park management plan and the visitor strategy for the Cooloola Recreation Area. At the moment consultation is being undertaken with traditional owners. I think it is incredibly important that we hear the views and aspirations of traditional owners.

Mr Perrett: You did that four months ago, Minister.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member opposite. We actually want to know the views of traditional owners, unlike those on the opposite side. We have also commissioned a sustainable visitor management survey for Cooloola. I understand that the Teewah working group is interested in some of the matters that are being put forward, so I am more than happy to ask the department to brief that particular committee before the end of the year around the recommendations and what the next steps in that space are.

When it comes to the electorate of Noosa, there is obviously a lot of investment going into that area. We are upgrading the coastal walk at Noosa National Park. Following the bushfires we are also rolling out major upgrades to the Cooloola Great Walk, with joint funding from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. Those works include refurbishing existing public camps including the installation of new camping platforms and animal-proof storage lockers; repairing severely sloped camping pads; replacing wastewater treatment facilities; replacing deteriorated and outdated signage; redesigning and replacing interpretive material along the Cooloola Great Walk; and installing new infrastructure at the Arthur Harrold Nature Refuge section of the Cooloola Great Walk to address seasonal flooding.

This builds on the significant investment we made in this most recent budget—\$260 million to grow our protected area estate. At the same time, we acknowledge that we have to continue to manage these areas in an appropriate way. That is why we have increased funding continually for the management of these national parks—significantly, a 37 per cent increase compared to those opposite, who often get up and groan about the management of national parks. When they were in office they actually sacked rangers.

We on this side of the House are very proud of our investment in national parks. We know how important it is to the community. Not only are we delivering that expansion of the protected area estate—that commitment is more than three times what the Liberal National Party committed to at the last election; we are also investing in important visitor upgrades. We are also delivering on our commitment—I acknowledge the former environment minister for her work in this space—to double the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program. It is incredibly important. I have had the privilege of meeting those rangers across the state.

A government member interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take that interjection. It is a great Labor legacy and we continue to work with those groups, who do amazing on-ground management. I thank the member for the question.

Biosecurity

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Can the minister advise why the Palaszczuk government is investing in biosecurity and why it is important?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question and acknowledge his great support for our Queensland produce growers—growers like Achacha's Bruce and Helen Hill. Last Saturday I was fortunate to be at the Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers gala dinner. I thank the member for Bundaberg for ensuring my attendance. It was good to be in his company as well as the company of the member for Burnett, Bree Watson and Joe Lyons. I thank them for their hospitality and for the opportunity to engage with them. Certainly the member for Bundaberg provided many opportunities for me to meet many growers in that region.

When it comes to agricultural production in Queensland, with a forecast of more than \$23 billion it is no wonder that biosecurity is such an important focus of this Labor government and the federal Labor government. Biosecurity is ever present in our minds and the minds of those who live on and work the land. Lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease at our doorstep, varroa mite in New South Wales and brown marmorated stink bugs in Queensland last Christmas represented a real federal LNP 'nightmare before Christmas' special.

Biosecurity concerns all of us—well, not all of us. The LNP do not think it is important at all. That is why under their policy it was more like a Halloween movie: 'A Nightmare on Alice Street'—slashing everywhere they went, including slashing 600 jobs in agriculture. In fact, Freddy Krueger has nothing

on the LNP cuts to the biosecurity budget. Under the LNP, 26 per cent of staff were slashed from Biosecurity. There were howls from the industry, but the LNP were like ghosts. They vanished with no responsibility.

Federally, over nine years we had Abbott, Turnbull, Morrison, Morrison, Morrison, Joyce and McCormack—and who will forget Littleproud? That is a pretty ghoulish line-up! Under the federal LNP it was grimmer than the grim reaper—25 per cent slashed from Biosecurity staff. In all Halloween movies, someone comes to the rescue. In this case it is the Labor government, which is investing in biosecurity. That is why we announced with the Premier at the Ekka this year \$22 million for preparedness for biosecurity threats—more staff, more training and better preparedness to combat these diseases.

Isn't it wonderful that the federal LNP nightmare is over? We have a federal government that cares about biosecurity. There is \$134 billion in this budget for biosecurity. It is only a Labor government that cares about our farmers. That is why I am called 'Furner the farmers' friend'.

CFMEU

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. The Premier said that she will not be meeting with the CFMEU. The union says they are looking forward to 'spending some quality time' with the Premier at the upcoming Labor conference. Will the Premier break her promise or will the Premier not attend the conference?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maroochydore for the question because I am looking forward to going to the ALP State Conference next weekend on the Sunshine Coast.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: spending money on the Sunshine Coast. In fact, Minister Grace and I will be opening a brand new school as well on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Crisafulli: Will you meet the union?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition! Pause the clock. I am going to pre-empt any suggestion of a point of order here: we have only got 30 seconds into the answer. There is time for the Premier to answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will tell members what we on this side of the House will not be doing: we will not be going to fundraisers like those opposite—those high-end cash-for-access fundraisers. There will not be any business observers because we pass legislation in this House, and the practice of the Leader of the Opposition still continues.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Are you still offering cash for access? Is the Leader of the Opposition still offering cash for access?

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition is warned under the standing orders.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: you do not want to talk about the cash for access that you are still—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Broadwater, was it the member for Kawana and a few others?

Mr Dick: Down the coast.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: down the Gold Coast, cash for access, pass the legislation through. We on this side of the House are not doing that. There will not be businesses paying cash for access for the conference. Will the Leader of the Opposition commit to ruling that out?

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, 118(b).

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has one minute and 26 seconds to answer the question. Premier, I will ask you to come back to the direct question as asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We on this side of the House are very proud to represent workers and there will be unions attending the conference.

Cost of Living, Rebates and Concessions

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the minister outline what cost-of-living concessions there are for regional Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for Mackay for the question and join with the member for Mackay and other members from regional Queensland in condemning the comments from the member for Mudgeeraba. Our regional health workers are not 'duds'. We welcome them and we support them. Regional Queenslanders—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Sorry, Minister. Members to my right, I am having difficulty hearing the minister due to consistent interjections. I ask that those cease.

Mr CRAWFORD: Regional Queenslanders through Ergon can access the \$175 cost-of-living rebate. That makes their life a little bit easier. That brings the total dividends that they have received from Ergon over the last four years to \$575. Earlier in my ministerial statement I outlined \$725 million worth of concessions and rebates to those eligible and around about \$1,100 back into the pockets of eligible seniors and that website that people can go to.

The member also asked about what other approaches there were, so let us have a talk about those opposite. Some may not remember, but in 2014 when the LNP was in government there was a state budget delivered by the member for Clayfield—eight years ago—and a headline came out the next day that read 'Pensioners are the big losers in this year's Queensland budget'. The member for Clayfield proposed a 15 per cent cut to a range of pensioner concessions including that the Electricity Rebate Scheme was going to be slashed, he was going to cut the Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme, he was going to siphon off the South-East Queensland pensioner water subsidy scheme, reduce the car registration concession and trim TransLink concessions.

Queensland Council of the Ageing's CEO Mark Tucker-Evans came out and warned that the LNP government seemed to be targeting older people. He said that those cuts would hurt the finances of the elderly and that the issue was worrying pensioners. Imagine being an LNP government MP at the time going to Sunday night roast with your own parents or friends who were pensioners and telling them that you supported a 15 per cent cut to their concessions. Mr Speaker, you personally would remember the disbelief and outcry because it was you as shadow Treasurer who said that this was a cruel decision that would see these concessions slashed. After the uproar the LNP was forced to back down, but let us not forget that it is no friend to Queensland seniors. It slashed the Queensland seniors office by 63 per cent. It never had a minister for seniors during its term. As for the LNP, I hope it serves a roast lunch at its shadow cabinet meeting—that it does or does not have—because Queensland pensioners will not be inviting its members to dinner anytime soon.

Pioneer Dam

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Minister for Water. The water minister is on record blaming Labor's funding cut to Queensland dams on the lack of detailed business cases. Will the minister release the detailed business case for Pioneer Dam, or is he pursuing option B?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes to respond.

Mr BUTCHER: As the member who asked the question knows, this government supports dams and weirs in Queensland. Not only are we supporting dams and weirs in Queensland; when we are looking at proposals that come forward to us we want to make sure that the details of those cases stack up financially, in terms of their viability and environmentally. We want to make sure that any proposal that comes to us is in the best interests of the people who are going to assist to pay for it—

Mr Perrett interjected.

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

Mr BUTCHER:—and that is the people of Queensland. We are not going to make \$5.4 billion announcements with no business cases for them. We are not going to accept a beer coaster from an LNP member at a pub one night who says, 'Here's a proposal. Put some money to it.' We want to make

sure that any proposal that comes to this government stacks up. If they do not stack up, then we as the Labor government here in Queensland will not support them because we want the best bang for our buck and the best use of water close to where we need the supply to go to for those communities that need it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. My question clearly asked: is the minister going to release the business case for Pioneer Dam?


Mr SPEAKER: The minister still has 37 seconds remaining and has been, as I hear it, referencing the need for a business case regarding projects, so I will allow the minister to continue but, Minister, please, under 113(a), come back to relevance.

Mr BUTCHER: As the member knows, the Pioneer detailed business case that we are talking about now currently sits under the energy minister in Queensland with the hydro proposal that is moving forward. We are in the early stages, as announced by the minister today through the energy plan, and we are looking at options moving forward for hydro in Queensland. The Pioneer scheme is certainly one of those options that those opposite know that we are looking at because we know that the best interests of Queenslanders is now with hydro in our energy plan moving forward.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Annual General Meeting


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Members, a reminder that the annual general meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Queensland branch will be held in the chamber at 1.05 pm. I know it is a highlight of your calendar and I hope that you will join us.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 27 October (see p. 3225), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.18 am), continuing in reply: When it comes to the sexual harassment provisions, members opposite, including the member for Kawana and the member for Currumbin, either have not read the bill or they do not understand it. That is very concerning from someone who currently holds a shadow IR portfolio and in the previous government was the IR minister and from the member for Currumbin who keeps informing the House that she was a prosecutor before entering the parliament. Before they make these outrageous comments in debate, I plead with them to read the bill and understand the industrial relations legislation.

The member for Kawana stated that all the bill does is include the act's objective in relation to sexual harassment and that there are no punishments. It is simply false. It is absolutely not true. It is unbelievable that a shadow IR minister and an ex prosecutor can state absolute falsehoods. It is breathtaking. The bill includes a suite of amendments to provide industrial protections for workers subject to sexual harassment, sex-based and gender-based harassment. That is all the bill can do. If there are actions that need to go further, that is a QPS matter and a criminal matter. You cannot put that in an Industrial Relations bill. It is outlandish to come in here and claim that, yet they went on and on about it.

Mr Power interjected.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection from the member for Logan and I thank him for it. They write these talking points out, they make mistakes and then as they get up they repeat the same errors and the same falsehoods which we have seen so much of in this debate. The changes in the bill empower the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to conciliate, arbitrate and issue injunctive relief to protect victims of sexual, sex- or gender-based harassment. These are nation-leading changes and go beyond the recommendations of the *Respect@work* report which the previous federal LNP government completely ignored. It also ensures that those who perpetrate sexual harassment, sex-based and gender-based harassment are held to account from an industrial perspective. We are talking about workplace laws here, ex prosecutor. It provides that an employer may summarily dismiss

an employee that has engaged in such harassment and that a dismissal may be found not to be unfair if the employee engaged in such harassment while at work or otherwise in connection to their employment. Finally—and if those opposite only read the bill—there was a referral to the Anti-Discrimination Act review. The bill ensures that any changes to the definition of sexual harassment under the Anti-Discrimination Act will apply in this IR Act. Before those opposite continue their baseless allegations and falsehoods, I implore them to respect this House and the people that they represent and do them the honour of actually reading the bill and understanding it.

Time and time again those opposite gave misinformation in relation to independent couriers. I wrote to the previous minister and I have written to the current minister. This is a wholly appropriate and constitutionally valid approach to establishing the independent courier jurisdiction in Queensland similar to what already exists in other states. I am not asking for anything more in this bill. We are not asking for anything less than what currently exists in other states like New South Wales, Victoria and WA.

Those opposite have also been banging on about gendered language. This is actually quite distressing to me. There are now many different types of leave that employees can take under birth related leave. It is the leave that is gender non-specific because these days families are deciding who is the main caregiver. They make those decisions. They have a choice. It is interesting that those opposite are all about choice when it suits them but not when it does not suit them. This birth related leave takes into account adoption leave. Unfortunately, at the time I adopted my child 28 years ago I could not take adoption leave, which was very sad. We now have it. It ensures surrogacy leave and cultural adoption leave. It recognises the type of leave and not the person and gives them choice. To make these outlandish statements about women having no rights and we are taking away their identity is an affront to me as a woman and as a female industrial relations minister having to sit here and hear such absolute nonsense. Once again those opposite should be ashamed of themselves.

The member for Kawana asked me to be honest about the reason for this bill and the political motivation for it. I ask the member for Kawana to be honest about the legal affiliations of those that they are so vehemently trying to protect. We have a litany of evidence to suggest links with the LNP. It is interesting that in the 2020 estimates hearing I distinctly recall the member for Kawana raising the theory about spin-offs of the CFMMEU circumventing legislative requirements. He was concerned about the CFMMEUQ and that they may be operating outside the legislation. Is that not interesting? I distinctly recall his concerns. Yet there are no concerns about others operating outside the legislation.

It is interesting that there is no plan, no policy, nothing coming from them should they ever return to government—and, Lord, help me, I hope that I am in an A-frame should it ever happen—about what they will do in relation to these issues. It will be interesting to see how they would feel if union secretaries had a number of organisations that they were heads of. How would the member feel if the CFMMEU, any union that is democratically elected in this state, ran not only the peak council but also a number of other unions? I remember the member for Currumbin going through in detail all of the associations that were run by a handful of people: Independent Workers' Union of Australia; Sworn Officers Professional Association of Australia; the Australian Medical Professionals' Society; the Red Hub; the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland. Imagine if those democratically elected unions in this state were running that many unions registered under the Industrial Relations Act. Those opposite would be crying foul. Those opposite would be going insane. Yet that is exactly what is happening here at the moment and we hear nothing from them.

I remind those opposite that when it came to the federal legislation the government federally never changed any of the rules around unionisation. We have Mr Haycroft, who used to be an LNP member, including the chair of the LNP IR and employment policy, and Mr McGuire, who also holds various positions, such as the treasurer of all of those organisations and then was not able to respond to a question about it. McGuire was a QUT LNP club president and QUT Student Guild president. While holding the position of president he advocated for dismantling student unionism.

The interesting thing about all these organisations is you have a mix of employee organisations and business unions. It is incredible to even suggest what is going on here. He stood up with former LNP MP George Christensen—and the member for Mudgeeraba should hang her head in shame for being a member of this organisation—espousing dangerous misinformation and anti-vaccination messaging. The worst thing they have done is taking all these cases to the commission and not one of them getting up, knowing jurisprudence. Even the commission had to issue decisions saying, more or less, 'I have no idea why you are here; you have no case.' They are taking their money; they charge them fees for representation in addition to their fees. The members opposite were going on about fees. Real unions do not charge additional fees to represent their members—there is one fee.

I might go down to the office of the member for Mermaid Beach to see the QTU members lining up to complain about their union fees. What a lot of rot! On 26 November 2020, the member for Moggill acknowledged Mr Hopkinson-Pearson, the NPAQ secretary, for his contribution to the Moggill LNP campaign. Kara Thomas was the LNP candidate for Pine Rivers in 2020 and the LNP candidate for Bancroft in 2017. David Goodwin, the founder and director of The Business Union, is a twice failed LNP Senate candidate. Do not come in here with rubbish. Do not come in here with false pretences. These are politically motivated. These are to do with the LNP.

Every member on this side of the House is a proud Labor member, born out of the union movement. It has never been a secret that the union movement and Labor were founded with that light on the hill. We are proud. We do not hide behind all of this rubbish, coming in here making accusations and with spider webs of associations. The debate in this House is completely baseless and nonsensical.

I want to thank John Thompson and Linda Lavarch, despite the scathing reports from those opposite. You should be ashamed of yourselves! They are fine upstanding members of our community who have more industrial relations expertise in their little fingers than the whole lot of them put together.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair.

Ms GRACE: 'The whole lot of them put together', Mr Deputy Speaker. John Thompson has a distinguished career with 20 years in the commission. How dare they come in here and talk disparagingly about those two people. This bill is a sensible bill. It makes sure that registered organisations take primacy. We make no apologies. I commend the bill to the House.

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

AYES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, 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.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 35:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: de Brenni, O'Connor; Farmer, Purdie; A. King, Camm.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1—



Mr BLEIJIE (11.38 am): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 1 (Short Title)

Page 10, line 4, after '*Industrial Relations*'—

insert—

(Union Payback)

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

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendment [1782].

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendment [1783].

Amendment No. 1 is pretty self-explanatory. It adds the words '(Union Payback)' to the short title of the bill because—let's not muck around; let's not get into semantics—that is what this bill is about. It is about, first, denying teachers, nurses and other professionals the choice to join an advocacy association of their choosing; and, secondly, it is to continue to line Labor pockets by the Labor-aligned unions in Queensland. That is the reality of it. We know the influence the Labor-aligned unions have over the Labor Party in Queensland. We saw it yesterday when the CFMEU were protesting out the

front of the parliament. While we see that across construction sites all around Queensland, yesterday we saw them enter Parliament House. They were on level 7 with their banners and their flags. They were taking over level 7. They were in our precinct, in our workplace. This has gone from just construction sites to the CFMEU coming to our workplaces. That is why I am moving this amendment, to make it abundantly clear what this is about.

More concerningly, I have been advised that workplace health and safety officers signed people in on safety grounds because Parliament House is now a construction site. Doesn't this sound familiar: using workplace health and safety entry permits to come on site? They got their supporters on site under the guise of workplace health and safety. They went up to level 7 and continued to protest as the CFMEU. This is our workplace as well. I think it is disgraceful that the Labor-aligned union movement has such control over this Labor government that they would allow them to come into our workplace and do what they did. It is absolutely shameful. They are using industrial disputation and workplace health and safety laws, which is what this bill is about. This is to tick the box of the Labor-aligned unions and to deny choice to nurses and teachers in Queensland. That is what this bill is about.

The Premier cannot be trusted. When the CFMEU stormed the TMR building, the Premier was asked, 'Will you meet with the CFMEU?' She said no. Then the union said that they were looking forward to meeting the Premier at the Labor conference. Today the Premier could not even deny the fact that she was going to meet them at the Labor Party conference. That is why Queenslanders have now woken up to the fact that this Premier does not have their interests at heart. They know that she has checked out and she has checked straight into the Labor conference with the CFMEU.

Mr LISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I call the minister.

Ms GRACE: We are not going to support this.

Mr Lister: That's very disappointing.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection. It is not very disappointing for me, let me tell you. This just continues the litany of falsehoods, misinformation and feigned angst. They come in here and talk about issues that are not even correct. I simply say that this is an embarrassment to those opposite. Members opposite continue with false allegations, are not fit to govern and this amendment demonstrates that in spades.

Mr LISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Southern Downs, I am just going to take some advice. I would ask you to resume your seat. Member for Southern Downs, it is convention and practice in this House that, when you are in this chair—particularly at this point of consideration of bills—you are often communicating with the minister, the shadow minister, the Leader of the House, the Manager of Opposition Business and managing members who want to speak. I called the minister because she had indicated a desire to speak. When you sought the call, that had already occurred. You then said, 'That is very disappointing' which I take as a serious reflection on the chair. I hope that is not the case, but I would ask you to withdraw that and then make your contribution.

Mr LISTER: I withdraw. I wish to state that my indication was not with you but with the minister for accepting the call when I felt I had gone first. I apologise and I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to make my contribution on this particular amendment. Of course, it is an appropriate amendment, paying back the unions, because this whole system is about payback. We have this love triangle where on the one side is the parliamentary Labor party and the Labor system, on the other side are the big unions who fund them and then the Industrial Relations Commission as well. This system is locked up tight for the good and the benefit of organised labour and the people who run it. I look at the people who sit opposite me and I am unaware if any of them are not union members and have been elected without the support of the trade unions or occupy their positions because—

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In regards to relevance, an amendment to the short title does not give members opposite access just to go on an anti-union rant. I would ask that the member bring it back to the amendment itself.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Contributions do need to be relevant to the amendment; however, given the nature of the amendment there is a fair degree of latitude. I will ask the member for Southern Downs to remain relevant to the clause and to continue his contribution.

Mr LISTER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Union payback is at the essence of this bill. That is why the title is changed under this amendment. I have spoken about this beautifully symmetrical love triangle with big ALP, including the parliamentary wing, big unions and the Industrial Relations Commission which work together in a way that can hardly be seen as truly independent. At the heart of

this beautifully symmetrical triangle is money. We have money which flows from the labour unions which are affiliated with the Labor Party or they claim they are not—such as the QTU which put on its website that it does not support any particular party but channels its money through the Queensland Council of Unions. We have not just the money that goes to the Labor Party to assist its members with their election but staff are paid by the unions to assist on the campaigns.

Then we have the people who get the payback from this river of funds. We can talk about Linda Lavarch, for example. Here is an example of union payback. Linda Lavarch, a Labor luminary, who was quaintly called an 'independent authority' did the review of the IR Act. There was nothing independent about it at all. I put it to the House that Linda Lavarch is in no way a fit and proper person to conduct an independent review on this particular matter. I would challenge anybody to walk in the street outside and dispute it with someone on the street. I wonder whether the Hon. Justice Peter Davis, the chair of the Industrial Relations Commission—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Those people are not connected with the union movement. The member is talking about justices. We are talking about a change of a couple of words here. I suggest that the member consider the relevance of the people that he is naming given the changes proposed by the member for Kawana. It is shameful.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear the points of order in silence. Thank you, Minister. Resume your seat. I will allow the member to continue his contribution.

Mr LISTER: I wonder whether the President of the Industrial Relations Commission, the Hon. Justice Peter Davis, is the same Peter Davis referred to in a speech in this House by the Labor member for Toohey thanking him for assisting him on his Labor Party campaign? The House could forgive us for being a little bit sceptical—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I ask the member to resume his seat. Member, you are now moving into an area where you are reflecting on the judiciary.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not need assistance. You are moving into an area where you are reflecting on the judiciary. I would ask you to cease that and continue on with your contribution for the remaining 19 seconds.

Mr LISTER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is clear that there is a massive opportunity for patronage here and for jobs for the friends of the union movement, which obviously is a payback from the government for funding its election campaigns and for giving them their jobs. This is sheer and utter corruption. This bill is a disgrace and this should be the title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time has expired. Please resume your seat.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will come to order.

Mr HART: I support the amendment moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. To change the name of this bill to include 'Union Payback' is entirely appropriate. We saw a conga line of Labor members—former union organisers—stand up during this debate and try to defend the indefensible. There is no doubt that the unions have twisted the arm of the government to put this in place. This is paying back the favours that the unions have done for these members. They have made their preselections valid. They have put them into parliament. They have made them ministers of the government. They have controlled the government through numbers in the different factions within the government in order to achieve the outcomes the unions want. It is quite clear that this bill is payback for the favours that the unions have done for these members.

We heard during the debate that the so-called red unions are doing a better job. They are doing a better job and quite frankly the existing unions—

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You cannot just go back over the debate. We have had the second reading debate. This is not an opportunity to have three minutes to re-prosecute the debate. I ask that the member be made to be relevant.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on that point of order related to relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice and then I will come back to your point of order, member for Kawana. I will rule in relation to the first point of order and then I will hear your point of order, member for Kawana. Member, I bring you back to the substance of the amendment

which is, as the amendment says, to change the name of the bill by adding 'Union Payback' and ask you to not re-prosecute more broader arguments put during the second reading debate. Did you want to make a further point of order, member for Kawana?

Mr BLEIJIE: My point of order is with respect to why I have moved the amendment as I have. We are now saying the bill should be called this. I think it is up to members to explain why we believe the title of the bill is wrong and why we want the change and the addition of 'Union Payback'. I think in context members should have the ability to say that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Broadly I agree. I have been listening to the contribution and that was not what was occurring. I would ask the member for Burleigh to continue.

Mr HART: I am talking about union payback.

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HART: The reason the Deputy Leader of the Opposition moved this particular amendment is to reflect what this bill is actually about. This bill is quite clearly about paying back the favours that unions have done for members of this parliament.

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Redlands, you are warned.

Mr HART: It is quid pro quo. These members are doing the bidding of their union masters and this is union payback for those favours.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr HART: We should be supporting this amendment—

Mrs D'Ath: Grubs.

Mr HART:—because quite clearly this is what this bill is all about—union payback.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the minister, can I ask the Leader of the House to withdraw the unparliamentary language.

Mrs D'ATH: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind the House of those members who are on a warning. They are the members for Kawana, Capalaba, South Brisbane, Cairns, Nanango, Southern Downs, Glass House, Broadwater, Gympie and Redlands.

Ms GRACE: This is nonsense. I move—

That the question be put.

Question put—That the question be put.

Motion agreed to.

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

AYES, 31:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 50:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, 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.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: de Brenni, O'Connor; Farmer, Purdie; A. King, Camm.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 7, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms GRACE (12.00 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms GRACE: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 7

Page 11, after line 25—

insert—

7A Amendment of s 52 (Entitlement to domestic and family violence leave)

- (1) Section 52(1), 'other than'—
omit, insert—
including
- (2) Section 52(2) and (3)—
omit.
- (3) Section 52(4), (5) and (7), '(2) or (3)'—
omit.
- (4) Section 52(8), from 'long term' to 'short term'—
omit.
- (5) Section 52(4) to (9)—
renumber as section 52(2) to (7).

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

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [\[1784\]](#).

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [\[1785\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 8 and 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Mr BLEIJIE (12.00 pm): In relation to clause 10, I want to be associated with the remarks of my honourable colleague the member for Everton yesterday. Clause 10 of the bill proposes updating the language used throughout the IR Act to adopt gender-neutral terms to avoid any implied gender division of parental care. This includes avoiding the use of the terms 'maternity leave' and 'her' and instead using terms such as 'long birth related leave' and 'the employee'.

During consideration in detail I want to bring the minister's attention to many submissions from women's groups and the committee report. International Women's Day Brisbane Meanjin said in their submission that their group is a 'feminist network that defends women's and girls' sex-based rights.' Their submission states—

Clauses 10 and 11 are of concern because they reinforce the current Government's efforts to erase references to women and women's rights in policy and law.

Clause 10 deletes 'maternity' and inserts 'birth related' in order to establish that men, as well as women, give birth. 'Maternity leave' is replaced with 'long birth leave.' These are regressive changes, only women can give birth.

They then go on to say—

Clause 11 replaces 'she' with 'the employee' in regard to maternity leave. Again, the purpose is to erase references to women in policy and law.

Maternity Choices Australia said—

We are deeply offended at the removal of mother, she and her from the Bill.

They go on to say—

The amendments to this Bill are extremely offensive to women, misogynistic, and completely excludes women, mothers and our experiences.

I would ask the minister: what on earth is wrong with the word 'maternity'? Why can a mother not be proud to be a mother and give birth? The reality is that men cannot have babies. Men cannot give birth. The woke-ism that is being driven by the Labor Party federally and in the state system is

detrimental to every woman and young girl who wants to be proud of their biological sex. It is disgraceful that Labor wants to take away the definition of maternity as if it is offensive for a woman to go on maternity leave. It is not. It is not offensive for a woman to want to go on maternity leave. It is not offensive for a woman to say that women give birth and not men. Why has the minister rejected all the women's groups in Queensland who categorically reject this woke change?

Mr LISTER: I am pleased to follow the deputy opposition leader in making observations about this particular clause. When I was on the committee that examined this bill I saw that groups you might reasonably expect would be from across the political spectrum in terms of their views were united against this. I can only agree with the member for Kawana in saying that it appears to be wokeness. It has come from government. It appears to be trying to drive some kind of agenda that is incompatible with what people really want. I suspect that on this at least, if nothing else, the minister and the government are fatally disconnected from word on the street.

Ms GRACE: Just to remind those opposite: only women can give birth.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 32, as read, agreed to.

Clause 33—

Mr BLEIJIE (12.05 pm): Clause 33 is the start of many of these provisions where they are starting to attack the choice and the right for a nurse or teacher to join an association they choose. This is with respect to amending the definition of 'industrial association' to 'industrial organisation'. It goes from clause 34 right through to clause 51. That is what is at the heart of this bill with respect to the industrial relations system.

What has happened is that some people such as teachers, nurses and other groups want a modern industrial relations system. We know that these teachers and nurses are leaving traditional unions in droves. What they are saying to those traditional unions is, 'We want a new, modern industrial relations system.' Guess what? For the first time there are organisations like the Red Union. I acknowledge in the gallery today those staff who have been attacked by the Labor Party in the last 48 hours who have left organisations because (1) they can save money; (2) they get better representation; and (3) they are apolitical and do not give their money to political parties. That is what these people are seeking.

If the Labor government and these traditional unions are so scared and worried and they say that people can have a choice, then why not just allow them to continue to do what they are doing? Why stymie them? Yesterday the minister said they were rogue entities. Why not let them just do it? Let them keep operating as industrial associations or incorporated associations. Why are they worried? I will tell you why. The traditional unions are worried because they are losing members, which means they lose money. On average it costs hundreds of dollars less to run the core service of a union than what the QTU and the QNMU are actually charging. It costs hundreds of dollars less to run a core business for an industrial organisation than a union. The question is: where is the additional money going? I will tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker: it is going through the QTU and the QNMU to the Queensland Council of Unions, which then donates to the Labor Party and who in committee refused to say what they used the money for.

Ms Grace: Wrong!

Mr BLEIJIE: I will take the interjection from the minister. She is saying 'wrong'. I disclosed to the House through ECQ documents hundreds of thousands of dollars of QCU donations from the QTU, QNMU and then the QCU to the Labor Party. It is a fact. It is ECQ disclosure. Why deny nurses and teachers a choice for their representation? If you are worried, give them a choice. If you think they are not doing a good job, why are you so worried, Minister?

(Time expired)

Mr LISTER: The member for Kawana is dead right: this is at the heart of the bill. A couple of words are going to take away the freedoms of the people the member for Kawana just acknowledged in the gallery. I acknowledge them, too. They are people who are here because of their interest in this very important legislative process.

As I said earlier on, we have big unions, big business, a big IR commission and a big Labor government that want to get rid of the opportunity for start-ups like this to represent their people. Why? Because it represents an attack on that system, and it represents an attack on the flow of money which comes from unions through their exorbitant fees relevant to what you can get from some of the smaller offerings back to campaigns for the Labor Party.

I suggest to the House that anybody who does not support this idea—which is actually central to the bill and central to this attack on the freedoms of individuals—should consider themselves to be lackeys of the union movement. I have already voiced my views on that in this House. Every person has a right to be represented by whom they wish to be represented by. I have heard all of the clever arguments from the big unions, the big industrial commissions and the big Labor government that, ‘You can’t have a choice if the choice isn’t the one we want,’ so they are going to stamp out the opportunity for industrial associations to play a part in representing their members.

The reason members have flocked to these organisations is that they are dissatisfied with the coverage they get from the traditional Labor unions. There is no doubt about that. Not only are they dissatisfied with the coverage but also they are dissatisfied with the fees. I spoke to a number of them when I addressed a rally outside some weeks ago. They said to me that they had a feeling the union they were a member of, which had sworn to represent them, had done some kind of a deal with the bosses upstairs not to touch certain things. Not only are they paying too much but also they are not getting represented.

This clause, which takes out ‘industrial association’, is symbolic of the flagrant conflict of interest we have seen all through this bill. I say it again that it is sheer corruption that those who receive benefits from the unions should legislate not only for those unions but also to the disadvantage of their competitors. That is corruption. If it happened in local government, a mayor or a council would find themselves behind bars.

Clause 33, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 34 to 50, as read, agreed to.

Clause 51—



Mr BLEIJIE (12.11 pm): Here is the second crux of the matter.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am going to get to many cruxes; you just wait. The Labor government members throughout this whole debate said that nothing changes—that if another organisation wants to register an industrial organisation in Queensland they just have to go and do it. What they are failing to tell people is that they cannot do so under the legislation, and let me explain why. Clause 51 talks about ‘Meaning of eligible for registration’. You cannot just waltz off to the QIRC and say, ‘We want to register an industrial organisation,’ because they are changing the eligibility of the requirements. When you look at the actual Industrial Relations Act, not just the bill, the amendments from this bill will mean you will have to look at sections 607 and 608 of the industrial relations legislation. The bill says—

For this subdivision, an entity is eligible for registration ... as an employee organisation if the entity—

(a) is an association—

Fine. Tick. And—

(b) satisfies the criteria for registration mentioned in sections 607(1)(a) and (d) and 608(1)(a), (b) and (d)—

Section 608(1) of the Industrial Relations Act states—

If the application is for registration as an employee organisation, the commission must also be satisfied of the following—

(a) the applicant is free from control by, or improper influence from, an employer, an employer association or an employer organisation ...

Are you ready for this? It continues—

(b) either—

(i) there is no organisation to which the applicant’s members might belong; or

(ii) there is no organisation to which the members could conveniently belong that would effectively represent them in a way consistent with the objects of this Act ...

Here it is. A 23-year-old nurse struggling with the cost of living brought about by the Palaszczuk Labor government in Queensland wants to go from the QNMU to another organisation to save money. That organisation goes to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission for registration, and the commissioner says, ‘I have to look at section 608(1)(b)(ii) of the act. We’ve got the QNMU already registered in Queensland. I’m sorry. You are not able to be registered.’ That is the corruption of this amendment. They will never be able to be registered because the act makes it clear that they cannot. So can they register as incorporated associations? No, they are changing the rules there as well to get rid of them. They just do not want choice and they do not want competition.

Ms GRACE: What an absolute nonsense argument. The conveniently belong rule has been in industrial relations laws in this country since federation; it has been there for generations. If they claim that we are corrupt on this side of the House, then the LNP federal government must have been corrupt as well because it is in their registered organisations act. No matter who has been in government—whether Labor or Liberal—the conveniently belong rule has been in law in this country since Federation. Member for Kawana, wake up.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Chair—

Mr Hinchliffe: There hasn't been a chair since long before you were here.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection. I will start again. 'Mr Deputy Speaker'—does that make you happy? Obviously the Labor Party do not wish to just control everything—

Ms Grace: That's nonsense.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection as well from the minister, who clearly does not understand what impact this entire legislation—although I am just speaking to this amendment—will have on choice in Queensland. We heard the Deputy Speaker yesterday talking about the choice people have when they start their career. That is exactly what this amendment that the IR minister is bringing into this House will do; it will shut down any choice in this state. They are taking the matter of choice away.

What do you do if you are a nurse or a teacher and you do not want to join the Labor Party aligned union? These money-grubbing unions give this money straight to the Labor Party to ensure these ministers have their jobs. That is the only reason their fees are about \$400 more than those of the red unions—because that \$400 extra goes directly into the pockets of the Labor Party that actually gives the Labor ministers their jobs. That is why half of this backbench really should not be in this chamber. They know they are only here because the unions put them here. Let me talk about the amendment. I am more than happy to talk about the amendment.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the interjection from the shadow IR minister, the member for Kawana. He has said this extremely clearly. We know the Labor minister does not understand this but this is about choice. It is about freedom of an individual to have a choice in their decisions. What the government is doing is making one category, and you can only be in that category if you are happy for your union dues to go directly to the coffers of the Queensland Labor Party. All of those people on that side should hang their heads in shame because they are taking away choice from all of our children. They are taking away choice from anyone who does not wish to be in a Labor aligned union. It is as simple as that. Like I said in my contribution yesterday, this is a draconian piece of legislation. This amendment is draconian and it should be voted down.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, during your contribution you referenced a contribution that the member for Greenslopes made in the House yesterday. That was made in the capacity as the member for Greenslopes not as the Deputy Speaker. I ask you to clarify that.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Absolutely. The contribution—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not an invitation to make a further speech—just to clarify that you were referring to the member for Greenslopes.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I was referring to the member for Greenslopes, not the Deputy Speaker.

Clause 51, as read, agreed to.

Clause 52, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms GRACE (12.19 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Ms GRACE: I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 52

Page 39, after line 19—

insert—

52A Amendment of s 529 (Representation of parties generally)

(1) Section 529(1)—

omit, insert—

- (1) A party to proceedings, or a person ordered or permitted to appear or to be represented in the proceedings, may be represented in the proceedings by—
- (a) a lawyer, only in accordance with section 530; or
 - (b) an employee or officer of an organisation appointed in writing as the agent of the party or person; or
 - (c) if the party or person is an organisation—an employee, officer or member of the organisation; or
 - (d) if the party or person is an employer—an employee or officer of the employer; or
 - (e) another person appointed in writing as the agent of the party or person, only with the leave of the industrial tribunal conducting the proceedings.
- (1A) However, a party or person may not be represented under subsection (1)(e) by a person who—
- (a) directly or indirectly demands or receives a fee for representing the party or person; or
 - (c) is an employee or officer of, or acting for, an entity (other than an organisation) that purports to represent the industrial interests of employees or employers.
- (1B) The industrial tribunal may give leave under subsection (1)(e) only if—
- (a) giving leave would enable the proceedings to be dealt with more efficiently, having regard to the complexity of the matter; or
 - (b) it would be unfair not to allow the party or person to be represented because the party or person is unable to represent itself, himself or herself; or
 - (c) it would be unfair not to allow the party or person to be represented having regard to fairness between the party or person, and other parties or persons in the proceedings.
- (2) Section 529(2)—
insert—
- industrial tribunal*** means the Court of Appeal, court, full bench or commission or an Industrial Magistrates Court.
- (3) Section 529(1A) to (2)—
renumber as section 529(2) to (4).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 53, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms GRACE (12.19 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Ms GRACE: I move the following amendment—

3 After clause 53

Page 40, after line 14—

insert—

53A Amendment of s 530A (Representation—public service appeals)

Section 530A(2) to (4)—

omit, insert—

- (2) A party to the appeal may—
- (a) appear personally; or
 - (b) be represented in the proceeding by another person under section 529.
- (3) However, a party may not be represented under subsection (2)(b) by a lawyer.
- (4) For this section, a party is taken not to be represented by a lawyer if the lawyer is—
- (a) an employee or officer of the party or person; or
 - (b) if the party is represented by an organisation—an employee or officer of the organisation.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 54 to 61, as read, agreed to.

Clause 62—



Ms GRACE (12.20 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Ms GRACE: I move the following amendment—

4 Clause 62 (Insertion of new ch 18, pt 6)

Page 58, after line 30—

insert—

1102 Existing appointment of agent to represent party or person in proceedings

- (1) This section applies if a party or person appointed an agent under former section 529 to represent the party or person in proceedings and, immediately before the commencement, the proceedings had not ended.
- (2) Former section 529 continues to apply in relation to the appointment of the agent to represent the party or person in the proceedings as if the *Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022* had not been enacted.
- (3) In this section—

former section 529 means section 529 as in force from time to time before the commencement.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 62, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 63 to 65, as read, agreed to.

Clause 66—



Ms GRACE (12.20 pm): I move the following amendment—

5 Clause 66 (Insertion of new ch 10A)

Page 111, after line 16—

insert—

406ZZG Authorisation for competition legislation

- (1) The following things are specifically authorised for the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cwlth), section 51(1)(b) and the Competition Code of Queensland—
 - (a) a courier service contract;
 - (b) a contract determination;
 - (c) a negotiated agreement;
 - (d) anything done by a person—
 - (i) to negotiate, enter into or perform a courier service contract; or
 - (ii) to negotiate with a view to a negotiated agreement being made; or
 - (iii) to comply with a contract determination or negotiated agreement; or
 - (iv) to comply with this chapter.
- (2) Anything authorised to be done by subsection (1) is authorised only to the extent it would otherwise contravene the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cwlth) or the Competition Code of Queensland.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 66, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 67 to 74, as read, agreed to.

Clause 75—



Ms GRACE (12.21 pm): I move the following amendment—

6 Clause 75 (Amendment of s 9 (Application for incorporation))

Page 116, lines 10 to 14—

omit, insert—

Section 9—

insert—

- (4) Further, the application must be accompanied by a statutory declaration by the appointed person stating whether the association has an industrial purpose.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 75, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 76 to 84, as read, agreed to.

Clause 85—



Ms GRACE (12.22 pm): I move the following amendment—

7 Clause 85 (Insertion of new pt 18, div 5)

Page 122, line 12, '9(3)(c)'—

omit, insert—

9(4)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 85, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 86 to 94, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.23 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

AYES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, 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.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 35:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: de Brenni, O'Connor, Farmer, Purdie; A. King, Camm;.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.28 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.

BUILDING UNITS AND GROUP TITLES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 21 June (see p. 1518).

Second 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) (12.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.


Before speaking to the specific objectives of the bill, I would like to briefly acknowledge the problems and issues being experienced by some of the people who will benefit from this bill. I refer to unit owners and residents at Couran Cove Island Resort on South Stradbroke Island. I want to acknowledge and thank them for their patience and acknowledge that this is just the start of the debate today. To the residents who are here today—Bec, Shelley, Dave, Michelle and Daniel—thank you so much for your advocacy and for meeting with me. I acknowledge how difficult and challenging it has been, and I hope this brings some relief and some better governance to what is happening on Couran Cove.

As members would be aware, unit owners have been experiencing significant problems at Couran Cove in recent years, including disruptions to privately provided essential utility services, ongoing disputes and court actions and allegations of large amounts of debt owing to and between bodies corporate at the development.

Debate, on motion of Ms Fentiman, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Water Infrastructure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.30 pm): What a dark week for Queensland. What a dark week for rural and regional Queensland. What a dark week for the manufacturers and agricultural producers who rely upon water. What has happened? The federal Labor government has cut funding to Urannah Dam, Hells Gates Dam, Hughenden irrigation and Emu Swamp Dam. It is all gone. Where is the Minister for Water in this great state? The Minister for Water said words to the effect of, 'We don't need those projects because there are no business cases.' I remind the Minister for Water: not only have I spoken about this issue at estimates over several years and not only do we continue to talk about these projects; the minister himself knows, and has in the past acknowledged, that these vital projects do have business cases.

I refer the minister back to one of his predecessors, Steven Miles, who on 8 December 2020 talked about the investments the Palaszczuk government had made—\$24 million into the next-stage assessment for Hells Gates Dam and a declaration of the \$2.9 billion Urannah Dam as a coordinated project. He said that right here in the House. The minister before the most incompetent water minister Queensland has ever had was Dr Lynham. On 18 October 2018 he said in this House—

... feasibility studies or business cases are already underway for ... Urannah Dam ... We have action ...


That is exactly what a former water minister said. What do we have from the current water minister? Nothing, zilch, silence. Today in this chamber I asked the water minister if he and the government are waiting on business cases. They are already there; I can post them to him or just hand them over. When I asked where the business case for the Pioneer Valley project was, the minister was utterly silent. He knows that not only did the local authorities in the council not know but also the local Indigenous folk did not know about the Pioneer Valley proposal. All of the people who are going to lose their houses—about 70 people—did not know.

Mr Mellish: Why do you hate dams?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. It is only the LNP that will stand up for building dams in this great state. From those opposite there is absolute silence. We have nothing. Worse, we have just heard that this water minister has called for a stop-work on all water assessments in this great state. They should hang their heads in shame. How could you stop water assessments?

(Time expired)

Stretton Electorate, Policing

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to commend the hardworking women and men of the Queensland Police Service in my local area. The Stretton electorate is serviced by three police stations: Calamvale, Acacia Ridge and Upper Mount Gravatt. I want to recognise the officers at these stations who work extremely hard for our community each and every day in what is a tough line of work. The hard work of the officers at these stations goes a long way to ensure the high level of community confidence they enjoy. The response times and clearance rates in my local area are good. They highlight the diligence and initiative of both the general duties officers on the front line, patrolling at all hours of the day and night, and the officers in charge at each of these stations, who I work with frequently.


Another very important focus of the police in my area is diversion and disruption. I want to recognise the extensive crime prevention and community engagement activities undertaken by these stations including regular 'coffee with a cop' events with me at Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown, Neighbourhood Watch support, school-based police officers, adopt-a-cops, crime prevention pop-ups, domestic violence awareness pop-ups and attendance at all of the school fetes and festivals and the Harmony Day soccer day recently, just to name a few. I host my 'coffee with a cop' catch-ups each month at Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown, where residents can chat to me or the local police about issues that are important to them. The support from officers at these stations has been instrumental in the success of these events. I particularly want to thank Senior Sergeant Ian Cameron and his team from Acacia Ridge along with the district crime prevention unit's Sergeant Danielle Bright and Sergeant Sherry Ho along with my good mate Bill from Volunteers in Policing.

Ms Pugh: Hear, hear! She is great.

Mr MARTIN: I take that interjection. Sergeant Sherry Ho is great. I want to recognise Sherry for her outstanding work and contribution to the Stretton community, always going above and beyond. Sergeant Ho is the district crime prevention coordinator in our area and she is a well-known, very enthusiastic and highly dedicated police officer who has worked tirelessly to resolve some difficult community issues and always promote crime prevention.

Stretton is also a diverse multicultural community. I want to recognise that the police have been building their capability in communicating with and reaching out to diverse communities. I want to recognise the fantastic police liaison officers that I work with and see at so many events. I particularly wanted to recognise police liaison officer Ken Rong and the team from the Chinese-speaking PLOs and volunteers who run Queensland E-watch, a Chinese language project that provides accurate information from the QPS and other government channels translated into Mandarin and shared on WeChat and Facebook. The purpose is to provide accurate and correct information from trusted sources to the Chinese-speaking community.

Moore, Mr N

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the late Norm Moore, who was buried this morning at St Gabriel's church at Carindale. Norm Moore was very small in physical stature, but he was an absolute giant to the Carina Leagues Club. In fact, Norm Moore was one of the founders of the Carina Leagues Club back in 1958. In 2019, because of outstanding voluntary service to Brisbane Rugby League over 60 years, he was given the chairman's volunteer service award.


The reason for Norm Moore getting the Carina Leagues Club set up in 1958 was that at that time Carina was pretty much at the eastern perimeter of Brisbane and it was deemed to be a good place to bring the community together and to give young men and women a start in their Rugby League careers. Norm Moore gave more than six decades—60 years—of voluntary service. It is quite outstanding.

My father passed away about eight years ago. About six months after that, Norm presented a gift to me. He had sifted through all of the old club records—an accumulation of decades—and found old team photos from when my father was a coach or a manager. Norm sifted through those photos in his own time and presented them to me. I have framed them and they are very dear to me.

When people come into this chamber and acknowledge their local heroes, they talk about 20, 30 or 40 years of service. It is not a competition, but Norm worked nonstop over six decades, up until a couple of years ago when he had to stop due to ill health. Even then, he was still there at the club. Over his time, Norm would have seen probably 1,000 or 2,000 juniors come through the ranks, many of whom would have gone on to play at a very senior level.

I pay homage to Norm Moore for a life well lived. Long before it was fashionable and long before the advent of social media, he would dig into his own pocket to help kids who may have been from the wrong side of the tracks or who were economically disadvantaged. He would pay for registration fees and put fuel in the tank so that he could collect them and take them to training or to games. The passing of Norm Moore is so sad. He had an impact on not just the Carina Leagues Club; he had an impact on the whole of the Chatsworth electorate. I pay tribute to a giant, a local legend—Norm Moore.

Springfield, Brisbane Lions


 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.39 pm): The Brisbane Lions are home—in Springfield. Last week the Brisbane Lions officially moved into their new home, Brighton Homes Arena, and the new state-of-the-art training and administration facility. It was a pleasure to welcome AFL commission members, CEO Gil McLachlan, Brisbane Lions Chairman Andrew Wellington and board members as

well as the Minister for Sport, Stirling Hinchliffe, to my community to celebrate this important milestone for the Brisbane Lions and the AFL. I was able to offer a very warm welcome on behalf of our Greater Springfield community. This is a community that I am proud to call home. It is a community that I am proud to represent and I hope the Brisbane Lions will equally embrace us as their new home, and the signs are certainly encouraging. I want to thank the Brisbane Lions for their genuine and honest engagement to date with me and with our local community—with our schools, our businesses and our sporting groups. I certainly feel that the people of Springfield have already embraced the Brisbane Lions. There is so much excitement for this project and the many opportunities that it will bring to our region. The economic opportunities are clearly evident—for our businesses and for enabling development and infrastructure, and of course the Brisbane Lions will be a major employer locally, bringing more jobs into our growing community.

Greater Springfield is only around 25 per cent complete, so we certainly have a long way to grow. The sporting opportunities are also well recognised. This \$80 million facility is a significant investment for all levels of government. The Queensland government contributed \$18 million towards the stadium, which will be the official home of the Brisbane Lions AFL Women's team, which is on fire at the moment. For the Queensland government, it is also reflective of our aspirations to improve sporting facilities and pathways for women athletes and builds on our government's support for the AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund and our \$8 million partnership with the AFL to improve facilities for the sport across Queensland. Of course, the Brighton Homes Arena is earmarked as a prospective 2032 Olympics and Paralympics venue, and we know just how transformative that opportunity will be.

There are some other opportunities that, as the local member, I am most excited about. It is the young Indigenous girl attending Hymba Yumba Independent School just up the road from the stadium who may just see some of these incredible women athletes training here and wonder whether she could learn to play AFL. It is the newly arrived refugee seeking resettlement and support from Multicultural Australia who will have a base at the facility with the incredible facilities that the Brisbane Lions have built and are offering to share with our community in Springfield, and for that I am very grateful. I recognise this has been a very long journey for the Brisbane Lions and the AFL. The move to Springfield is the realisation of an original commitment to this very project confirmed in August 2013 by the then federal Labor government. The Abbott Liberal government was then elected, failed to back it and almost killed the dream, so it has been a difficult, almost tortuous journey, throwing in a global pandemic! I have been on the journey with them for only part of the way, but I am so pleased that we can finally say to the Brisbane Lions, you are home now.

Office of the Health Ombudsman; Braun, Dr W


 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.42 pm): During debate in this chamber last week I spoke about the failures of the Office of the Health Ombudsman in the case of Dr William Braun. For those not familiar with the case, it was a shocking breakdown of a key pillar of Queensland's patient safety system—a system which should be there to protect Queensland patients when they have been wronged or left with complications from clinicians who do the wrong thing. Let me be clear: it is a tiny minority of our clinicians who fit into this category, but in the case of Dr Braun it is true—he is one of them. In this case the system which should have protected the patients he wronged did not work.

The Health Ombudsman had its case kicked out of both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal because the Health Ombudsman failed to meet its own deadline in investigating the case. It failed to meet its own deadline and the case was thrown out—twice. It is unbelievable. My heart goes out to all of those patients of Dr William Braun who have suffered under his care. There are dozens of them. Over the years I have spoken to many of them, each of their stories devastating. I asked the Office of the Health Ombudsman about this in estimates when it appeared before the parliamentary committee earlier this year. I asked how this could ever happen. The answer I got? Human error. Let me tell members: when some of the patients who suffered complications under Dr Braun's care found out about that, they were distraught—absolutely and entirely distraught. Some feel broken. Some feel like the only avenue left for Dr Braun to be punished for his wrongs was closed.

I cannot begin to understand the pain and frustration of those patients nor the other clinicians who made complaints. However, I want them to know that I, too, think that the failure is completely unacceptable. In the case of Dr William Braun, the ombudsman's case being kicked out of court is unprecedented. So what happens now? Is it a case of Dr Braun being allowed to practise again? If that were the case, I feel it would be a disaster waiting to happen. I think the patients deserve to know what is going on, I think the Queensland public deserves to know what is going on and will Dr Braun ever face a court for what he did? Is the minister seeking any advice on how any prosecution could be made

and has the case been referred to any other organisation to see if justice could be served? What we also do not know is this: is Dr William Braun working for Queensland Health? I have asked the minister. She has not told us. Is Dr William Braun working for Queensland Health, because Queenslanders deserve to know if Dr Braun is practising in this state?

Breast Cancer Awareness Month


 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.46 pm): This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I obviously generally would not be in parliament wearing the colour pink ordinarily, but for October I can and I will. I would like to thank the member for Cooper for bringing the waistcoat back into parliament. Very well done! I do not think it is a stretch to suggest that there would be few people in this House who have not been touched by the scourge of breast cancer, either themselves or someone that they know and love. I want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Toohey earlier this week in his speech.

One in eight women will develop breast cancer at some point in their life, but there is more than one gender in this world: there is also a chance that one in 1,000 men will develop or be diagnosed with breast cancer as well. Approximately 80 per cent of women in Australia diagnosed with breast cancer are over the age of 50, but I want to take a moment to reflect on the younger cohort—that is, those who are under 40. They make up around about five per cent of all women diagnosed and there are a number of impacts that may be unique to this cohort of patients. Firstly, there is the impact of a diagnosis during pregnancy which affects treatment options. Treatment options will also have impacts on future pregnancies, particularly treatments that may hasten menopause.

I want to acknowledge the work of the charity So Brave for the work it does with young women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. So Brave operates networks for young women who are diagnosed and raises funds to educate young women to be breast cancer aware and to support research for better understanding and support for young women with breast cancer. Since Breast Cancer Awareness Month last year, the organisation has received support from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and I was pleased to join the women from the Queensland Police Service South Eastern Region this time last year to raise over \$10,000 for the charity.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge survivors of breast cancer, some in my family and many others with whom I have worked. This is the time when the sisters in blue really do come to the fore. We wrap our arms around each other and our colleagues and when we lose a colleague this is an organisation that knows how to grieve. In the South Eastern Region we farewelled some of our beloved administration officers in the recent Police Memorial Day, and to our good friend Charmaine, an absolute delight of a human and the most dedicated police officer, we miss you.


Palliative Care

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (12.49 pm): Dying, and death, is not something I wish to speak about today. However, as with birth and the life in-between, there are costs associated that must be advocated for to state and federal governments which means we must talk about it. For many in our community, they have a preference in their last days to pass in their own bed, with the smells and sounds they are familiar with, beloved family and pets by their side. Sometimes it is not possible for a multitude of reasons, and that is where our incredible palliative care hospices come in. One is our very own and much loved Katie Rose Cottage in Noosa—a wonderful property surrounded by gardens with the smell of baking treats, sounds of visiting grandchildren, love from volunteers and palliative care nurses. I have fought for Katie Rose on many fronts successfully. However, I am now fighting for a sustainable funding model for it and all hospices in Queensland. These facilities are an essential component of our palliative care. With a hospital bed costing triple that of a hospice bed and a desperate shortage of hospital beds, I still cannot comprehend why the need for a sustainable funding model continues to not be addressed. The 2019 Queensland Health Palliative Care Services Review highlighted many issues, including a lack of hospices, respite facilities, after-hours care and residential care.

Demand is outstripping supply, which requires greater investment in service delivery by Australian and state governments. There remain insufficient resources, even with the extra \$17 million allocated by the Queensland government, to allow Queenslanders the choice to die at home or to access hospice facilities at end of life. Queensland should have a desire to become a leader in compassionate communities. To do that we really need to listen to what Queenslanders wish for. That requires hospices such as Katie Rose to be funded more than the current 20 per cent of nursing costs. That is the level of funding—the rest is community borne. Coming up we have further increases in nursing and we still have COVID related requirements. With these not-for-profits reliant on community

funding still experiencing the fallout from the pandemic and loss of income from fundraisers, it is time for Queensland to move into a space where death and dying is not a cost we need to be on our knees begging for, just as for our birth, or life. However, that is exactly what I am doing: pleading for a fair and sustainable funding model to ensure our hospices continue to provide choice and the loving environment Queenslanders seek, including the ongoing support after a loved one's passing they are renowned for. That is so important through the grieving process, whether it is for a loved grandparent, parent, child or friend. Thank you.

Braille House

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.52 pm): The speech I am about to give is a Twin Vision printed speech produced by one of our many outstanding Braille House transcribers at Annerley. Braille tactile bumps on paper, money and metal are often overlooked and blend into the background for sighted people. These bumps make up tactile literacy, the basis of an empowered, independent life for Queenslanders with low to no vision. In that spirit I will table this speech in braille.


Tabled paper: Adjournment speech, dated 28 October 2022, by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the member for Miller, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding Braille House (original speech also prepared in braille) [[1786](#)].

In March 1897 seven women, including Lady Lamington, the wife of the then Queensland governor, met and formed the Queensland Braille Writing Association with a view to the production of braille based reading materials and the tutoring services necessary to instruct people in their use. In 1954 the association moved into a property in Ipswich Road, Annerley, which became Braille House, an institution in my electorate of Miller staffed by wonderful people who have dedicated their lives to sharing the wonders of reading with children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the many wonderful volunteers and leaders at Braille House, both past and present, for all they have done over many generations, including Richard Barker, general manager of Braille House, and volunteer Margo who join us in the gallery today. Welcome.

A Braille House library was established in 1899 with just 54 books. That library has now grown to over 16,000 volumes across 7,000 titles. Moving with the changing times and technology, the Braille House library now also supports digitally refreshable braille displays. Braille House also produces a range of braille-based materials, including business cards, certificates and menus, which I encourage people to use. At the height of the COVID pandemic, Braille House continued to innovate by producing braille-based COVID check-in signs.

On 9 September this year I was privileged to join Braille House as they hosted their annual braille literacy challenge. More than 50 children from all over Queensland came together to complete and display their braille skills. This year also saw Braille House host the 101st Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition. This year's theme was based on time and drew a record number of entrants across the short story, poetry, adults, senior student and junior student categories. This year marks 125 years since the association was founded. This commendable record stretches from Queensland colonial times to the high-tech environment in which we now live. This side of this House, and I am sure many members, strongly supports the not-for-profit sector and recognises and values the efforts of such organisations, their significant histories, their employees and volunteers who continue to turn up and provide invaluable support and services to visually impaired people here in Queensland. Thank you to them.

Currumbin Community Special School

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.55 pm): I have a fantastic good-news story. Currumbin Community Special School does such incredible work educating and supporting 106 students with a wide range of disabilities and needs. Many of the students have difficulty regulating their body temperature. They feel heat, humidity and cold at an increased level and often find it difficult to communicate their needs. When I met with the Currumbin Community Special School P&C last year they told me their students needed their school hall air-conditioned. Their school hall is a multipurpose facility that is used for school assemblies, awards nights and their own fundraisers to help build facilities for the school. It is also used for vacation care. In February this year I wrote to the Minister for Education seeking the hall be air-conditioned under the state government's promise to air-condition all state schools. Disappointingly, the minister replied saying halls are not part of the deal and that the school would have to fundraise to air-condition the hall themselves. Well, fundraise the money we did.

The Currumbin Community Special School P&C got to work straight away, and I joined them this month at their Bunnings snag fundraiser alongside students and staff from St Andrews College and Rotarians from the Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed branch who all came out to volunteer, as well as

Currumbin Community Special School student Logan O'Hare. The awesome crew from Triple M turned up and promoted the fundraiser. Tweed Mall and Cabarita Woolworths donated all the barbecue supplies. Burleigh Bunnings generously donated the \$100 Bunnings voucher which was used as a raffle prize—and I made sure to upsize every sausage patron to buy a raffle ticket at that fundraiser. And the best news of all, Titans legend and charity 4 ASD Kids founder Mat Rogers and his wife Chloe Maxwell heard about the school's need to air-condition their hall and came through for the students of Currumbin Community Special School. Last Friday they raised a whopping \$50,000 at their annual golf day so now the students will have an air-conditioned school hall—and they will have it in time for their awards night on 5 December. I am so lucky to be part of such an amazing school community and an amazing wider community that pulls together to support not only students, but this amazing school that is doing such fantastic things in our community.

I want to thank Mariette, Sabine, Lisa, Danielle and Nicky for all their work on the P&C to achieve this for the school. This is what community is all about. I look forward to joining Currumbin Community Special School for their awards night in their new air-conditioned hall. As it is World Teachers' Day, I would like to thank all of the teachers at Currumbin Community Special School for the amazing work they do to support our fantastic students.

Mount Ommaney, Small Business Awards



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.58 pm): Christmas is only two months away—58 days, I am informed.

A government member: Ho, ho, ho!

Ms PUGH: Ho, ho, ho, indeed. I am dressed in Christmas colours and I have already started my Christmas shopping. To get inspired I am looking at the Mount Ommaney Small Business Awards nomination list and what a stellar collection of nominees we have.

Mrs McMAHON: Am I on the list?

Ms PUGH: No, you are on the naughty list, member for Macalister. For the benefit of the House, I can advise that voting is now open for the businesses based in Mount Ommaney to be nominated by locals for the Mount Ommaney Logies, as we like to call them. It has been a really hard year for many of our businesses. I want to pay tribute in particular to businesses in Jindalee who were hit really hard by the February floods. A lot of them were completely inundated. I am so amazed and inspired by the creativity and resilience these businesses have shown, not just in bouncing back and reopening but in some cases bigger, better and different.

The first nominee is Proper Pizza who have opened post floods on the former site of Pizza Capers. Proper Pizza is the brainchild of the former Pizza Capers owners and let me tell members it is going absolutely bananas. I ordered my daughter's birthday pizza from there. By 5.30 it was absolutely pumping. Across the car park is a brand new business, Sensory Playhouse. It is a wonderful space for little people to engage quietly with Montessori toys and play methods. Amazons Family Fresh Markets are a great fruit shop. They have a popular new employee, Mel Habchi, formerly of the Mount Ommaney Fruit Shop which is now closed. This fabulous fruit shop has recently moved into selling meat. There are some delicious pork chops in my fridge at home and I cannot wait to sample them tonight. We also have the fabulous Ronnie's restaurant at Middle Park where I got my dad a voucher for Father's Day. It is named after owner Clare's dad, Ronnie, who was a prolific local real estate agent in my community for many years. It is a fitting tribute to a man who loved great food and wine. Xplicit Kleans are also nominated and why would they not be. There is nothing better than the feeling of clean. They have invited me to visit. I look forwarding to going out on site soon. One of my favourites is Elle's Balcony Garden. Oxley local, Elle, sells beautiful, handpainted pots in gorgeous colour schemes. I bought them as Christmas gifts for my office team last year. They were so excited they could not choose. Last month I was equally delighted to spot them for sale in a Caloundra small business, White Pepper. Finally, Brushed n Co in Riverhills has recently been opened by Tegan, and it has been pretty much flat out since the day it opened. Tegan and her team have done such a lovely job renovating the space and making it so welcoming for everyone, even little humans, who get the red carpet treatment too.

I thank the Centenary Chamber of Commerce for partnering with me on the awards every year. Their energetic and fantastic president, Brent Cue, does a great job. Everyone knows that I could go on and on about small business, but do yourself a favour, if you are a Mount Ommaney local, and vote for your favourite business.

The House adjourned at 1.01 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting