



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 9 November 2022

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## WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2022

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 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### SPEAKER'S RULING

#### Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022 and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 18, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 45 of the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill contrary to standing order 87. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022 and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

On 21 June 2022 the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment introduced the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill was passed without amendment on 24 June 2022. On 12 October 2022 the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment introduced the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.


Standing order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, standing order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, *Record of Proceedings*, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Clauses 18, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 45 propose amendments to provisions that are substantially the same as unproclaimed amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. This is contrary to standing order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 18, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 45 of the bill contrary to standing order 87. A motion to suspend standing order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered.

### PRIVILEGE

#### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 30 August 2022 the member for Glass House wrote to me alleging that the member for Capalaba deliberately misled the House on 16 August 2022. The matter relates to a statement made by the member for Capalaba during Matters of Public Interest. Yesterday the member for Capalaba made a clarifying statement and apology in the House. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

On 30 August 2022, the Member for Glass House wrote to me alleging that the Member for Capalaba deliberately misled the House on 16 August 2022.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Member for Capalaba during Matters of Public Interest.

Specifically, '...David lied next to them and said, 'I support the mayor's petition'. It was not her petition; it was his petition.'

The Member for Glass House argued that this is misleading because to assist in creating a petition does not equate to ownership of that petition. He further argued that it is not unusual for members of Parliament to assist potential petitioners in the preparation for petitions.

I sought further information from the Member for Capalaba about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Member for Capalaba provided material from the bundle of documents that he tabled during his speech as purported evidence of ownership of the petition by the Leader of the Opposition.

However, it is clear from the documents presented to me that the petition itself was initiated by Mayor Karen Williams, sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament and publicly supported by the Leader of the Opposition.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that, in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.


I note that on 8 November 2022, the Member for Capalaba made a clarifying statement and apology in the House, and this is recorded at page 3276 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I consider the Member for Capalaba has made an adequate explanation and apology.

Therefore, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence in relation to the alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP [\[1861\]](#).

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 1 September 2022 the member for Burdekin wrote to me alleging that the member for Logan deliberately misled the House on 30 August 2022. The matter relates to a statement made by the member for Logan during the second reading debate on the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. Yesterday the member for Logan made a clarifying statement to the House. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

On 1 September 2022, the Member for Burdekin wrote to me alleging that the Member for Logan deliberately misled the House on 30 August 2022.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Member for Logan during the second reading debate on the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

Specifically, '*...he failed to acknowledge the huge cuts that were made under the LNP government and that he voted for budget after budget...*

*... when the member for Burdekin failed to vote for increased funding for our roads. In fact, he voted to cut funding to the Mount Lindesay Highway.*

The Member for Burdekin argued that this is misleading because he was not a member of the parliament when the LNP were in government between 2012 and 2015 and therefore did not vote on any budgetary measures referred to by the Member for Logan.

I sought further information from the Member for Logan about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Member for Logan argued that the term 'voted for' could have been referring to voting for, and supporting the policies of, a state or federal political party as a member of the public, and not necessarily as a member of parliament.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that, in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I note that on 8 November 2022, the Member for Logan made a clarifying statement and this is recorded at page 3276 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I consider the Member for Logan has made an adequate explanation.


Therefore, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence in relation to the alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Logan, Mr Linus Power MP [\[1862\]](#).

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Queensland Parliamentary Education Material

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am pleased to advise of the launch of the third and final season of the Queensland Parliamentary Education videos. They are not streaming in the places that you may think! The *People of Parliament* video series introduces key roles within the Queensland parliament. The videos and supporting resources will enable students to recognise, understand and appreciate how each role contributes to a successful and effective parliamentary process. The series includes the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the House, ministers, the whips, the Governor, Hansard, the Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Arms.


**Mr Power:** Where's the deputy opposition leader?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The deputy opposition leader is not featured, but the Speaker is. Aligned with the Australian Curriculum, the videos are accompanied by teaching resources including comprehension questions, worksheets, templates and suggestions for activities, all designed to make it easy for Queensland teachers to fit these resources into their lesson planning. The resources are accessible through the Department of Education's Learning Place, ClickView, YouTube and the Queensland parliament website.

### PGA Tournaments


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this month Brisbane will host the Queensland PGA Championship at the Nudgee Golf Club and the Fortinet Australian PGA Championship, which is being held at a future Olympic venue, the Royal Queensland Golf Club. The event will feature a stellar field of Australian and international players who will compete for the Joe Kirkwood Cup and \$2 million in prizemoney, the richest prize on the ISPS Handa PGA Tour of Australasia. This week at parliament the Joe Kirkwood Cup and the Charles Bonham Trophy, the prize of the Queensland PGA Championship, will be displayed in the level 3 concourse of the Parliamentary Annexe. The display is also graced with a life-size photo of Queensland's very own British Open champion, Cameron Smith—the man who made the mullet fantastic. I encourage all members and staff to visit the display of the most sought-after trophies in Queensland and Australian golf.

### School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Rolleston State School in the electorate of Gregory, Sunnybank State High School in the electorate of Toohey and a group of student leaders from the electorate of Burleigh.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Knife Crime


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.35 am): When it comes to community safety, I am determined that our government will lead the nation. There can be no effort big enough to ensure that Queenslanders going about their everyday lives have the right to not only feel safe but also be safe. The fact is Queensland already leads the nation in many areas in relation to ensuring public safety. We have the nation's strongest laws when it comes to dealing with hoons, child sex offenders and organised crime, including bikies. Our youth justice laws also lead Australia with the presumption against bail.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley in the gallery this morning along with Superintendent Rhys Wildman. Queenslanders would be well aware of the terrible tragedy in 2019 when Brett and Belinda's son Jack was killed in an incident in Surfers Paradise involving a knife. Brett and Belinda have been strong advocates for wanding powers to help police identify people carrying concealed weapons, including knives. In May 2021 our government introduced a nation-leading initiative with a wanding trial on the Gold Coast.

This innovation gave police officers the power to wand people with an electronic metal detection device to identify whether they were carrying a knife or another weapon. It has given police officers a vastly increased scope to safeguard Queenslanders and, from the statistics I am about to quote, has been a huge success in cracking down on offenders. Almost 16,800 people were wanded as part of the Gold Coast safe night precincts trial, resulting in 197 weapons being seized from knives to machetes—let me say that again: from knives to machetes—and almost 500 offenders charged.


Police have found wanding such an effective tool that the trial of these powers will now be expanded for two years into all Queensland safe night precincts and beyond into public transport. That will include all trams, buses, trains, ferries, all public transport stations and associated infrastructure. By extending into public transport and infrastructure, we also provide police with the scope to detect weapons in areas that carry large numbers of people and police will have a strong focus on rail transport corridors. By broadening wanding powers, we can build on the results experienced on the Gold Coast and further enhance public safety across our state. We can ensure that Queenslanders stay safe, and I make no apology for initiating powers such as these because community safety always comes first. The police minister has suggested to me that in memory of Jack Beasley these new laws which we will introduce into parliament soon should be called Jack's Law, and I could not agree more.

## South Bank

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): Thirty-four years after Expo 88 introduced Queensland to the world and introduced South Bank to Queensland, the people will have a say in the future of the people's park to make sure it remains one of the state's most loved destinations and to enhance all of those things that make South Bank so special. The plan so far includes many different and exciting ideas like making Grey Street more pedestrian friendly, improving the promenade along the river, increasing green space, upgrading the Cultural Forecourt, better travel connections and creating a world-class maritime precinct.


We have so far received 10,000 pieces of feedback—and we want more. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will once again propel South Bank before the eyes of the world and we want to ensure it remains world-class. I can assure the people of Queensland that their favourites at South Bank will stay—the much-loved beach, the bougainvillea lined arbour, rainforest and riverside greens—but the time has come to renew and reinvigorate the 42-hectare site so it remains Brisbane's most lively, green and inclusive area. Queenslanders can contribute over the next six weeks at pop-up community information sessions and through an online survey. Public consultation closes at midnight on 14 December. For more information on the draft plan and to add their ideas, Queenslanders can go to [www.futuresouthbank.com.au](http://www.futuresouthbank.com.au). The final master plan is expected to be ready by late next year. I encourage everyone to have their say. I thank the Deputy Premier and his department for the great work that they are doing in relation to that.

## Chief Entrepreneur

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): For the past 18 months Wayne Gerard has been Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur. I want to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work in this voluntary role. Wayne was instrumental in developing our new \$142 million innovation roadmap we launched this year which sets out our innovation priorities in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He also set up the Innovation Advisory Council. While Wayne's time as Chief Entrepreneur is coming to an end, he will continue to provide his invaluable experience on the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Committee.


Today I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Goondiwindi business leader and 2022 Order of Australia Medal recipient, Julia Spicer, to be our fifth Chief Entrepreneur. I thank Minister Hinchliffe for this recommendation. Ms Spicer has extensive experience in Queensland's business and innovation sectors. She has founded and grown several successful regional businesses within her current home town of Goondiwindi and has been a champion for startup and business entrepreneurialism in rural, regional and remote communities. In 2022, she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to the community through a range of organisations. We congratulate her on her appointment.

## Regional Queensland, Forums

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): Our regions are the backbone of this great state. They are critical to our economy, to creating jobs and are home to many wonderful and vibrant communities. It is important that they are listened to and have a seat at the table when deciding what the future of their cities, towns and regions looks like. That is why our government holds regional community forums. Since 2019, we have delivered 11 regional forums.

I am pleased to update the House that the last one for this year will be held next Monday in seven regions: Chinchilla, Gympie, Winton, Collinsville, Biloela, Hughenden and Weipa. These are the first forums we have held since the launch of our \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. As we know, our regions are playing a critical role in achieving a clean, reliable and affordable energy future. For example, 90 per cent of the plan will be invested in regional Queensland, along with 70 per cent of the 100,000 jobs created. That is why the focus of these forums will be opportunities arising from this plan with forum members also getting to see firsthand the types of energy projects that will be brought to life.

## Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.43 am): Australia is in the grip of a third La Nina season, with flooding having already hit the southern part of our state. As the most disaster impacted state in Australia, we know the




importance of getting ready for disaster season and increasing our resilience where we can. This is particularly important in Queensland's north, a region that is at great risk of cyclones, flooding, severe storms, heat waves and bushfires. While the south of our state continues to recover from heavy rainfall and the devastating floods of the 2021-22 disaster season, our northern communities know it is not if but when the next event will strike.

That is why I am pleased to announce the first ever North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program. The Palaszczuk government will invest \$10 million in the region to help reduce the risk posed by natural disaster events and make insurance for Queensland communities more affordable. The funding will help 22 council projects reduce disaster risk and lower insurance costs for residents, businesses and communities across Northern Queensland. Some projects include rock and sand protection to help prevent erosion in Bundaberg, realigning stormwater drainage in Torres Shire and a potential levee system in Mackay to reduce storm surge inundation. We can all remember the extraordinary devastation from the 2019 Far North and North Queensland monsoon event. This program is aimed at helping protect communities from a repeat of that extreme destruction and escalating insurance costs.

The Australian and Queensland governments continue to work together to help support disaster recovery in Queensland's north, leveraging \$242 million in Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements we announced in 2019. Eight million dollars in flood warning infrastructure network upgrades formed part of the North Queensland DRFA package and now I am pleased to announce the completion of that project. In total, 180 new flood warning assets have been installed across 28 council areas in the far north, north and north-west of our state.

Since 2011 Queensland has been impacted by more than 100 natural disasters. During this time the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has managed a reconstruction program in excess of \$22 billion. Much of that was under the stewardship of Brendan Moon who has been at the QRA since 2011. He has seen over 100 disaster events and managed 65 as its CEO. He served three ministers and five state recovery coordinators and has addressed the United Nations on multiple occasions. Brendan Moon is now Australia's first Coordinator-General for National Emergency Management. On behalf of Queensland I would like to thank him for his service to our state and wish him all the best as he helps all Australians in their hour of need.


## Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): The global appetite for Queensland products and services continues to grow. That is what Queenslanders learnt from the latest export data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics last Thursday. In the year to September 2022, the value of Queensland goods exported from this state totalled a record \$131.3 billion. That is almost double the value of a year earlier and is another record for Queensland. Once again, the value of Queensland's merchandise exports for the year to September 2022 was more than the combined total of our nation's two largest states, New South Wales and Victoria. In fact, in the year to September, 50 cents in every dollar of Australian exports came from the Sunshine State. That includes a \$3 billion rise in the value of Queensland agricultural exports in that 12-month period. Eight of Queensland's top 10 trade destinations are in Asia, led by Japan, India and South Korea. In addition to coal and gas, our most valuable exports include beef, metals like zinc and aluminium, advanced manufactured goods and crops.

Queensland exporters have achieved this record result despite disrupted global supply chains, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the uncertain global economic outlook. These global challenges are why we must continue to develop new and existing markets for more Queensland businesses. It is also why we launched our 10-year Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy earlier this year. The strategy, backed by an extra \$150 million over the next decade, is designed to deliver more opportunities for Queensland businesses and Queensland workers. It will enable Trade and Investment Queensland to deliver even more support for our exporters through TIQ's 18 offices in 14 key markets and it will ensure those businesses can boost sales where they are already trading.

Over the last three years, Trade and Investment Queensland has assisted Queensland businesses achieve an annual average of over 1,000 commercial outcomes valued at over \$1 billion. Queensland has always been an outward-looking, export oriented state. Queensland is a reliable and trusted supplier of high-quality exports. Through our Trade and Investment Strategy, we are determined to grow Queensland's export reputation and the returns for our exporters for many years to come.

## Knife Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.49 am): I start by joining the Premier in acknowledging Brett and Belinda Beasley in the chamber today. Our thoughts remain with Brett, Belinda and all of Jack's loved ones today and, of course, every day. I also acknowledge the Queensland Police Union representative on the Gold Coast, Andy Williams; Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers; Queensland Police Superintendent Rhys Wildman, who is in the gallery; and Queensland Police Service Acting Deputy Police Commissioner Mark Wheeler. They have all worked tirelessly with the police on the Gold Coast and this government to make today's announcement possible.

As the Premier has already advised the House, Queensland leads the way when it comes to cracking down on crime and increasing community safety. We are committed to doing whatever we can to enhance community safety. We are also committed to keeping weapons out of our safe night precincts and especially out of the hands of young people.

Brett and Belinda, through their tireless efforts at the Jack Beasley Foundation, have been fierce advocates for wanding powers to assist the Queensland Police Service in proactively identifying people breaking the law by carrying concealable weapons. I commend Brett and Belinda for their unwavering commitment to the memory of their son Jack. Jack Beasley's loved ones have called for these police powers and today the government continues its record of acting in the interests of community safety. This morning, the Beasleys supported this announcement when they said—

This is a step in the right direction and it's all for Jack. This is making the community safer—every weapon we get off the street is saving a life.

Brett and Belinda are right: it is for Jack, for young people and for all Queenslanders that today we announce the extension and expansion of the trial of Queensland's wanding powers. As the Premier has said, from now on I hope that everyone calls these laws 'Jack's Law'.

The Palaszczuk government has made this important change following the positive feedback regarding the Gold Coast wanding trial. As we have heard from the Premier, during the trial period on the Gold Coast police found a variety of weapons including knives, hand tools, knuckledusters, a screwdriver, a replica handgun and even an axe. Police found almost 200 weapons and wanded almost 17,000 people. Almost 500 offenders were charged as a result. Quite clearly, anyone who is carrying an axe, a replica gun or a knife in public is not only committing a crime but also endangering the lives of others.


Following the initial Gold Coast trial, the QPS commissioned Griffith University to conduct a review. I table that review.

*Tabled paper:* Griffith University: Griffith Criminology Institute report titled 'Review of the Queensland Police Service Wanding Trial', August 2022 [[1863](#)].

The review notes that the analysis of the trial was constrained by the impacts of COVID-19, the relatively short period of the trial and some incomplete data recording in the police database. The review makes a number of key findings including areas of increased knife detection by police and, importantly, feelings of improved public safety among stakeholders. In addition, the review provides some commentary around how the wanding framework can be improved and safeguards enhanced to ensure the powers are appropriately used by police. It is for all these reasons that the government is of the view that the trial of wanding should be extended for two years and expanded to all safe night precincts and public transport modes and associated infrastructure, including train stations and rail corridors.

These are extraordinary powers. While we all trust that the Queensland Police Service will use these powers well and properly, it is always important for there to be appropriate checks and balances in place to ensure the extended trial is rolled out effectively, accurately and carefully. Accordingly, as part of the amending legislation, the government will improve the authorising, accountability and recording framework for the powers. In addition, a further review will be conducted in two years to ensure the powers are being used appropriately and are having the intended effect. I fundamentally believe that these powers, Jack's Law, will make Queensland a safer place and will save lives.

## Workplace Health and Safety; Farm Safety Calendar

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government will always ensure Queenslanders have access to good, safe jobs, which is why we have a strong framework of workplace health and safety

laws, regulations and codes of practice to set minimum safety standards for Queensland workplaces. I am proud to advise the House that we have finalised two new landmark codes of practice, one on psychological health and the other on tackling silica dust exposure in the construction industry.


Our *Managing the risk of psychosocial hazards at work: code of practice 2022* is Australia's first legally enforceable code of practice and regulations directly addressing psychological health risks at work. The code provides a practical guide for employers and workers to help them understand their rights and responsibilities after a national review found that many employers were unsure of their duties to manage psychological health and safety risks at work. This code has been welcomed by a range of stakeholders, including Master Builders, the QCU and mental health experts. Dr Kirsten Way, an organisational psychology expert at the University of Queensland, even described it as a watershed moment.

Our code of practice to tackle silica dust exposure in the construction industry is also an Australian first. It follows on from our nation-leading stone benchtop code in 2019. The code will apply to all construction work in Queensland as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete and it will protect workers from dangerous levels of silica dust.

These landmark regulation changes and codes of practice were developed through extensive consultation with academics, unions, employer organisations and the community. I thank all those involved for helping to make Queensland workers safer.

There is another group I want to thank and that is the 1,500 primary school students who entered their colourful masterpieces in this year's Farm Safety Calendar competition. Each work of art submitted carries a powerful safety message. Congratulations to the 12 entries in the 2023 calendar. The winners will each receive a \$250 voucher and another \$500 voucher for their school. I already have my calendar and I hope everyone appreciates that I have provided a copy to every member of the House to hang proudly on the wall at their home or in their workplace. Again, congratulations to the winners and a big thankyou to the students who entered.

### Virtual EDs

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): Innovation and resilience have been the hallmarks of Queensland's world-class pandemic response. Throughout the pandemic our clinicians, under the leadership of the Chief Health Officer, have successfully adapted to the existence of a once-in-a-generation health challenge. There is no better example of this than a trailblazing initiative established by Metro North Hospital and Health Service in Brisbane during the height of the COVID emergency. I touched on this during the last sitting when I spoke about the new Queensland Ambulance Service clinical hub. Just like the significant expansion of the hub, we are also expanding the virtual emergency department.

Since April 2020, Metro North Health has been refining its virtual emergency department model, enabling patients to receive emergency treatment from home. I am pleased to announce that this initiative has proven so successful that it will now be offered to the state's other hospital and health services. The virtual emergency department service comes under the umbrella of the Connected Community Pathways initiative, a \$67.5 million commitment by the Palaszczuk government to improve clinical care. It offers telehealth treatment to people needing urgent but non-life-threatening care. It can be accessed through the clinical hub by GPs or directly by the public. This innovative new model of care is not only relieving demand on our busy EDs; it is providing a streamlined and comfortable service to patients in their own homes without the need for travel.


Our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan identified the expansion of virtual models of care as a priority for our health system and we have delivered. Since April 2020, the service has averaged 526 referrals a week. One of the main benefits of this model has been to limit the number of people with contagious illnesses, such as COVID, from presenting at hospitals, protecting our hardworking health professionals and the patients they care for. The service, which has been operating seven days a week including weekday evenings until 10 pm, is being run by highly qualified emergency department staff, including experienced emergency nurses and senior emergency doctors. Those dedicated professionals triage and diagnose patients, make referrals for further treatment and prescribe medication as required.

Under this model of care, some of the most common conditions managed by Metro North include those that can be successfully managed via telehealth such as COVID-19, common respiratory illnesses, gastroenteritis, minor injuries, vertigo, high blood pressure and back pain. In addition to this, Queensland GPs and QAS staff will be able to access this model of care as it is rolled out across Queensland to provide real-time emergency medicine assessment and support. By providing expert

clinical advice to our GPs and QAS staff, our virtual ED is able to prevent unnecessary presentations to our EDs. As we all know, there are reports in our communities about people who seek to access a GP but are turned away because they have an upper respiratory condition, whether they be children or adults. This will allow GPs to go directly online and access our virtual ED without sending people to emergency departments.

It saves on our ambulances and it saves pressure on our emergency departments. It is a great initiative. I am thrilled that it is being expanded across our state. Our virtual ED model is yet another sign of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to delivering quality health care for all Queenslanders no matter where they live.


### Domestic and Family Violence, High-Risk Teams

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.59 am): The eight high-risk teams currently in operation across Queensland are saving lives. High-risk teams coordinate and focus the efforts of relevant agencies to keep victims of domestic and family violence safe and hold perpetrators to account. Members include specialist domestic and family violence services, Police, Health, Corrections, Housing, courts, Child Safety and Youth Justice. Beginning with three trial sites back in 2017 at Logan-Beenleigh, Cherbourg and Mount Isa, a staged implementation over two years saw high-risk teams expand to eight sites with the addition of Ipswich, Brisbane, Cairns, Mackay and Caboolture.

Today I am very pleased to advise the House that additional funding of almost \$1 million annually has been provided to enhance the operation of these high-risk teams. We know that these teams are effective because of an independent evaluation by Griffith University of Queensland's integrated service response and the high-risk team model in 2019. It found that high-risk teams are improving victim safety, enabling faster and more targeted responses for victims and perpetrators, and ensuring there is a greater place-based focus to identifying and responding to domestic and family violence. High-risk teams promote better, more integrated practice and better information sharing, with an unrelenting focus on the safety of some very high risk victims subjected to violence and control by dangerous perpetrators.

Recognising the benefits of these high-risk teams, the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report *Hear her voice* called for the expansion of high-risk teams and integrated service responses in additional locations. We have announced Townsville as the first of these three new locations, and other sites will be announced soon. I thank each and every person from government agencies and service partners who are working together to focus efforts on keeping women safe and monitoring high-risk offenders. We have to intervene earlier to notice the red flags before more police tape surrounds another family home.

### Chief Entrepreneur

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.02 am): Queensland's Office of the Chief Entrepreneur is in itself an innovation. Six years ago, Queensland became the first Australian state to create a voluntary—that is unpaid—position of Chief Entrepreneur. Queensland's entrepreneurship in this area has forced other states to rethink their game or be left behind by the emerging global future economy.

Each of our four chief entrepreneurs, all leaders in our Queensland innovation habitat, have brought their own approach: Mark Sowerby, more investment and increasing the commercialisation of ideas; Steve Baxter, regional engagement and digital connectivity; and Leanne Kemp, advising and mentoring local startups. As Wayne Gerard wraps up his tenure as Queensland's fourth Chief Entrepreneur, I thank him for his commitment to accelerating the state's economy through innovation and entrepreneurship. Mr Gerard has worked hard in this honorary role to bring together the many stakeholders who make up Queensland's innovation habitat—from entrepreneurs, researchers and backyard inventors to universities, investors and corporates.


The Palaszczuk government's *Innovation for a future economy: 2022-2032 roadmap* was built with the assistance of the Chief Entrepreneur to leverage the many opportunities ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Among the road map's priorities is tapping into innovation and entrepreneurship in regional Queensland to help grow great ideas, Queensland jobs and businesses to prosper in the emerging global innovation economy.

That is why I am so excited to have Julia Spicer on board as Queensland's fifth Chief Entrepreneur. As a member of the Innovation Advisory Council, Julia has been a strong champion for regional Queensland. Based in Goondiwindi, Julia Spicer has set up new businesses, grown new businesses, mentored startups and is an Order of Australia Medal recipient for services to rural and regional communities.

**Mr Lister:** Good choice.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. To put it simply, Julia Spicer understands what makes regional Queensland tick. These are exactly the credentials we need to drive the state's road map to maximise global opportunities to transform regional Queensland into an innovation and job-generating powerhouse in the global economy. Julia Spicer becomes Chief Entrepreneur from next month.

### Queensland Workforce Strategy

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.04 am): We are so excited about all the initiatives we are rolling out under *Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy*. We announced the strategy, of course, in the August parliamentary sitting. I know how delighted the Premier was to take it to the National Jobs Summit in September and contribute so significantly to the national debate about workforce shortages.

The strategy is about solutions. An important component of that centres around equipping our school students for the jobs in demand now and in the future in Queensland. We are creating the pipeline of workers for the future. We already punch above our weight when it comes to starting training young, with school-age students undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship in schools. Queensland has 55 per cent of the national total. That is our investment. We are leading the way.

We also have our highly successful Gateway to Industry Schools program supporting school-industry partnerships in 11 of the most important industry or service sectors. In the last sitting week, the Premier announced hydrogen as the 11th sector, meaning we have already started to get our school-age students acquainted with opportunities in that important and rapidly emerging new sector and more likely to take up the jobs that will be so in demand.


But wait, there's more! In addition to initiatives like Trade to Teach, which the education minister announced in the last couple of months, our new regional school industry partnership managers will link industry directly with schools. The program will help students understand career options and will enable teachers to be linked to potential local career opportunities for their students. This week I am proud to announce that we are kicking off another school-based workforce strategy initiative, the School to Work Transitions program, with \$1 million being provided across seven innovative projects aimed at improving school-to-work transitions for just under 1,000 students from diverse backgrounds, helping to address workforce challenges in a variety of industries that are over and above those covered by the Gateway to Industry Schools program.

We will support young people, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, to transition from school to further training, education or employment, giving them a chance to begin an exciting career in an industry they might not have considered or that may not have been available to them previously. The Motor Trades Association of Queensland will support students to participate in automotive industry focused activities. The Australian Computer Society will support employers in the ICT industry to take on school-based trainees. Students in Logan and Caboolture will have the chance to become swimming teachers through the Active Queenslanders Industry Alliance project. In Moreton Bay, the National Retail Association will offer school-based apprenticeships for students interested in a career in hairdressing or barbering, an industry where workforce challenges are acute.

Students in the Far North, particularly First Nations students, wanting to fast-track a career in the health industry can take part in CheckUP Australia's Youth Industry Partnerships for Education and Employment project. A future filmmakers camp run by Essential Screen Skills Queensland will see students working with industry leaders to learn how to produce music videos, documentaries and short films. Aviation Australia will target regional and remote students in the Cairns and Rockhampton areas to provide job-ready training for school students entering aviation trades assistant roles.

Congratulations to these project teams for their innovation and ongoing support of our students. I look forward to seeing great outcomes as students, Queensland's future workforce, explore exciting career opportunities.

## Rural Economic Development Grants

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.08 am): Queenslanders know that there has never been a greater friend of rural and regional Queensland than the Palaszczuk Labor government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, just like the vending machine on level 3, you are quite often out of order. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr FURNER:** As Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, I have had the particular pleasure of visiting many of those rural communities across Queensland and listening to people from all walks of life whether they be butchers, truck drivers, farmers, farmhands, factory workers, builders, traders, exporters, mechanics and many others. In all of the communities that I visit, the creation of good jobs has had the greatest impact on the sustainability and great lifestyle of these towns and regional centres.


That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government's Rural Economic Development Grants have been so important for those rural communities. In four rounds of the grants we have partnered with agricultural businesses to create more than 2,500 good jobs to help those businesses grow and become even more the mainstays of their communities.

I am pleased to announce another round 4 recipient today will be Tropical Pines in the electorate of Caloundra. They have been producing great pineapples there for a long time. Tropical Pines will use its grant to install a drying plant to create longer shelf life pineapple products from its site at Beerwah. That means work for more of the year in that business, and more good jobs for that community.

This is a great program for agricultural businesses in this state, so I am very pleased to announce that expressions of interest in a fifth round of Rural Economic Development Grants will open from today. So far we have invested more than \$12 million to create more than 2,500 good jobs, and this new round will invest another \$3.9 million to create even more good jobs.

Under the RED Grants, agribusinesses can seek up to \$200,000 with an equal or greater contribution from the business to expand, improve and, more importantly, create good jobs. This is a proud achievement of the Palaszczuk Labor government and an ongoing investment in the future of our regions. Once again, this Labor government shows—with actions, not words—that Labor is known as the party of regional Queensland and that is why I am called 'Furner, the farmers' friend'.

## Land Management, Funding

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.11 am): Right now, right across the state, local land management groups are gearing up to protect our soils and native vegetation with the backing of the Palaszczuk government. Today I can announce that local organisations from the gulf to Goondiwindi will share in more than \$11 million in state funds over two years. Those funds will support their invaluable work in implementing land management practices to improve the condition of Queensland's native vegetation and soils.

In all, 17 organisations will work with farmers, graziers, traditional owners and their local communities. Together they will build skills and knowledge to deliver activities ranging from gully repair to fencing off and protecting native vegetation on creek banks. The condition of our soil and our native vegetation is critical to Queensland. It is critical to our food and fibre industries, to our resources industry and to our tourism industry. It is critical to the good jobs that these industries generate for thousands of Queenslanders and for the business opportunities these industries create for suppliers.


Investing in more sustainable land use practices such as reducing overgrazing and boosting native vegetation helps to improve sustainable economic productivity and jobs. This is the Palaszczuk government budget delivering for Queenslanders. These funds are the first instalment of a budget commitment of \$40 million over four years to increase the potential of the state's natural resources and promote economic benefits in regional communities.

The recipients range from Healthy Land and Water, based here in Brisbane, out to the Macintyre Ag Alliance in Goondiwindi and up to the member for Traeger's country to Southern Gulf NRM at Mount Isa. A big part of their work is improving farmers' and graziers' knowledge of more innovative and sustainable land management practices. This includes practices like grazing and cropping rotation as

well as new monitoring technology so that they can continue to create good jobs and economic benefits for their regional communities. These funds will also help land managers engage more with traditional owners so that their valuable traditional knowledge can be incorporated.


We have not forgotten the volunteers. Funds are also going towards training the 38,000 natural resources management volunteers and paid staff in these organisations right across our state. We are backing local groups and tapping into their local knowledge, because time and again this has proven to deliver the best results for Queensland's natural resources.

## ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am): I advise the House that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will be absent from question time and the House today due to illness. I therefore advise the House that the Deputy Premier will take questions on behalf of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads during question time today.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Minister for Health and Ambulance Services


 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House has no confidence in the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

### General Practices, Payroll Tax

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.14 am): My question is to the Premier. The opposition met with GPs across the state who say the government has slugged them with millions of dollars in new payroll taxes. The government says there has been no change to the way payroll tax has been collected from GPs. Who should patients believe—the Palaszczuk government or their local doctor?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Gee, that is a good dixer to start off with, if ever I saw one!

**Mr Crisafulli:** They're out on the lawn.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, and they were at the Pineapple Hotel. Do you remember that? Do you remember all the doctors at the Pineapple Hotel?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, Premier.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They have not forgotten. The Pineapple Hotel, do you remember that? The member for Moggill will not forget that.

The Leader of the Opposition should perhaps listen to this. I am advised by the acting revenue commission of the Queensland Revenue Office that the treatment of Queensland medical practices—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will start again.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Members, the Premier is being responsive to the question as I hear her answer. I would like to hear it; I trust you do so as well.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am advised by the acting revenue commissioner of the Queensland Revenue Office that the treatment of Queensland medical practices in relation to payroll tax has not changed since 2008 and that means that medical—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, Deputy Premier. Thank you, Minister for Energy. Members to my right!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That means that medical practices—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders. It is not an opportunity to wait for a gap in conversation.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That means that medical practices are subject to payroll tax in the same way today as they were through the entirety of the Newman government in which the Leader of the Opposition served.

### General Practices, Payroll Tax

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The AMAQ says the new tax will see bulk-billing extinguished and force practices to close. On 29 March the Minister for Health said—

The inability of Australians to get a bulk-billing GP leads them straight to the doors of our public hospitals.

Will the minister guarantee these new tax bills will not deepen the health crisis in our hospitals?

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with regard to imputations. There is no new tax. The Premier just answered a question in relation to that. In the question there is an imputation that there is a new tax and there is not.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you for your point of order. I will deal with the point of order. Member, are you looking for the questioner to authenticate information?

**Ms GRACE:** Yes.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The last question actually said 'new tax bills'.

**Ms GRACE:** No, the first question said 'new tax'.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In response to the—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

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

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** To clarify, in response to the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, while that phrasing may have been part of the final question, the preamble set up very clearly by the Leader of the Opposition referred to 'this new tax'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** To the point of order raised by the member for Sandgate, he is correct in the sense that there was a difference as I heard the question delivered. However, both elements were provided. If it relates to new tax bills as opposed to a new tax, I will allow the question but give latitude in terms of how it is answered.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question and I thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me latitude in answering this question. Firstly, in relation to the alleged new tax having an impact on our emergency departments, considering the Premier just stood up and said there has been no change in the way that the law and the tax is being imposed on GPs since 2008, the answer is no.

In relation to pressure on EDs, bulk-billing and GPs, I really wish the Leader of the Opposition had had the same interest in the last decade in bulk-billing and the pressure on GPs. Those on the other side under the various Liberal prime ministers that we have seen over the last decade federally were not speaking up on behalf of GPs and bulk-billing.

We all saw what was happening. We all knew that it was harder to get into a GP. There was less bulk-billing. It was less affordable and less accessible—and those on the other side said nothing. In fact, they did not just say nothing; they said it was not a federal government problem: 'The federal government have no role to play when it comes to pressure on our health system.' They have been banging on about that for years, especially in the last 2½ years.

**Mr Crisafulli:** They double down and attack the doctors!

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier will cease his interjections.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Attacking the doctors—I am more than happy to take that interjection. The LNP sought an injunction against health unions who were providing advice to members regarding individual doctors and contractors. The member for Moggill remembers that. Campbell Newman said, 'If people



do choose to resign we'll have to put in place arrangements to replace those people. If we have to replace them from interstate and overseas, we shall do that.' They sought to employ locum doctors at a daily rate of \$1,800 to \$2,600 for temporary roles to fill vacancies potentially left by doctors in the wake of contract disputes.

This is the party who was only offering up 750 new doctors if they were elected in 2020. We do not even have to go back to 2012. In 2020 they took to the election 750 new doctors—half of what the Palaszczuk government committed to doing. That means there would not be one new doctor from today on for the remaining two years of this parliamentary term if the LNP had been elected—no new doctors, no new nurses, no new midwives, no new allied health care and no new paramedics. Why? Because they offered less than half of what we committed to. We committed to 9,475; they committed to less than half of that. They have no credibility when it comes to doctors or health workers in this state.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I understand that in your interjection earlier you may have used some unparliamentary language. I ask that you withdraw that language.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw.

### Manufacturing

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier please update the House on plans to manufacture more things in Queensland and are there any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Lytton for her question because our side of politics cares about people's jobs. We also care about manufacturing more things here in Queensland. A great example is Tritium. We know that Tritium is doing a lot of local work—the world's second-largest manufacturer of electrical vehicle chargers—and is leading the way. We were the first ones to do the electric superhighway up and down the coast. Now we are seeing other states follow.

The global pandemic taught us very clearly that we cannot rely on everything coming in from overseas. We have to manufacture more in Queensland. That is why we are building trains in Maryborough, not outsourcing overseas like those opposite did but making sure that the trains are manufactured here. I am looking forward to opening the new centre with the member for Maryborough when it is completed in the very near future.

We know that manufacturing contributes more than \$22 billion to the economy—up \$3 billion since we came to office. It is an industry supporting 180,000 jobs. Of course our energy plan also means we want to see more things manufactured here in Queensland. Over the next 13 years we will need more than 2,000 wind towers, 7,000 wind tower blades, 25 million solar PV modules and nearly 7,000 batteries. That is an ambitious plan but we want to make sure they are manufactured here in Queensland—made in Queensland.

I was delighted on the weekend to announce that we will be manufacturing buses here in Queensland. I will have more to say about this in the new year, but this is another great initiative for manufacturing here locally in Queensland. There will be a pipeline of new modern electric buses that are built to keep our hardworking bus drivers safe.

We are investing in making sure there are good jobs right across Queensland, regional Queensland and in the south-east. We know that those opposite want to have policies that will ensure things are cut in Queensland. Once again they have no plans. I want to re-emphasise to the House that we are two years into this term and we have not seen one single comprehensive plan from those opposite. They have no manufacturing plan. They have no plans and no ideas. They have made up a lot of stories. There has been a lot of rock throwing. There has been a lot of collusion with particular journalists. That is all the opposition are good for—fairytale.

*(Time expired)*

### General Practices, Payroll Tax

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. On 12 May this year the health minister said, 'It is a fact there are not enough GPs, particularly in rural, regional and suburban areas.' Will the minister guarantee these new tax bills will not see GPs quit and cost Queenslanders more to see a doctor?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Now those opposite are deliberately misleading the parliament by getting up and asking these questions. I will write to you, Mr Speaker, about that.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my right! Members to my right, I am unsure as to why there is such a degree of interjection occurring, particularly when I cannot hear the health minister even speak. The member for Pine Rivers is warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The Premier has clearly outlined today that there is no new tax, that the tax that exists has been applied consistently—the same way—since 2008. Consequently, the members who continue to ask these questions—each and every one of them—are deliberately misleading this parliament. I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker.

Again, those opposite have the nerve to stand up in this chamber and ask about pressure on EDs from lack of access to GPs. Some of their members actually sat on the parliamentary committee that looked at primary health care. Did they read the submissions because some of them stated that 33 per cent of GPs in Mackay, for example, are not taking new patients; one practice in Roma has closed; another is for sale, with six GP vacancies; and at least five practices have closed in Cairns in the last 12 months. Inala Primary Care explained that, prior to the Medicare freeze, it was common for GPs to schedule four patients per hour. The majority of practices have moved to six, with many in their immediate catchment routinely seeing 10 to 12. Six-minute medicine is a direct response to the financial pressures practices face, meaning they can no longer spend time with patients.

This is what is actually happening. It has to do with bulk-billing rates and the freeze on those bulk-billing rates for more than a decade. Those opposite have been completely silent, not calling out their mates. Dutton was dubbed the worst health minister—talk about a dud! There's one! The then health minister Peter Dutton is now the leader of the Liberals in our federal parliament who did nothing to support access to GPs.

These are the challenges we have in the health system. For those opposite to come in here today to peddle this misinformation and claim that that is going to put pressure on our EDs, that is the problem with our EDs, and not acknowledge the pressure that has been building for more than a decade because of access to GPs and lack of bulk-billing not only in our metropolitan areas but right across this state and remote communities is just astounding.

### **Energy and Jobs Plan, Jobs**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on job opportunities created by the Palaszczuk government's \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan and any alternative approaches the Premier is aware of?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Keppel for the question. She joined me as well as the member for Rockhampton and the Minister for Energy when we announced our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. We went out to Stanwell—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, that is a plan.

**Dr Miles:** That's what a plan looks like!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is what a plan looks like.

**Dr Miles:** Not a made-up story.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** P-L-A-N; that is right.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Mansfield, you are warned under the standing orders. The level of interjection is too high. I will start warning members under the standing orders and removing you from the chamber if you do not allow the speaker on their feet to be heard.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We signed the energy and jobs charter—the first of its kind in Australia and the first of its kind in the world—guaranteeing that the workers would have jobs into the future. This is landmark, it is world-class and it is leading the nation. Then we met some of the workers out there and addressed them. They were very happy to see they have a government that cares about them and their futures and that Stanwell Power Station will become a clean energy hub into the future. We know that plan is so comprehensive in terms of the SuperGrid that will be built, the two pumped hydros—

**An opposition member:** 'Supergrid'!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, there will be a supergrid.

**Mr Butcher:** They don't have one!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Not made up. We still have not heard anything from those opposite about whether or not they support the plan, and that means it would be at risk at the next election.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, who is the shadow energy minister? I do not know; they have not done anything. Who is it?

**Mr Dick:** They don't go to meetings.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They do not have meetings. They do not know who it is. We will be unlocking a whole new wave of renewable energy, giving us eight times our current level. Over 100,000 jobs will be created, and we announced that 2,200 are already available. Those opposite want to sell off our energy assets. When they talk about debt reduction that means one thing: energy asset sales. It is very clear and they have not ruled it out. It would be great to see the member for Broadwater stand up and rule that out. Instead of ruling things out or having any creative ideas, he is coming in here and peddling misinformation, which is not fair to the people of this state. The people of this state—

*(Time expired)*

### General Practices, Payroll Tax

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Treasurer. The Treasurer says there has been no change to payroll tax impacting GPs. The opposition has been contacted by GPs across the state with bills they have never received before running into the millions. Will the Treasurer be waiving these new tax bills?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for the question. My first comment is that I thank him for getting his question in order. He has had trouble with that previously, so I am happy to take that question. Unfortunately, the shadow Treasurer has misled the House in relation to the role of the Treasurer in relation to tax administration. The most basic—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** Under the Tax Administration Act, the Commissioner of State Revenue is responsible for the administration and enforcement of taxation laws. There is no provision in the act for the Treasurer or the government to direct the commissioner. I will not be acting because it is not proper for me to do so. As the Premier said, the acting revenue commissioner has advised that the treatment of Queensland medical practices in relation to payroll tax has not changed since 2008. Many medical practices have been the subject of payroll tax, as they quite properly should be.

The Queensland Revenue Office has reviewed a New South Wales court decision that has been raised by the AMA. Based on that review, the Queensland Revenue Office—not me as the Treasurer—has not identified any aspect that it considers changes the scope, practice or approach to payroll tax in Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Treasurer is responding to the question. I cannot hear the Treasurer's answer. I cannot stress enough how difficult it is to do my job if you continue to interject.

**Mr DICK:** I am trying to be directly responsive to the question. Medical practices are subject to the same payroll tax provisions in the same way they were through the entirety of the Newman government, in which the Leader of the Opposition served. I have consistently said in this House that the Leader of the Opposition is not a man to be trusted, and this is another example of that. Just as he could not be trusted on the raid and the laptop—deliberate mistruths that he spread across Queensland—he is deliberately misleading the House and Queenslanders on this. It is very clear and very obvious that the Office of State Revenue, the Commissioner for State Revenue and the Queensland Revenue Office are responsible for the application of taxation laws in this state and not me.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** The decision in New South Wales does not change the practice, but of course the revenue office will do its duty as it is required to.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. More dishonesty by the member for Everton, who misled Queensland consistently in the last election about the fake Bradfield scheme and the Bruce Highway.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DICK:** This is a party of people who are fundamentally dishonest.

**Mr Tantari:** Sook.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Which member interjected then? That is unparliamentary. Member for Hervey Bay, you will withdraw those comments.

**Mr TANTARI:** I withdraw the comments.

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order, member for Everton?

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I take personal offence at those comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw, but I reiterate—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you must withdraw unreservedly, no ifs or buts.

**Mr DICK:** I am withdrawing, but I reiterate—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, please choose your next words carefully.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw unreservedly. The LNP is not to be trusted in this state.

### South Bank

**Mr KELLY:** My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House the Palaszczuk government's vision for the South Bank precinct and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. I know that many in the Greenslopes community love living in the inner city and enjoy the inner-city lifestyle, including visiting South Bank. As we heard from the Premier earlier today, Queenslanders love South Bank. Since opening public consultation on our future plan for South Bank more than 10,000 Queenslanders have shared their thoughts about the precinct and many have shared their stories about what they love about South Bank.

Some of them are quite heartwarming—like Maria, who took her son on a Brisbane holiday for their very own Bluey tour. She said—

We danced and twirled under the flower archway thingo while eating icecreams, had waterplay in the splash pad there and looked for bin chickens.

Or Megan, who remembers meeting the tallest man in the world at Expo 88. She said—

He was amazed by my identical twin and I and we were amazed by him. I felt like he knew that we could understand—how it felt to be stared at. He was lovely.

Or Angie who worked at Expo 88. She remembers serving cocktails to INXS at the River Plaza Hotel. Or Lexi who met her husband at Riverfire in 2007. In fact Lexi was not alone. Many people have shared their stories of finding love at South Bank.

South Bank is a much loved place, and isn't it fitting that that wonderful legacy of Expo 88 will be central to our Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032? As well as hosting events there, it is where athletes, spectators, Queenslanders and visitors will mingle, enjoying our wonderful Brisbane climate. It will link the precincts of Roma Street with the new Arena there, the international broadcast centre, our new theatre at QPAC, Queen's Wharf Brisbane and the Gabba. We want to hear from even more Queenslanders about what they love about South Bank and what they want to see more of.

We have committed to keeping it pedestrian friendly, to upgrading the Promenade and Cultural Forecourt, to developing a fantastic world-leading maritime precinct, as well as to keeping the much loved beach, the harbour, the rainforest and the Riverside Green. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to hearing from Queenslanders about what they love at South Bank and what they would like to see more of.

### General Practices, Payroll Tax

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Treasurer. The AMAQ have told the opposition that since November last year they have repeatedly requested a meeting with the Treasurer to clear up what the AMAQ are calling a tax on patients. Why has the Treasurer refused to meet them?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Kawana for his question, but I will check the veracity of his claim. I will check that with my office to see what the truth or otherwise is of that claim, to see whether the AMA has requested a question. I am always sceptical about anything the member for Kawana says in the House. I do know that the Queensland Revenue Office has communicated—

**Mr Bleijie:** Corrupt.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry to interrupt, Treasurer. Member, you know the word is unparliamentary. Please withdraw it.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** Case in point. The Queensland Revenue Office have communicated with the AMA. They have met with the AMA, as I understand it, and relevant doctors to explain this to them. I make the point again for the opposition in very plain and clear terms: the Treasurer does not interfere with the administration of the application of taxation laws in this state. It would not be proper for me to do so.

It might appear now that the LNP is on the same page as the Queensland Greens. We know the Queensland Greens want to abolish payroll tax in this state. That is \$5.2 billion a year that would disappear from the revenue lines of this state. If that is the policy position of the LNP, there is only one way to fill that hole and that is through cuts. We have heard from the Leader of the Opposition about his debt plan. We know that the Leader of the Opposition wants to cut, just not savagely, so if you—

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** I believe the Treasurer is keeping within the bounds of the question as I heard it asked.

**Mr DICK:** If you do not want to apply the taxation laws in this state and let the revenue team in the Queensland Revenue Office apply that, then what is the alternative? Direct intervention by the executive? Is that what you want? Do you want politicians to determine who pays tax—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr DICK:** To come back to the point, we know what the Leader of the Opposition would do because he has done it before. He sacked 4,400 health workers in this state. That is how the Leader of the Opposition will fill the hole.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** The Leader of the Opposition was absolutely mute when it came to defending general practice during the entire course of the Morrison LNP government. He did nothing to defend GPs, did nothing to stand up for them, did nothing to protect them against the failure of the Morrison government. Again, I reiterate the point about the Leader of the Opposition, the LNP and the deputy. These are men who are not to be trusted. The leader and the deputy are not to be trusted. They cannot be trusted with the revenue of this state, they cannot be trusted with their budget and they certainly cannot be trusted to protect general practice.

### Revenue

**Ms BOYD:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the Palaszczuk government's economic developments and the state's budget revenue position, and is the Treasurer aware of any other alternatives?

**Mr DICK:** As I have said in the House previously, a strong health response to COVID-19 has led to a remarkable economic recovery because our government knew the wealth of our state was inextricably linked to the health of our state. Two months ago, we saw the lowest unemployment rate recorded in Queensland since monthly records began in 1978, but we heard nothing from the Leader of the Opposition about that. Last month the *Report on state finances* showed that for the 2021-22 financial year Queensland recorded the largest surplus since accrual accounting was adopted. That was another significant achievement of our government. Those achievements demonstrate the real benefits for Queensland workers and Queensland businesses. They are actual achievements, meaningful achievements, that strengthen our fiscal position in this state and strengthen our budget so we can deliver more back to the working families of this state.

The member for Broadwater was in here yesterday—and I had the misfortune to hear him—talking about his achievements. I thought it was going to be a very short speech, but he switched to auto babble and kept going. I think the people of Queensland are more concerned about their achievements in government. The Newman LNP government, in which the Leader of the Opposition was proud to serve as a minister, saw unemployment in Queensland soar to 7.1 per cent without a pandemic. They did not have a pandemic; they had a purge. There were 14,000 Queensland workers who lost their jobs thanks to the Leader of the Opposition. They sacked all those people and they cut services in pursuit of a fiscal surplus. It was a fiscal surplus that they never achieved. It was all for nothing—crushing people’s jobs and their livelihood for nothing because that is what the LNP does.

People were voting with their feet, abandoning Queensland. Net interstate migration was driven to the lowest level on record. As a result, budget revenue collapsed and with that the LNP’s dream of a fiscal surplus went out of reach. Under the LNP, interest expense on debt reached a record high of 4.7 per cent of revenue. He says he has a plan for that. It was 4.7 per cent of revenue under the Leader of the Opposition—more than double the two per cent currently under the government.

What the LNP have never understood and are incapable of understanding is Queensland is more than a profit and loss account. The actions of the government drive the economy. If you look after the economy, you look after the budget and you look after the people of this state. When you cut services, you cut the economy. Only our government has delivered the frontline services that Queenslanders across the length and breadth of this state deserve. Only the Labor government has delivered the lowest unemployment rate in history and the biggest surplus in history.

*(Time expired)*

### **Youth Justice, Atkinson Report**

**Mrs GERBER:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. The minister says she read the Atkinson report earlier this year. With Christmas upon us and the youth crime wave gripping the state, why is the document still secret and what message does the minister have for the more than 10,000 people who have had their cars stolen, the almost 20,000 people who have had their homes broken into and those families who have lost loved ones since then?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am concerned about the length of the preamble and the member’s question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is bordering and I will not suggest it is not, but it is within the bounds that I have deemed acceptable in the past and I will allow the question.

**Ms LINARD:** I will tell you what the message is that we have for those people and that is that this government puts community safety first. This government has put community safety first since we came to government. When the community said they wanted more done, we did more. Queensland has the toughest bail laws in this country. The outcome of that has been that we have seen more young people held in detention and they have been held for longer. That is a fact. That is what I would say to those people, that this government listens to community because we expect young people to be law-abiding and, when they are not, we expect them to be accountable.

We have been very clear as a government in regard to presumption against bail. That means that young people are not getting bail. While we have taken that tough approach to this issue, while we have listened to the community, we are getting these sorts of questions from an opposition who, when they were in government, did absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing! In fact, they did less than nothing. Let me read out a quote. In regard to their apparent single answer to this issue and that is breach of bail, the Children’s Court president said—

The circumstance that a juvenile committed an offence on bail has always been treated as an aggravating circumstance on the sentence for that offence. Presumably that cannot now be a consideration in the sentence for that offence because it is a separate offence for which separate punishment must be imposed.

That is, although children could be convicted, they could not be punished. When they were in government, they took away the capacity to punish young people. That is their record. That is your record. While that is their record—

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was pretty simple: when will the report be released?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right, let me deal with the point of order. There is no point of order. I have already given guidance around the lengthy preamble, allowed the question, and the question was multipart and broad. The minister, as I hear her answer, is being responsive.

**Ms LINARD:** While those opposite went soft and they softened the laws, this government holds young people to account. While those opposite went softer, set up boot camps that did not work—in fact, an embarrassing fail—we changed the laws.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms LINARD:** They yell over me because they do not want to listen. That is their record.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I will be accused of many things, but soft is not one of them, and I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Frivolous!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member, I am not sure that you took personal offence. You did take personal offence?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I did.

**Ms GRACE:** Oh, please! It was not—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I could not hear the minister's response because of the level of interjection. I am in no position to understand whether it was a personal offence or not. I will not ask the minister to retract that because I could not hear her response. Perhaps there is something of a lesson in that for the chamber.

**Ms LINARD:** I will finish where I started by saying that while this government will always put community safety first, more police, more powers, clear direction to the courts, those opposite will play politics.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Clayfield is not directing his comments through the chair. He is warned under the standing orders.

### Year 12 Students

**Mr POWER:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Recently I was at the Park Ridge State High School awards ceremony, speaking to year 12s. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting year 12 students through their exams, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I know the member for Logan is very interested in this. Our year 12 students, 38,000 of them across 450 schools, are currently doing their exams. They started on Monday, 24 October and the fast approaching final date is 15 November. The support we can give them includes, if they are feeling anxious, a \$100 million wellbeing program. They now might have a GP in the school, psychologists, a wellbeing professional alongside their fantastic guidance counsellors, right throughout the state and they can certainly seek support from those. Our Queensland schooling system offers many pathways. I wish them all the very best.

I give them my top tips: take regular study breaks, stay calm and do your best. More importantly, make sure they read the material thoroughly so that they do not make silly mistakes, like the member for Kawana, who came in here on the IR bill and could not distinguish between industrial protections in the IR bill for workers subject to sexual harassment, sex-based or gender-based harassment. He got it confused with other parts of the law. Read material thoroughly. Or perhaps like the member for Moggill, who was quick out of the ranks when the very serious issue of teacher safety got raised and he accused the government of all sorts of things. However, if he read the report, he would have seen the report was from 2009 to 2015. The Palaszczuk Labor government had not even been elected and 50 per cent of that time was under Campbell Newman. Before you accuse the government, make sure you read.

My greatest tip for the year 12 students is whatever you do, do not copy someone else's work. For example, if they want information on the democratic system in Queensland, there are excellent parliamentary fact sheets which are produced in the House, and what a great job the writers do. Do not be tempted to cut and paste. If you want to use the excuse, if you are found out, that there were the pressures of deadlines of exams, or that you did it in 'error', it ain't gonna wash, let me tell you. It ain't gonna wash. I suggest they do not plagiarise, that they do not happen to come across an ABC article that they may want to use, or an old *Courier-Mail* article that they may want to change around a little bit because they will get found out and, for our year 12 students, there will be consequences, unlike some others in the public where the consequences are not quite the same as those facing the students. I say to year 12 students that integrity is important and, whatever you do, do not plagiarise.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

### Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway, Upgrade

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The minister told this House planning layers were added by TMR in mid-2020 and newsletters distributed from July 2020 for Bruce Highway ramps in Griffin. I refer to the 7 August 2020 public video of the minister backing the fast-tracking of the Moreton Connector and ask how were families meant to know they should have bought elsewhere when senior ministers were publicly backing an alternate route which would not have bulldozed their homes?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Chatsworth for his question which I am happy to take on behalf of the minister. We have outlined in detail the time line of events that occurred with regards to the planned expansion of the Bruce Highway from the Pine River north to Anzac Avenue. It is true that the government and I have indeed also supported the Moreton Connector road which would allow residents of Murrumba Downs and Griffin better access to North Lakes where they, by and large, do their shopping at the commercial centre. However, detailed analysis of the impact of that road on the traffic on the Bruce Highway showed that while it would be a valuable local road that we will continue to support, it would not alleviate the traffic on the Bruce Highway. The only way to alleviate the traffic on the Bruce Highway was to expand capacity from Anzac Avenue to the Pine River. That modelling was undertaken after the then LNP government committed to additional on-ramps. The same modelling said that you could not build on-ramps without providing lanes for those vehicles to then drive on, so the modelling of both of those elements indicated a need for additional lanes.

Work was then undertaken to determine where those lanes would go. Once that work was finalised, residents who potentially would be impacted were notified. They were notified at the earliest possible opportunity after the modelling was done of the impact of the LNP's new on-ramps, the lanes required for those new on-ramps and the lanes required to alleviate the transport pressure on the Bruce Highway.

I would advise those members opposite to take care in aggressively pursuing this issue because while I understand that there are some residents affected, by coming in here and questioning this modelling and these decisions, those opposite are effectively opposing the expansion of the Bruce Highway to the North Pine River. I will go to Glass House and I will go to the Sunshine Coast and say that the LNP opposes additional lanes on the Bruce Highway. I say that the LNP would prefer to see the ongoing gridlock that I drive in every day and the member for Glass House's constituents drive in every day and the residents of the Sunshine Coast drive in every day. I will put our plan to have additional lanes on the Bruce Highway up against their plan to not have any lanes. I reckon we are on the winner.

### Political System, Integrity

**Mr MARTIN:** My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General please update the House on the work of the Palaszczuk government in ensuring integrity in our political system, and is the Attorney-General aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Stretton for his question. It is of the utmost importance that Queenslanders have faith in our democratic system. That is why we have been working hard each and every day to strengthen our laws when it comes to political donations. We have tightened the laws around the disclosure of donations and we have banned developer donations. Importantly, the Premier has ruled out cash-for-access meetings and fundraisers because we put integrity at the heart of our government. We are putting transparency and accountability first.

We know those opposite have fought us tooth and nail on every one of these reforms. We already know they would much prefer to continue to do their fundraising in the dark and they will not rule out cash-for-access fundraisers. They absolutely will not rule that out. I have been scratching my head trying to work out why they will not rule out these fundraisers. I think I have cracked it. It is because the Leader of the Opposition knows if he bans these cash-for-access fundraisers his best mate, Peter Gleeson, will have no opportunities to speak; he will lose all his speaking gigs. The two of them seem to be as thick as thieves. It is like Queensland's worst bromance.

The Leader of the Opposition cannot resist asking Gleeson to speak at an LNP fundraiser, including a very flash one recently at a property development at the Gold Coast. I have been thinking that maybe it makes sense that the two would be drawn to one another; they have so much in common. Each of them has one job. Peter Gleeson has one job: to write the odd political puff piece without



plagiarising from other journalists or the wonderful political fact sheets from the Queensland parliament. The Leader of the Opposition has one job: come up with a policy, come up with a plan, come up with a private member's bill—do something. Here we have the laziest LNP opposition leader who is best mates with one of the laziest journalists in Queensland.

I guess plagiarism is nothing new for the LNP. Who can remember the member for Mudgeeraba and her first speech as a minister? She came into the House and read word for word her Labor predecessor's speech. Then she wanted to blame the bureaucrats—one of the 14,000 bureaucrats that they sacked. The LNP will not rule out cash for access. It is all about gigs for their mates like Peter Gleeson. Shame on the LNP.

### Gabba

**Dr MacMAHON:** My question is for the Premier. Since the Prime Minister made clear last week that the 50 per cent contribution needed from the federal government to rebuild the Gabba stadium remains undecided, will the government be reconsidering plans to knock the stadium down?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. The answer to that question is no. I have had very good discussions with the Prime Minister. Funding commitments given to the IOC are funding commitments honoured. I have been very clear about this. We are currently working on the finalisation of the Gabba redevelopment and we will be announcing those plans in the next couple of weeks or so.

### Electricity Prices

**Ms KING:** My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister inform the House of the facts of how wholesale energy prices are set, the Palaszczuk government's plan to put downward pressure on energy prices, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches to building more energy supply?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Pumicestone for the question about facts. On this side of the House we will deal with facts. We know that the opposition deal in make-believe. We have seen make-believe on laptops. Today we heard about make-believe on taxes. We know about their make-believe around CCC appointments. The LNP have been talking a bit of make-believe when it comes to power prices.

On the weekend we saw make-believe from the member for Broadwater. He said that one power station outage would impact household power bills. The fact is every five minutes the energy market builds a stack. They take the cheapest bids first. They take cheap energy like Queensland made wind and Queensland made solar. The last bid accepted sets the price the stack gets paid. We need to fill that stack, we need to fill the energy market, with the cheapest energy.

Another fact, this time on electricity bills by 2032. On the weekend the LNP asked for a plan on power. We have a plan on power. This is our plan. Where is their plan? Under our plan energy bills by 2032 will be on average \$150 lower per annum. Under the LNP—literally no plan—bills will be \$150 higher. For small businesses under the LNP they would be \$1,500 higher. That is their plan. Yesterday we learnt about their plan for community safety: 670 days and there has been no plan for community safety. Yesterday we learnt that their plan for hospitals and health was to add five extra letters to the name of hospitals. That is their plan on health.

Whilst we are dealing with facts, I want to talk about another one. It has also been confirmed in just the last couple of weeks that there would be cuts under the member for Broadwater. We know the only energy price the member for Broadwater cares about is the one he can get when he sells Queenslanders' energy assets.

We love facts; we love science on this side of the House. The facts are under the LNP, with their lazy nuclear policy, energy prices will be higher. On this side of the House we know that delivering more clean energy under our \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan will put downward pressure on prices.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Member for Burleigh will cease his interjections.

**Mr de BRENNI:** We will deliver more wind farms, more solar, the largest pumped hydro in the world because we understand that only Labor delivers a clean energy future for all Queenslanders.

### Lucinda, Enterprise Channel

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. The Hinchinbrook Shire Council is seeking approval to establish a seawall at the entrance of Enterprise Channel, Lucinda. Will the Deputy Premier show support for this project and meet with council representatives to discuss problems which include shifting and unclear requirements from SARA, DES and DAF so that this project can progress?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for his question. While the assessments undertaken and decisions taken by SARA are at arm's length of me as minister, I am broadly aware of the proposals—largely thanks to the member's advocacy. I understand that the council applied for a project that would see the seawall replaced, dredging and disposal of the dredge spoil. SARA was able to approve the dredging and the disposal of the dredge spoil, but agencies have expressed concern about the potential to move erosion impacts around, with the seawall. I understand that SARA has been working with the council to identify what scope of technical works would be required in order to approve the seawall. I advise the member today that the scope of works is now completed. That will set out very clearly what work and assessment needs to be done before state agencies will be comfortable and will be able to approve the seawall component.

I am aware that council are under the apprehension that perhaps there is a general opposition to the project; I can assure the member that is not the case. We would like to see the project proceed. We would like to see the seawall built. We understand how critical it is. We simply want to ensure it is done in a way that does not shift any erosion impacts or have any other unintended consequences. Now that that scope of works is complete, I am more than happy to meet with the member and the council to talk through how, between both levels of government, we might be able to complete the technical work as quickly as we can so that we can progress the development approval for the entire project. I understand that is what council wants to see: it does not want to progress in part without the remainder.

I am very happy, now that the scope has been completed, to identify how we can now undertake the technical work. If we can assist the council with that, I am more than happy to look at whether we can and if council requires us to. Now that we have that work completed, we will make a time to go through it in some detail. I am sure that we can address council's concerns while also making sure we do not have any unintended consequences. Certainly there are cases elsewhere where seawalls and rockwalls have been approved and there has been unintended consequences. We want to learn the lessons from those and avoid that outcome.

### Corrective Services

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister please update the House on the government's investment in corrective services, and is the minister aware of any alternative approach?

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

**Mr RYAN:** Thank you for your generosity of time, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for the question. As she is a former professional educator, I think the member will be very pleased to hear that, in shopping for Christmas presents for my young boys, I am looking for an educational gift. It is a game called Match the Opposites. The LNP cannot play along because it is for those aged two-plus years! I thought this morning we could play a game of Match the Opposites, because there is a big difference between us and them when it comes to community safety and investment in the front line. Let's match the opposite. Everyone can play along; let's see how we go. When those opposite in their first budget did not provide any additional funding—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are already under a warning. You will leave the chamber for one hour. Being on a warning means no interjections, members.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 11.13 am.*

**Mr RYAN:** When it comes to matching the opposites, it is a case of dignified on this side and undignified on that side. Let's match the opposites. In their first budget they did not commit any extra money to any new QFES facilities. What did we do? We are planning for new facilities across Airlie Beach, Caloundra South, Drayton, Springfield, Gympie South, Hervey Bay and South Townsville. In their second budget they committed only a little bit of money for a little bit of planning for some new facilities. What are we doing? We are opening new facilities in Mossman, Loganlea, Round Mountain, Rollingstone, Hidden Valley, Calliope and Broadwater Amiens.

Those opposite closed down the SES office in Gladstone. Let's match the opposite: we are reopening it. Those opposite did not invest in SES facilities on the Gold Coast. What are we doing? We are opening an office. Those opposite oversaw the sacking of police officers. What are we doing? We are investing in more. This is a government that supports and invests in the front line. Those opposite just do the opposite.


**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired.

## COAL MINING SAFETY AND HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 8 November (see p. 3368), on motion of Mr Stewart—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.14 am), continuing: As I was saying yesterday, this bill will strengthen the safety and health culture in the resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements for coalmining statutory positions. Secondly, the bill will progress amendments to enable the implementation of a key action in the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan as well as make amendments to resources acts to address an operational issue and correct clerical errors.

On 25 May 2020, changes were made to the mining safety legislation so that only persons who are employees of a coalmine operator may currently be appointed to certain statutory positions, such as SSEs and OCEs, which are responsible for safety. These are known as the direct employment requirements, and they come into full effect on 25 November 2022, when the transitional period ends.


Mine safety is about making sure that the organisation operating the mine owns the risk of its operations. Mining is incredibly important to Central Queensland, to our economy and to our families. I have hundreds of mining workers and families in my community, and I will always stand up in this place for mineworker safety. Since I have been elected, dozens upon dozens of mineworkers have contacted to raise fear of reprisal for reporting safety issues at work. Some have lost their jobs, usually by stealth of the big mining companies, because they have raised issues about safety on site. These people are usually on contract or labour hire and after they have raised issues they do not have any hours allocated anymore. They are basically told just to go home and not come back—sadly.

This bill strengthens the safety and health culture of the resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements, which require a person to be an employee of the coalmine operator to be appointed to certain statutory positions. I know that there have been some SSEs, deputies and others who have already been appointed to the permanent, full-time positions directly employed by the mine as a result of previous changes to the act. From talking with those people I know that they feel so much more confident in making decisions on site and raising safety issues because they are directly employed by the company and are not a labour hire or contract worker.

The amendments to the act that are already in place are working, and this bill further strengthens these requirements to ensure the holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety issues or give help to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal. These amendments being debated today provide practical ways of implementing the direct employment requirements that do not unreasonably disrupt current corporate structures and employment arrangements while upholding the intent of the original legislation.

It will ensure the coalmine operator—the entity ultimately responsible for the coalmine and safety of its workers—remains the central point of responsibility. It will ensure responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers with their own structures, systems and cultures. It is our government's expectation that those who undertake coalmining operations must make the safety and health of coalmine workers their ultimate priority.

Industry advocated for these amendments; workers advocated for these amendments. We on this side listened to workers, and we are delivering. All workers—especially coalmine workers—deserve to go home to their loved ones at the end of their shift. I commend the bill to the House.


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (11.19 am): I rise to give my contribution to the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will be supporting this bill because anything put forward to this House that improves the health and safety of workers in our highly valuable coal industry is well

worth supporting. I had the privilege of being a member of the coal workers' black lung disease select committee which laid bare the destruction this disease had on coalminers and their families because of a lack of safety measures to protect coal workers by previous state governments. Speaking from my experience after hearing the stories as part of the CWP Select Committee, it is important that any safety measures that we put in place to protect coalminers working with this valuable energy resource should be fully supported by all members.

The principal objectives of the bill relate to two Queensland government priorities: the first is safety and health—to provide for exceptions to direct employment requirements for coalmining statutory positions; and the second is to enable implementation of a key action in the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, as well as several housekeeping amendments to a number of acts in the resources portfolio to address operational issues and correct clerical errors. These amendments are necessary due to the shortcomings of the previous bill introduced by the government on 25 May 2020. This is a very messy bill that is designed to tie up loose ends and fix the government's previous mistakes and oversights. However, it is very refreshing to see the Labor government introduce legislation that seeks to assist the coalmining industry to be allowed to operate more effectively.

All Queensland has seen lately is the government's lavish announcements about its Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan which pushes a strong anti-coal agenda. According to the plan, by 2035 Queensland will have no regular reliance on coal and be at 80 per cent renewable energy, yet here we are debating a bill to support the coalmining industry. That seems to be a bit of a contradiction. I can only conclude that the government knows that Queensland cannot survive without the coalmining royalties and the billions of dollars of gross revenue that comes back to the Queensland economy. It is great to see Labor backing coal again and we are hoping to see the kickstart of new coal-fired power stations owned by the state government, with workers' health and safety protected by this legislation, which will in turn help reduce power prices.

The money generated by coalmining to the government pays for roads, pays for hospitals and pays for schools, so it is vital to protect this industry through this legislation because we do not want to see workers out of a job and profits going overseas as a result of more wind and solar farms. The coal-fired power stations that we have across Queensland produce the power and it is sold to the consumer and the consumer gives the money back virtually to the government and those profits are used for hospitals, roads and schools. If we spend money on solar farms and wind farms, taxpayers' money pays big companies to set them up. The power is sold back to the consumer, but then those profits go overseas. What is the benefit of that? It is privatisation by stealth. However, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (11.23 am): I rise to contribute to debate on the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Safety on all worksites, no matter where they are, is everybody's business. You are responsible for your safety and you are also responsible for the safety of all those around you. In my region the communities of the Bowen Basin are fatigued from hearing about workplace injuries at our coalmine sites. When there is an injury or a death, we do not care if you live locally or if you FIFO or you are a part of our community: our community's hearts break. We are angry that needless injuries and deaths occur. FIFO workers come from all over Australia and New Zealand. They FIFO in to work in our resources sector. We embrace all of our workers—every life is precious—and we are anxious for them when there is an injury. When it is reported, we mourn their death if that occurs.

The cycle of workplace injuries and deaths that have taken place since 2000 screams out that the behaviours need to change and the culture of workplaces and attitudes of employers need to change. In 2018 and 2019 there were six fatalities that occurred in the industry. That is six families that have been scarred for life. People say that it is a hazardous industry and that it is a high-danger industry and that this industry expects injuries. That is not good enough. What is causing the hazard? What is causing the danger? They say that it is freak accidents or human error or bad luck. These are only slogans, not reasons to simplify or ignore danger. If danger can be identified, then practices must be put in place to make it safe.

I have been to many health and safety seminars over the years and the one thing that families and first responders say is that after attending a tragedy your life is never the same, that that accident is with you forever. If there is one thing I wish for in life it is to never have to pick up the phone ever again to Isaac Mayor Anne Baker and give my condolences to her and her community after a mining incident. Workers, no matter where they work, should have an expectation that they arrive home safe after their shift and they need to be in the same shape as when they left home.

The resources sector is a good industry. It provides good ongoing work, it gives our young people their first training and set of skills and it contributes to local and state economies. There is no reason for it to be an unsafe industry. Yesterday I was listening with interest when the member for Toowoomba North talked about his experience of going down into the coalmine and the way that he described it. It is a hazardous industry, but there is no reason why we should just throw our hands up and allow accidents to happen. We know that we can make changes. The member for Hill talked about his experiences on the black lung committee. As we went through that whole process we knew that there was danger with the air, so we put in place practices to make sure that we keep miners safe.


We can continue to make mining workplaces as safe as possible. After that whole spate of mining accidents, we did the safety resets. One would expect that workers in mines could come out and say if there is danger, but unfortunately mineworkers are still saying to me that the culture is, 'Don't speak up if you want to get another shift.' We do need to put processes in place to ensure that the legislation makes the industry safer, so all workers on mine sites are becoming permanent workers so they are not afraid to lose their jobs. That is why this legislation is so important.

The jobs of mine workers working in health and safety are tied to their employers so that the mining companies are taking responsibility for workers' safety. As others have said, on 25 May we did make changes to the legislation. However, this bill ensures that statutory positions are now directly employed by coalmine operators—that is, for coalmines the site operator executives, for surface mines the open-cut examiners, and for underground mines the underground mine managers, ventilation officers, explosion risk zone controllers, electrical engineer managers and mechanical engineer managers so that mine safety is about mine operators taking on the risk for safety.

It will be mandatory for some of these positions to be made permanent. I have had conversations with the people currently in those positions. Not all of them are happy about becoming permanent workers. They have set themselves up as businesses. They get tax concessions because they are running a business. There are reasons why they want to stay as contractors. They have told me about the way that they do their jobs. They talk with such pride about the safety levels that they have for themselves. I think those contractors who have been brave enough to stand up and say there is an issue. That is not the case across the board. Even though those workers and business owners have identified that there will be some impact on the way that they do their business and their tax, we need to look after every worker. By putting this legislation in place we will make sure that our mine sites will operate as safely as possible.

I am looking forward to seeing this bill passed. In Queensland if there is a safety issue identified we put measures in place to keep workers safe. I was a member of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee and listened to tragic stories. I heard of the heartache of the families. We heard from workers who could no longer live to old age to support their families and enjoy their grandkids. We have put measures in place to stop black lung from coming back. Heart of Australia trucks are driving around Queensland and visiting our mine sites. They come into Mackay on a regular basis. The workers from my region who work in the mine sites can do so now knowing that they are not going to get black lung. We put in place processes around ventilation. It is not just good enough to say it is a hazardous industry, we need to get on with it because that is what it is and to expect injuries. We should not expect injuries in any workplace or any industry.

I thank the minister and the committee for bringing this legislation forward. We are learning from the past. The resource sector in this state has a long life ahead of it, because we are getting into rare earth minerals. Mining will go on forever and ever in this state. What we dig out of the ground might be different, but we are going to keep on digging it up. We need these changes for our young people who are looking forward to being resource sector workers in the future and for those who are working in the resource sector now. I support the bill.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.33 am): It is my pleasure to rise and speak to the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I want to remark on the comments of the former speaker, the member for Mackay. In the 55th Parliament, my former colleague, the member for Southern Downs, and the former member for Bundamba led the inquiry into black lung, which was initiated by our side of the House. Importantly, it was something that we needed to do both now and for the future. That is why this side of the House is supporting this legislation.


This bill was brought before the House because of safety issues in mining. It became evident that there had been a lackadaisical approach in terms of administration. Those circumstances that the member for Mackay mentioned, and that members will remember, are ones that families should never

have to go through. I remember both the member for Southern Downs and the member for Bundamba saying, and all members would agree, that people deserve to come home safely from a day's work. For those of us who make visits to mines in our capacity as either members of parliament or local MPs, we would expect that for members of our family and that should be the case for people who work in this industry as well.

Members opposite may wonder why the member for Surfers Paradise is speaking on a bill like this. The Queensland Resources Council regularly gives all MPs a fact sheet about what the resources industry does within our own electorates, for example, the number of people who are directly or indirectly employed. I think all members are appreciative of that as we have had an increased number of fly-in fly-out workers who want to live in other parts of the state. That is why this legislation is important.

I note the objectives of the bill, which other members have mentioned, in relation to safety and health, which should always be the No. 1 priority, to provide for exceptions to direct employment requirements for coalmining statutory provisions contained in the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and, in relation to resources, to enable implementation of a key action in the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, QRIDP, as well as several housekeeping amendments to a number of acts in the resources portfolio to address operational issues and correct clerical errors. I note that members on this side have mentioned issues such as the transitional period, which was two years, that was about to expire.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Surfers Paradise, I will ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time limit for this stage of the bill has expired. Before I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate, I need to remind the following members they are on warnings: Southern Downs, Nanango, Maryborough, Pine Rivers, Buderim, Mansfield, Chatsworth, Toowoomba South, Toowoomba North, Broadwater, Clayfield and Kawana.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.36 am), in reply: I would like to thank all honourable members for their participation in this debate. We have heard from just about every speaker that the most important resource to come off our mine sites are our workers and I totally agree with that. This bill is about the safety of our workers. The bill also addresses concerns regarding the implementation of the direct employment requirements raised by stakeholders. These changes will ensure companies have practical ways of implementing the direct employment requirements, which, I remind the House, are already law and have been since May 2020, and do not reasonably disrupt their corporate structures and employment arrangements after 25 November this year when they will come into full effect.

These amendments aim to provide industry with more flexibility for complying with the requirements; enable affected companies to continue to access existing employment arrangements under existing company structures; avoid additional costs companies might otherwise incur in employing personnel to statutory positions surplus to requirements to avoid being in breach of legislation; and ensure the original intent of the direct employment provisions are maintained so that holders of statutory positions can make safety complaints, raise safety issues or give help to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal or impact on their employment. The bill does this by making changes that add flexibility while maintaining the safety objective of these requirements. It ensures responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers resulting in silos of risk. Rather, that the coalmine operator, the entity ultimately responsible for the coalmine and the safety of its workers, remains the central point of responsibility. I will now address specific issues raised by members during the debate.

I begin by commenting upon the disingenuous nature of the opposition and the member for Maiwar regarding their repeated references to the Mining and Energy Union during the debate. The opposition have placed on record an amendment seeking a further 12 months at the request of industry while repeatedly referencing the Mining and Energy Union's perspective on aspects of these amendments. Let me be clear: the opposition is not the friend of mineworkers. Let me remind those opposite that they voted against industrial manslaughter legislation. A further 12-month extension of this bill will not resolve the opposing views that consultation highlighted and that have not been resolved in the 2½ years since these laws were passed. Government has sought to make amendments in response to industry concerns while maintaining the original intent of the legislation.

I now turn to the comments of the member for Maiwar. It is unsurprising that the Queensland Greens did not understand a bill concerning an industry and workers that they would rather do not exist. For their benefit, the bill seeks to strengthen the safety and health culture in our resources sector. Direct

employment requirements specifically mean a person must be a permanent employee of the coalmine operator to be appointed to certain statutory positions as opposed to contracted labour, as the member suggests. Our government wants to enable and empower workers to do the right thing and speak up regarding safety and health issues and to not feel impeded by their employment status.

The member for Maiwar also stated that the Isaac Regional Council submission raised concerns that this will further entrench contract or labour hire practices meaning fewer people living in the regions. It does not. The only people who want fewer people living in our regions are the Greens. Not only do they not understand the coal industry; they do not want the industry to exist full stop. It is only a Palaszczuk government that supports the coal industry and its workers in regional Queensland.

As I stated earlier, the opposition has proposed an extension until November 2023 before the bill comes into force. I will be clear: the bill does not impose any further requirements or restrictions. Rather, it provides limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements that come into full effect on 25 November this year. The exceptions in this bill, therefore, need to start simultaneously with the existing direct employment requirements coming into full effect to ensure industry can comply with those requirements. Further delaying the bill or the commencement of the direct employment requirements for additional consultation is not warranted. Stakeholders could not reach agreement on exceptions, particularly the 80 per cent exception, despite having a year to reach agreement. Further delaying the commencement of the bill would delay these much needed safety reforms.

The opposition raised concerns about the shortness of the committee process. The amendments have been developed following a yearlong consultation process, with stakeholders also providing feedback on the draft consultation bill. That yearlong process was preceded by an 18-month period since the laws were passed during which stakeholders had every opportunity to articulate their concerns. The direct employment requirements were incorporated into the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 on 25 May 2020, with an 18-month transition period that would have ended on 25 November 2021. However, it was towards the end of the transition period that industry began to outline these challenges. It is unfortunate that industry did not raise these issues in a clear and informed manner earlier. In response, further amendments were made to extend the duration of the transition period until 25 May 2022. This was to allow time for industry to fully articulate the challenges to implementation and, with unions and the government, seek to identify solutions to these challenges. We will always work with stakeholders to get the balance right and that is what we have done for the past 12 months. That is what good governments do.

At my direction, in late 2021 the Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health convened a tripartite working group to work through implementation challenges and identify potential solutions. The working group reached consensus on some but not all of the issues raised. Following consideration of the working group's advice and the possible solutions it identified, Resources Safety & Health Queensland spent the following months working with industry to formulate refined recommendations that were tested with the Queensland Resources Council, representing coalmine operators and contractor companies, and the Mining and Energy Union. My office and I have worked closely with the industry, the union and the regulator throughout this time. For example, my office or I met with, spoke to or received correspondence from the Queensland Resources Council at least 19 times outside the tripartite process that was established. For those opposite to claim that there was no consultation is wrong. We will always consult and we will always engage. However, having your say does not mean getting your way.

Concerns were also raised about the 12-week temporary absence or vacancy period exception. The 12-week period provides more flexibility for industry. It will assist with unplanned absences or vacancies in statutory roles resulting from resignation, long-term illness or injury and statutory position holders taking long service leave. The member for Condamine referred to the MEU concern that if a coalmine worker was absent for one day then another coalmine worker could be employed for 12 weeks. To be clear, it is not the case that if a coalmine worker is absent for one day then another coalmine worker can be employed for a period of 12 weeks. The period of employment is limited to when an incumbent is not in the position. This is dealt with by the Acts Interpretation Act 1954.

Concerns have also been raised about the basis for the exception for a contractor company that employs 80 per cent of the workers at an entire coalmine. The opposition asked where the 80 per cent came from. Stakeholders did not reach consensus. Some wanted a lower threshold while others wanted a higher threshold. As no consensus was reached, government determined an option between those two options. Further feedback on the consultation draft bill resulted in the exception being tightened even further. This amendment has not caught industry by surprise. This would apply in limited instances

where a contractor company is responsible for all aspects of the coalmining operations at a mine or is substantially responsible for operations but is not appointed the coalmine operator. It is about the entity responsible for the operation of the mine being responsible for the safety system.

Some industry stakeholders have questioned the purpose of this exception, stating that contractors would currently not meet this threshold. I am advised by the RSHQ that, according to information provided by the resources industry itself, currently there are 11 open-cut mines and one underground mine where a contracting company employs or engages over 80 per cent of the workers at the mine in a full-time service contract. For the record, these mines are Lake Vermont and Sonoma operated by Thiess; Meandu, Commodore and Broadmeadow East operated by BUMA; Broadlea, Baralaba and Kogan Creek operated by Golding; Bluff operated by MACA; Isaac Plains operated by EPSA, Byerwen operated by Macmahon; and Cook Colliery operated by Mastermyne. These stakeholders sought for the status quo to continue by allowing contractors to continue employing their own statutory position holders. However, that would be contrary to the intent of the changes made in the May 2022 bill and could see continued fragmentation of responsibility for safety.

I understand some industry representatives have suggested that not allowing contractors responsible for part mine operations to employ their own statutory position holders could create a disconnect between position holders and shift crews. With respect, that makes no sense at all. Already both operators and contractors have legal obligations to ensure the integration of their safety systems to ensure there is no conflict or disconnect. The direct employment requirements only strengthen against a potential disconnect or conflict, fortifying mine management structures by ensuring that they are unified within the one corporate structure. It will not compromise safety.

The member for Toowoomba North asked about having other contractors on site such as hospitality or cleaning crews. The 80 per cent rule applies to mine workers employed at the mine. The term 'coalmine worker' is defined in the act so there should be no doubt about what it means. Certainly I would hope that the industry would know who it employs as coalmine workers. RSHQ will monitor the implementation of the direct provisions and exceptions to those, and has the capacity to undertake that role.

The member for Callide said that the QRC wanted the exploration activities exception to be extended to mines that are in care and maintenance. While I understand that the member for Callide is a former geologist, to be clear, mines in care and maintenance such as North Goonyella, Minerva and Eagle Downs are operations that have a large footprint with associated risks. Those are not comparable to exploration activities. I would like to reflect upon the speech of the member for Callide. I extend my condolences to him as well as other workers at Anglo American's Moranbah North mine who were affected by the passing of their friend and colleague Mr Gavin Feltwell. The investigation into that matter is ongoing.

For the benefit of the member for Callide, as he is new to this place, this is not the same bill as the one introduced and passed in 2020 by the former minister, Dr Anthony Lynham. This bill seeks to make amendments to that bill, as I have already detailed extensively. The way that the member for Callide spoke yesterday was offensive and he should certainly do better in the future. The industry has had 2½ years to ready themselves for this change. We have asked them repeatedly to outline their challenges and, if they could not do that within 2½ years, I needed to act. I decided that workers and their safety could not wait any longer.

If the member for Callide wants to delay this legislation for a further 12 months, is he willing to explain to the families of someone impacted by a mine tragedy why, in his view, it was better to wait than to take action to improve safety?

The changes will benefit coalmine operators and workers by strengthening the safety and health culture in the resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements for coalmine statutory positions. These amendments address the challenges to implementing the direct employment requirements raised by industry and enable coalmines to be compliant when requirements come into full effect on 25 November this year.

The amendments also maintain the objective of direct employment requirements, which is to ensure holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make effective safety complaints, raise safety issues or give help to an official in relation to safety issues without fear of reprisal or impact on their employment. The requirements also ensure the coalmine operator, the entity ultimately responsible for the coalmine and safety of its workers, remains the central point of responsibility. By directly employing critical safety roles, the coalmine operator's responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple



employers. The Palaszczuk government is committed to achieving a strong resources sector, and this depends on making sure workplaces are safe. This bill will ensure that responsibility for safety is not fragmented and that holders of statutory positions feel safe to raise safety issues. This will protect the safety of our workers.

As noted yesterday by many members in their contributions to the debate, the bill contains amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 which will allow the minister to defer first-year rent for mining leases for minerals prescribed in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and in circumstances where the proponent can prove that funds saved from the deferral will be utilised toward startup costs of the project. I enjoyed hearing contributions of members about the benefits this rental deferral will provide for regional communities and about good jobs for Queenslanders.

I would like to clarify a point raised by the member for Condamine in relation to AMEC's submission on the bill about inclusion of phosphate as a critical mineral for the purpose of this rent deferral. I am very appreciative of AMEC's engagement on this bill and its representations on behalf of its member companies. However, phosphate is not considered a critical mineral and will not be prescribed in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 for the purposes of rent deferral. However, I do recognise that it is an important part of the agriculture industry.

I would also like to clarify the contribution of the member for Maiwar yesterday when he referred to the rent deferral of first-year mineral projects as a hand-out. This proposal is not a hand-out; it is a hand up. We support the growth of our critical minerals sector and encourage small to medium operators to pursue projects in Queensland. Further, this rent deferral will need to be repaid from the fourth year of the mine's life. Once again for member for Maiwar, this measure is not a hand-out but will result in greater investment in the Queensland critical minerals sector. Let me be clear: we cannot have a renewables sector without having a strong resources sector.

I thank all members for their contributions to the debate. I would like to commend the work of Resources Safety & Health Queensland. I also thank all stakeholders for their contributions to the development of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—

 **Mr WEIR** (11.54 am): I rise to speak to this clause. Before I do, I will touch briefly on the minister's comments that this side of the House does not support workers' safety—that we quoted the unions but do not take mine safety seriously. That is insulting and offensive. Many of us have family who work in mines. I do. The minister said that Labor is the only party that supports workers. Listen to the noise of the protest outside. I do not think everybody out there agrees with the minister.

**Ms LAUGA:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask about the relevance of this statement by the member given that we are debating particular clauses of this bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Condamine, you are addressing clause 2. It relates to the commencement date. I ask that you confine your comments to the relevant clause.

**Mr WEIR:** I mentioned in my speech that I propose the commencement date be moved to 25 November 2023. I stand by that. The minister has stated that basically nothing would happen and that workplace health and safety would fail if that date were set. That is simply not correct. The minister talked about the original bill from 2020. That time frame was only one tiny section of this bill. This is where the industrial manslaughter provisions came in. Everything else in that bill is enacted. I am talking about the date relating to statutory office holders being extended to 25 November 2023.

A number of submitters raised issues with reaching that timeline. That was raised in 2020 and has been proven to be correct. The unions raised it. The QRC has raised it. There are a number of other issues that will cause problems. I will speak to those as we move through consideration in detail. I suggest that the time frame be extended and to bed this down. We believe in worker safety 100 per cent. If a worker goes to work, they deserve to go home safely. We do not want to get this wrong.

In my closing remarks I said that I fear we will be back in this House addressing these provisions again if we do not provide adequate time to get them correct. I believe that, even after two years, it should have been resolved but it is not. That is a failure in negotiations. The shortened committee process would have helped to address where those pinch points were. It is my proposal to extend that time frame to 25 November 2023 so we can address those issues and sort them out one by one. All the other legislation and all the other safeguards are in place. It is only that date that I am disputing. That is what I propose.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Clause 2 deals with the date this legislation will take effect—16 days from today. It is 16 days for coalmines and contractors to employ statutory office holders, if they do not already do so, at a time when there is a chronic shortage of individuals to fill some of these positions—a chronic shortage as a consequence of some of the previous legislation this government has passed in relation to industrial manslaughter. We know that there is a shortage of open-cut examiners, for example, because many of those were sole contractors who have chosen to exit the industry as a consequence of the government's changes implemented in 2020.

We are here today debating this bill as an urgent bill because, presumably, the minister's explanation was that they could not come to a consensus so he had to make a decision and run with it. I do not want to verbal the minister—and he will have a chance to reply—but that smacks of a lack of consultation with industry. We have seen time and time again the resources industry being critical of this government because of a lack of consultation. On an issue that we have had two years to deal with—the minister has had to come in and move an urgent bill; by the time it gets royal assent there will probably be less than two weeks before implementation—are we suggesting that that is acceptable for industry? It is simply not.

The government has chosen to ignore the industry. Even the Mining and Energy Union says that this bill will not improve health and safety outcomes. We know that the government likes to pretend that they are the workers' friend and that they are listening to workers, but the MEU said that this bill seeks to undermine the original intent of the legislative change and places coalmine workers at risk. That is all the more reason an appropriate time frame needs to be considered to implement this legislation. We have curtailed the committee process. We have curtailed the ability for submitters to put in submissions on this bill. These are important considerations. There is a reason the parliament exists. There is a reason the parliament has a committee process. We have shortened that presumably because the minister was not organised and did not have his ducks in a row in terms of bringing this bill in in an appropriate time frame. The provisions of this bill will commence on 25 November—at a time when there is a shortage within the industry, for the reasons we are describing.

The minister should listen to the shadow minister, the member for Condamine, who has listened to industry and has listened to the unions as well, I might add. They would like to see implementation delayed for a further 12 months.

**Mr STEWART:** I have outlined in my second reading speech and in my speech in reply to the second reading debate that we consulted with industry. They brought their concerns to me after the first bill was introduced in May 2020. They highlighted that there would be some concerns with that. They spoke to me towards the end of the 18-month implementation period. They requested an extension of 12 months to work these issues out. That is what we did.

We worked with the tripartite working group comprising industry, RSHQ and mine workers unions. In certain circumstances they could agree and we have made those changes, but there were some other areas where they could not agree. The members opposite make reference to the MEU not supporting this. That is because the MEU wanted a 100 per cent contractor workforce before they would take on those statutory role positions. That is not the case here.

We have worked on this and we have consulted many times. I have outlined that we consulted 19 times with the tripartite group. We have met with the QRC outside of that tripartite working group. We have basically worked day and night to bring these amendments forward. That is where we have learned this. We have done a lot of work.

The changes that we are proposing through this legislation are to exemptions. For the last 2½ years industry has known that these changes were coming through legislation. All we have done is cut out some exemptions, particularly for explorers, and make sure they were covered and did not need to meet those requirements. These changes have been in train for 2½ years. Industry has had time to train people to meet the demand. They have competent people that they can train and put into those positions.

Division: Question put—That clause 2, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 55:**

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

**Grn, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**NOES, 31:**

**LNP, 30**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.


Pairs: Bailey, Camm; Skelton, Rowan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—

 **Mr WEIR** (12.08 pm): This is the clause that deals with an entity that employs or otherwise engages 80 per cent or more of coalmine workers at a coalmine being the statutory office holder. This raised a few issues in the brief committee hearing. It is still a bit unclear how this is going to work. The minister spoke about this in his speech. There has been some uncertainty whether the 80 per cent is right across the mine site, whether it is workers on the mine site and whether it includes security and administration staff. What does it include? The minister indicated that it was aimed at workers on site. I would like him to clarify that.

In terms of the 80 per cent of the workforce, if the contractor sublets some work and all of a sudden the figure drops to 75 per cent that means the statutory officer holder has to change. Statutory office holder is one of the rarest trades to find in this state. We are short of them. The companies looking for statutory officers generally have to advertise and search for three or four months before they find a suitable replacement.

If there is a sudden change in that 80 per cent, how would that transition happen for the statutory office holders? What conditions would be around that as far as moving from one employer to another is concerned? How long would that take? Can that be fast-tracked or not with the complexities around that? I think there are a few grey areas. It was raised on a number of occasions. QRC said that it was unclear where this requirement came from. It was not discussed in the working group established by the minister. It raised the question as to whether contracts for such things as security, cleaning and so forth would be included. I ask the minister to clarify that for the House.

**Mr STEWART:** In my reply speech I did clarify that, but I will clarify it for clarification. When the member for Toowoomba North specifically asked about this, I said that 80 per cent rule applies to coalmine workers employed at the coalmine. Coalmine workers is a term defined in the act, so there should be no doubt about what that means. Certainly I would hope that the industry knows exactly who it employs as coalmine workers. A coalmine worker is a worker who works at the coalmine. It is not security. It is not the cleaners. It is not the hospitality workers.


The other question about how we came to the 80 per cent is that it was not a term agreed to in the tripartite group. As I highlighted in my second reading speech, in my reply speech and again in my response today, when we asked the tripartite group to come to a conclusion they could not. We had one group who wanted more than 80 per cent. We had another group who wanted less than 80 per cent. As the minister, I arrived at the decision to make 80 per cent as our benchmark. We went back and further consulted with the tripartite group and industry. We got their feedback and we tightened up some of those aspects.

For the member for Condamine to come in and say that it was not considered as part of the discussions, I can add that neither was the care and maintenance issue that has also been identified now. Industry came back to us after the tripartite working group and said, 'The care and maintenance issue has now come up, so you need to make a decision,' and we did. We have continued to consult and work with industry, the unions and all their stakeholders to arrive at 80 per cent.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—

 **Mr WEIR** (12.13 pm): This is the section that deals with having a statutory office holder fill in in the interim. As I said in my speech, I understand that if someone is going on leave—they are going on holidays or taking long service leave—then you can bring in a replacement who may not be a direct employee of the mine operator for a period of 12 weeks or less. It is the shortage of qualified people that makes this so complex. If there is a series of unfortunate events and you have lost a couple of statutory office holders, what happens if you cannot access one? If you cannot access a suitable person for that role, where do you go from there? There were concerns raised that if that situation happened the mine or one section of it would have to cease operations. I ask for some clarity around the 12 weeks.

**Ms LAUGA:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 149 requires that the consideration in detail be a debate. It is not an opportunity to ask questions that have already been asked during the debate on the bill. This is a question from the member who is seeking an answer. Standing order 149 specifically says that this is to be a debate.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I am going to disagree with your interpretation. As I hear the member's comments, there are questions being asked. Consideration in detail is an important part of our process and I will allow the member to scrutinise the bill.


**Mr WEIR:** I would like some clarity around that. This was raised in the committee process and even in the recommendations. It was due to the abbreviated committee process that some of these things were not fully explored. I ask the minister to give some clarity about that. Unfortunately, this circumstance can arise.

**Mr STEWART:** As I alluded to and spoke about in my reply, concerns were raised around the 12-week temporary absence or vacancy period. This is about providing industry with greater flexibility and to assist with unplanned absences or vacancies in those statutory roles resulting from resignations or long-term illnesses or injury or statutory position holders taking long service leave. This is about working with industry to make sure that they have processes in place with forward planning and contingency planning. That is what industry does. They put processes in place to make sure that they can cover those situations. I am aware that they will work with RSHQ with regard to that. If there are any concerns around that, they will communicate with RSHQ and we will look at resolving any of those situations as quickly as we possibly can. The bottom line is that this is about miners' safety.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 26, as read, agreed to.

Clause 27—

 **Mr WEIR** (12.17 pm): This is the section about critical minerals. It lists what are critical minerals. The minister earlier said that phosphate is not a critical mineral. I would like clarity as to why it is not. I think anybody in the agricultural sector will tell you that it is extremely critical and there is a worldwide shortage.

**Ms Lauga:** The minister has already addressed this.

**Mr WEIR:** I am sorry if having to debate a bill distresses the member for Keppel. I ask the minister how he arrived at the decision that it is not a critical mineral and not included in this list.

**Mr STEWART:** I thank the member for the question. I did answer this previously. Phosphate is not determined as a critical mineral. Gold is not either. This is about the minerals that we use particularly for renewable energy. We have an abundance of them in the North West Minerals Province, as we do phosphate. It is not my determination; it is a determination made by an external organisation about what are critical minerals. I recognise and acknowledge that phosphate is certainly a valuable commodity when it comes to the agricultural industry, but it is not nationally recognised as a critical mineral.

Clause 27, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 28 to 31, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (12.19 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title



**Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (12.19 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.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

### APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)

### BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) resumed from 12 October (see p. 2601), Appropriation Bill (No. 3) resumed from 12 October (see p. 2602) and Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 12 October (see p. 2604).

### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.20 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

I will be addressing the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 initially in my second reading speech.

At the outset I would like to thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its report tabled 4 November 2022 regarding the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. I also want to thank all of those witnesses who appeared before the committee as part of the committee's work. I want to acknowledge the important work carried out by the committee and its chair, the member for Logan, in providing appropriate scrutiny and consideration to each of these appropriation bills. The work of committees in this parliament is often unrecognised. It is certainly not recognised as much as it should as an important part of our parliamentary and democratic process, so I want to recognise committee members for their work and particularly the work of the EGC chair, the member for Logan, who I think does an outstanding job leading that committee.

I note that the committee made two recommendations to parliament: that is, that both of the bills be passed. The purpose of the bills is to provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021-22 financial year.

'Unforeseen expenditure' is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund to a department which are above the amounts approved in prior appropriation acts. For example, a department may need supplementary appropriation to respond to emergent issues or implement government policy, or there may be a change in the timing of Commonwealth payments for project delivery. The expenditure of public funds is not something that any government should consider lightly, whether in a routine appropriation or in times of significant social and economic uncertainty. For the interests of clarity, unforeseen expenditure is not the same as a departmental overspend. Further, the bills are only concerned with unforeseen expenditure for 2021-22. Some agencies may have underspends which are not considered in this process.

Section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 provides that, should expenditure from the Consolidated Fund exceed the amount approved by annual appropriation, the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Treasurer, may authorise the expenditure. This amount comprises unforeseen expenditure and must be approved by the Governor in Council within four weeks of the end of the financial year.

On 14 July 2022 the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2021-22 financial year of \$2,825,309,000. The Consolidated Fund Financial Report contains explanations of all unforeseen expenditure incurred by departments, and this informs parliament's understanding and debate of the bills. Pursuant to sections 23 and 24 of the Financial Accountability Act, the Consolidated Fund Financial Report must be audited by the Auditor-General by 30 September and tabled in parliament. The Consolidated Fund Financial Report was tabled on 19 September 2022.

The payment of this unforeseen expenditure is also to be formally authorised under an act of parliament in accordance with section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001. Parliamentary approval for the unforeseen expenditure is now being sought, which is comprised of \$2,185,000 for the Legislative Assembly and \$2,823,124,000 incurred by 14 departments and agencies.

Firstly, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in the 2021-22 financial year of \$2,158,000. The unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service was primarily due to additional funding for enterprise bargaining outcomes and speech recognition technology for parliamentary proceedings. Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 seeks parliamentary approval for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure by 14 departments in the 2021-22 financial year of \$2,823,124,000.

I think we could all agree that a fair bit has happened that could not have been foreseen when I delivered the budget in June 2021. We can all think back to significant events that have had an outsized impact on our state in recent times: the February floods in Brisbane in 2022, the Omicron wave and the protracted war in Ukraine. For all of their forecasting expertise—for which I acknowledge the great work of officers of the Queensland Treasury—the Queensland Treasury did not foresee these events occurring in June 2021.

The majority of the unforeseen expenditure arises from three departments. The Department of Environment and Science has \$623,215,000 of unforeseen expenditure which is primarily due to additional funding to bring forward payments to local councils in relation to revenue collection from the waste disposal levy. Queensland Treasury has \$551,513,000 of unforeseen expenditure, including support for the Australian government's HomeBuilder Grant. It also included revised Queensland Government Insurance Fund claims and beneficiary payments for superannuation and central leave schemes and additional first home owner's grants.

Members will recall that the HomeBuilder Grant was an important component of the support offered to the construction sector during COVID-19. Queensland's construction sector was one of many areas of the state economy that did it tough through COVID-19, but they did an outstanding job. I want to acknowledge construction workers, construction leaders, construction businesses—in fact, everyone in the construction industry—who kept their part of the Queensland economy going during COVID-19. That was in no small measure due to their fortitude and perseverance, which of course signified the response of Queenslanders throughout the pandemic. It was also a consequence of the policy settings of the government to protect our people, businesses, industries and workers during the pandemic.

As I said in question time earlier today, the wealth of our economy and the wealth of our people are inextricably linked to the health of our people. The protective measures our government put in place allowed the construction industry to effectively continue unimpeded during COVID-19. This is why our government reaffirmed our commitment to the \$15,000 First Home Owner's Grant program and announced the \$5,000 Regional Home Building Boost. Queensland was the first state on the east coast to open applications for HomeBuilder on 31 July 2020. Queensland's \$15,000 First Home Owner's Grant is one of the most generous in the nation—higher than the \$10,000 offered in New South Wales and metropolitan Victoria. Our Regional Home Building Boost has provided extra incentives for all Queenslanders, not just first home buyers, to build a new home in the regions. Our government's implementation of HomeBuilder means that eligible Queenslanders can buy or renovate their home. Members may be aware that states were left with the cost of implementation of the HomeBuilder program by the former Morrison LNP government.

There were also funding adjustments for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority—that is to the Deputy Premier's Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—to cover recovery and reconstruction costs primarily arising from flooding in the summer of 2021-22.

The unforeseen expenditure of \$2,825,309,000 represents 4.44 per cent of the 2021-22 budgeted appropriation. It is noted that 12 departments had lapsed appropriation totalling \$916,814,000. The net impact of unforeseen expenditure and lapses was that total appropriation in 2021-22 was \$1.908 billion more than previously approved.

The committee acknowledged that, while the level of unforeseen expenditure for 2021-22 is higher compared with recent years, this financial year was heavily impacted by a range of unforeseen events. I want to thank the committee for its acknowledgement that those unforeseen events impacted on the necessary expenditure of government. These included COVID measures, the response to flooding, the bring forward of federal government payments, accelerated capital works by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and targeted measures by government to support Queenslanders.

Within the annual unforeseen expenditure, there were significant amounts of Commonwealth funding, for which the consolidated fund acts effectively as a postbox to pass the funding on to other entities. In light of the significance of COVID on all of us in recent years, it is worth considering the relevance of some of these measures. COVID-19 response measures were a key contributor through the business support grants, including programs such as the tourism and hospitality sector hardship support. These programs were partially funded by the Commonwealth. The COVID-19 business support grants program was a \$600 million program jointly funded by the Palaszczuk and the federal governments. From August to November 2021, grants were issued to support businesses impacted by COVID-19 health restrictions in Queensland. Overall, these important measures formed part of more than \$15.2 billion in financial assistance provided by this government to support Queenslanders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For reference and context to measures described in this bill, key elements of the overall financial response to COVID-19 included support for a range of sectors. Our tourism and hospitality sector support package included: a six-month payroll tax deferral for August 2021 for eligible impacted businesses; a refund or waiver of liquor licence fees; a deferral of land rent for eligible tourism operators; refunds or waivers for eligible tourism operators in certain parks and recreation areas; a rebate for private marina berthing fees for businesses in eligible local government areas; and a waiver or refund of inbound tour operator fees—all for the 2021-22 financial year.

In many respects we have offered more support for businesses than many other states, including: our economic recovery plan, underpinned by \$14.5 billion in recovery initiatives; setting and exceeding our SME procurement target of 25 per cent; over \$180 million in COVID adaptation grants to more than 20,000 businesses; \$100 million in electricity bill rebates for sole traders and small and medium-sized enterprises, which so far has supported around 180,000 Queensland businesses and operators; financial resilience webinars to assist small businesses with practical skills like cash flow management and business planning; tailored support through the Mentoring for Growth program; and \$1 billion in jobs support loans to nearly 7,000 businesses, supporting 86,000 Queensland jobs. No other state provided concessional loans to the extent that Queensland did. No loans were offered for small businesses in New South Wales, Western Australia or South Australia, and the loan scheme in Victoria was a quarter of the size of Queensland's.

Other COVID measures included over \$190 million in funding for QFES for quarantine accommodation, as was supplementary funding to the Department of Transport and Main Roads to address financial pressures arising from COVID-19. The additional waste levy funding to local councils for recycling infrastructure contributed \$672 million to unforeseen expenditure—a bring forward of planned future expenditure into the financial year 2021-22. This will benefit communities, as the advance waste levy payments will offset the cost of the waste levy on households while supporting investment to establish the circular economy Queensland needs to increase recycling and resource recovery.

Accelerated capital works for the Department of Transport and Main Roads was another key contributor to unforeseen expenditure in the year, contributing over \$400 million. These accelerated works contributed to projects around the state, including a range of Bruce Highway improvements. I do not believe there would be anyone in Queensland—certainly no-one in this House—who would criticise the Department of Transport and Main Roads for accelerating projects around the state, particularly as our economy recovers from COVID-19.

As the Treasury briefing to the Economics and Governance Committee provided, COVID-19 led to an increased and unforeseen demand on a range of areas of government service delivery. For example, the Queensland Police Service incurred additional expenditure while carrying out additional COVID-19 compliance activities. I want to acknowledge the outstanding service of members of the

Queensland Police Service for the work they did engaging with and carrying out compliance activities in a very difficult time during COVID-19. It should also be noted that Queensland was not alone in the extent to which we were impacted by responses to unforeseen expenditure emerging. In the wake of COVID-19 and adverse weather conditions, New South Wales appropriated the sum of \$17.8 billion—

**Mr Power:** How much?

**Mr DICK:** I will take the interjection from the member for Logan. The New South Wales government appropriated the sum of \$17.8 billion out of their Consolidated Fund for the exigencies of government during the year 2021-22. That amount is around six times that of Queensland.

I put our additional appropriation before the House today in this debate in that context. I make no complaint of the Liberal government in New South Wales for their additional unforeseen expenditure because COVID had various impacts on various jurisdictions across the country, but can I say that the way we handled the pandemic led the nation. There is no question that the way our government responded to COVID led the nation, and it resulted in unforeseen expenditure being at least a sixth of that of New South Wales. That is a significant difference and I hope members keep that in context.

I now turn to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As I outlined in the explanatory speech, the main purpose of the bill is to amend the Betting Tax Act 2018, the Racing Act 2002 and the Racing Regulation 2013 from 1 December 2022 to implement betting tax changes and provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry. The bill also amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to make consequential amendments of an administrative, machinery and transitional nature in relation to the mental health levy provisions which will commence on 1 January 2023.

I acknowledge the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report on the bill, which was tabled on 4 November 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members and secretariat for their hard work in considering this bill. I would also like to thank those who made submissions to the committee about the bill and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I note that the committee made three recommendations to parliament: firstly, that the bill be passed; secondly, that the bill be amended to omit subsections 25(3) and 26(2)(a) from the Betting Tax Act to ensure that free bets made as totalisator bets are incorporated into the calculation of the betting tax; and, thirdly, that I clarify how 'country thoroughbred race meetings' will be defined for the purposes of the Racing Act and the Racing Regulation and who will be responsible for defining this term. I support all of the committee's recommendations and I will table the government's response to the committee's report during the course of the debate.

With respect to recommendation No. 2, the government supports this recommendation and I propose to move amendments in consideration in detail that address the recommendations among other things. In relation to recommendation No. 3, I wish to provide clarification on how 'country thoroughbred race meetings' will be defined. Currently, under section 12 of the Racing Act, the minimum funding required to be paid for country thoroughbred racing is for 'non-UBET thoroughbred races', which are those races where off-course betting is not conducted. Racing Queensland has responsibility for deciding the classification of race meetings and is required to publish calendars for all codes of racing. Changes in both wagering and broadcasting technology have made defining country racing as 'non-TAB' irrelevant. Many country race meetings are being broadcast, and an increasing number have off-course wagering, such as the famous country race meeting at Birdsville which is well known to all honourable members.

The trend towards country racing being offered for off-course wagering is likely to continue and grow into the future. The amendments in the bill will require Racing Queensland to publish a specific Country Thoroughbred Racing calendar. This will run alongside its current requirement to publish calendars for each code. Racing Queensland advises that 'country thoroughbred racing' will continue to be defined as 'all thoroughbred race meetings conducted at licensed race clubs which are constituents of a Racing Queensland Country Racing Association'. As a transparency measure, amendments will also require Racing Queensland to report on expenditure on country thoroughbred racing in its annual report.

I note that the majority of stakeholders who made submissions on the bill support the proposed changes. In fact, I am pleased to say that former federal LNP member for Flynn, Ken O'Dowd, in his submission to the committee on the bill, stated, 'The Queensland racing industry is the best-funded and most sustainable industry in the country.' It is very rarely that I quote Mr O'Dowd with approval, but in this case I am happy to do so. Mr O'Dowd said that, 'Online bookmakers should return a fair share of




profits to Queensland race clubs', which is what this legislation achieves. I thought I would never say it, but I could not say it any better than the former member for Flynn. This is a very significant comment and I endorse it.

Under the existing funding arrangement, introduced by the former Newman LNP government, the future of Queensland racing was placed in jeopardy. Large multinational bookmakers for years have been profiting off Queensland's thriving racing industry, all the while bleeding the industry dry and stripping regional Queensland of a vital aspect of its economic and social fabric. It is not surprising that it requires a Labor government to support regional Queensland. With this bill, the Palaszczuk government is ensuring these large multinational bookmakers pay their fair share to an industry they so happily profit from.

With this bill, we are providing certainty to the racing industry so that it can continue to thrive for years to come. Unlike those who sit on the opposition benches, we do not just show up to race days for the photo-op; we show up and we stand up for racing in Queensland. With this bill, our government is yet again proving that this is a government that backs Queenslanders, backs regional Queensland and backs Queensland industries. In conclusion, I table the government's response to the parliamentary committee's report.

*Tabled paper:* Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response [1864].

I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.42 pm): So many bills, so many failures and so little time. I will take every last little minute of my 30 minutes because across these three bills is writ large the multiple failures of the Palaszczuk Labor government, and once and for all—

**Mr Stevens:** Of the Treasurer.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. The failures of the Treasurer are writ large across these three bills for so many reasons. When I was trying to think of where I would start my contribution today, I decided I would start with the Treasurer's introductory speech to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, noting we have two appropriation bills that are being debated cognately as well. I noted that the Treasurer in his introductory speech said, 'In recent days, there have been extensive discussions about revenue.' That particular comment came in the aftermath of the humiliating overruling on the Treasurer's renters' tax—the humiliation that the Treasurer faced in respect of the renters' tax. When the Treasurer comments on extensive discussions about revenue in his introductory speech, that is what he is alluding to. I could speak comprehensively about the renters' tax, but I will not because I will be moving an amendment. I am going to be tabling that amendment now for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, amendments to be moved by Mr David Janetzki MP [1865].

*Tabled paper:* Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr David Janetzki's amendments [1866].

*Tabled paper:* Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr David Janetzki's amendments [1867].

It will be an amendment that I will seek to move outside the long title of the bill. It is giving authority to the Premier's promise that the land tax, the renters' tax, will be shelved. It will be a test for the Treasurer. The Premier has committed to shelve the land tax. The Treasurer, in contrast—what did he say? 'I stand behind everything I said about the land tax.' It will be a test for the Treasurer.

Will the will of the Premier, who is now effectively the Treasurer of Queensland because she seems to be making the decisions here, prevail? Will the government support the amendment, or will the Treasurer refuse to repeal his renters' tax? That will be a test.

I wanted to comment on something else the Treasurer remarked upon in his introductory speech, and it was this comment: 'We promised the people of Queensland we would not raise their taxes, and we have kept that promise.' What an absurdity! What an absurdity, and the Treasurer knows it. Everybody on the backbench knows how ridiculous the Treasurer's sophistry is and how absurd are his arguments. He is a laughing-stock! The Treasurer is a laughing-stock, maintaining this ridiculous premise of the promise not being broken. He promised no new or increased taxes 26 times! The betting tax that we are debating here today is the fourth chapter in that broken tax promise. The betting tax is the fourth broken promise. The Treasurer can have any truth that he wants. He can live in whatever parallel universe that he wants, but the real truth is that he has broken a solemnly given promise, a promise he had given 26 times. He has broken it!

That brings me to the events of today in respect of payroll tax. I will have a lot more to say about payroll tax later in my contribution. Today is the opportunity for the Treasurer to actually clear up everything we have been discussing this morning during question time and what the AMAQ have said. If there has been no change to payroll tax, then the Treasurer must clear this up because otherwise what we have seen is that this government—

**Mr POWER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have scoured the long title and I cannot see any relevance to the section he is talking about now.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Logan, we were conferring about another matter and I have been considering the long title of the bill in relation to earlier commentary from the member for Toowoomba South. The parameters of this bill are extremely wide, so I will ask the member for Toowoomba South to stay broadly within those parameters.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I should remind the member for Logan that in fact the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill should actually be renamed the 'Payroll Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill'. Eighty per cent of the bill is about payroll tax because the government, in its haste in June to move the amendments on payroll tax, now have to come in here and fix it up again. Fourteen clauses that were amended on payroll tax in June have to now be fixed. I will have a lot more to say about payroll tax shortly and the government's failures in trying to implement it.

The truth is in relation to today's events, despite promising no new or increased taxes, the Palaszczuk government sought to implement a renters' tax in the middle of a housing crisis, and now the Palaszczuk government is seeking to introduce a patients' tax in the middle of a health crisis. What is clear is that over and over again this government only has answers if they are taxing and then spending. It is time for the Treasurer to clear this up because, despite promising no new or increased taxes repeatedly, the Palaszczuk government sought to introduce a renters' tax in the middle of a housing crisis and now they are proposing a patients' tax in the middle of a health crisis. What is wrong with this government? They have one trick: it is tax and then spend.

The Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill also deals with the betting tax. We have seen that this bill contains a five per cent increase in betting tax, from 15 per cent to 20 per cent, at the point of consumption. That is on the record. It will result in more funding for Queensland racing, which we on this side of the House obviously support. Ultimately, that will be a good thing for racing in Queensland, but how did we end up at this position? How did the Palaszczuk Labor government introduce these taxes? Let's start with the secrecy around this deal and how it was actually introduced.

I want to comment firstly on the consultation because there was no consultation on the bill. Racing Queensland was consulted in respect of the betting tax, but no other people were consulted.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am coming to that. Racing Queensland was consulted in the preparation of these amendments, but no-one else was. There was one gap in the explanatory notes in relation to consultation. There was one other party that was consulted substantially in respect of these amendments. What was it?

**Mr Mickelberg:** Anacta.

**Mr JANETZKI:** It was Anacta; they were very busy consulting. The lobby group that donates hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Labor government met repeatedly with the Treasurer's chief of staff.

**Ms Simpson:** Consultation by donation.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Lots and lots of consultation with Anacta—more than 40 times and 17 times with the Treasurer's chief of staff. When it comes time for consultation we know that the way to get to the Treasurer is through a lobbyist. No matter what he says, he will meet everybody. The truth is if Tabcorp comes with Anacta, the Treasurer's door is wide open. In response, what does the Labor Party get? They get donations. They get lots of donations from Anacta.

In respect of the betting tax, there are questions about how the deal was reached and the secrecy involved. Did we not see an immediate outcome from the lack of accountability and the lack of transparency around this, and it really would have hit the Treasurer hard. Immediately we saw Ladbrokes remove their sponsorship of the Broncos. I understand that the Treasurer is a bit of a Broncos fan, but I reckon somebody should tell the Broncos that under this Treasurer they are getting a dud deal because of the way he does business in Queensland. Let's go to what Ladbrokes said. They stated—

It is a very difficult decision to walk away, but we don't really have a choice as we attempt to offset the challenges of this poorly thought through tax increase, which we weren't consulted on and didn't see coming.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** That is the consultation. They probably should get Anacta on board.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you will need to be in your own seat if you want to participate in the debate.

**Mr JANETZKI:** That could be the way to get a better deal here in Queensland.

I want to move on. As I have commented, 80 per cent of this bill is about payroll tax. I am going to turn my contribution to the payroll tax provisions. I want to make a couple of comments, firstly, about the rushed way in which this entire bill has been taken through the parliament. There were nine days between the introduction of this bill and the closing of submissions, and 80 per cent are very technical provisions—and I will come to what tax professionals are saying to me about these payroll tax provisions shortly. There are very technical provisions and nine days is simply not good enough.

I also noticed that the bill did not go to the committee we would have expected it to go to. Maybe that is why the member for Logan did not know how much payroll tax was in the bill because normally it would go to the honourable member's committee, but it did not. A bill that completely rewrites the payroll tax arrangements in Queensland went to the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I give a shout-out to the honourable members on this side of the House who are members of that committee, the member for Southern Downs and the member for Theodore. They did an outstanding job and I will come to their contribution a little later.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I do not know who from the other side of the House is on that committee. It does not matter; it would not have added any value. I wish to point out that when you are completely rewriting the payroll tax arrangements in Queensland, one would think it would go to the pre-eminent economic committee in the parliament but it did not. Submissions closed nine days after the bill was introduced and three-quarters of the bill relates to payroll tax. That is where we need to consider the complications involved.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Government members did not even know payroll tax was in the bill, otherwise they would not have been seeking points of order earlier.

There are 14 clauses in the payroll tax provisions that are being amended five months after they were amended. This idea was dreamt up in the Treasurer's office at the 11th hour prior to the budget. I presume it was a thought bubble coming out of the Treasurer's office. Those 14 provisions were just amended in June in the revenue legislation and they are being amended again now. Admittedly, they are quite technical issues, but there were some clear omissions relating to the Commissioner of State Revenue, to account for periodic fluctuations in payroll tax and to allow for group related entities being able to share information. These are technical provisions but provisions that one would have expected to be captured in any analysis.

There is considerable complexity in these payroll tax provisions and I am hearing about them from tax professionals. We have eight weeks to go before commencement. I pose a question to the Treasurer: is the Queensland Revenue Office ready for the implementation of these provisions? Many of the changes in the payroll tax provisions are there because of transitional arrangements—arrangements that end on 31 December and have to go over to 1 July. The technicalities in this bill have made it longer and more complicated. People are coming to me asking whether they will be required to make the calculations or whether they will they be done by the Queensland Revenue Office. There are clear questions and there are eight weeks to go. Can the Treasurer give an assurance that the technology and the machinery of government will be ready?

We saw with the land tax that the Queensland Revenue Office and the Treasurer had no idea how that renters tax would have been collected and how many people would have been impacted. They had never had any dealings with other jurisdictions. It was a disaster. The Treasurer has to come into the House and provide an assurance that this payroll tax will be able to be collected when it is implemented from 1 January.

I also note that they have copied Victoria. So often this government copies what happens in Victoria—

**Mr Powell:** Because Dan Andrews is so good!

**Mr JANETZKI:**—because Andrews is so good! They have tried to copy it, but they have not quite copied it exactly. The calculation mechanism is, in fact, different to what is in place in Victoria. Again, it adds to the cross-jurisdictional complications.

I am reminded of the KPMG briefing note I received about the payroll tax and the complications surrounding it. I note KPMG are pretty good donors to the Labor Party, too. I remember on the land tax it was all the Labor Party law firms that were blowing the whistle on how poorly thought through it was. Now we have KPMG, and I remember they gave \$30,000-odd to the Labor Party last May. They are pretty good donors and it is a bit of a breeding ground for directors-general. KPMG are ringing the alarm bells. They said in their briefing note to their clients—

... anyone who had the inclination to read the fine print in the legislation will have realised quickly that a 'back of the envelope' effort probably won't cut it.

That is as scathing as a big firm will get. That tells us the complications—

**Mr Mickelberg:** From a Labor mate.


**Mr JANETZKI:**—especially from a Labor mate.

I want to note the member for Southern Downs' and Theodore's questioning of Treasury officials during the committee's public hearing. I thank the honourable members for their questions because they uncovered that Treasury officials had no idea how many businesses would be impacted and how much would be raised. Again, where is the modelling? Where is the work undertaken by the Treasurer? Where is he saying to his people, to his ministerial staff, 'I demand this information. I demand a higher standard'?

**Mr Powell:** Let's work it out.

**Mr JANETZKI:** 'Let's work this out.' Is this how business is operating in Queensland in 2022?

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr JANETZKI:** It is time for the second half! I was out sucking on some oranges at lunchtime. On return to the House, what did I find? I found the completion of the humiliation of the Treasurer of Queensland. To the national embarrassment of Queensland, his humiliation is complete: he has copied our amendment to repeal the renters tax. Here it is: the Treasurer has tabled the repeal of the renters tax. It has taken a very long time for the Treasurer to reach this stage. Ultimately, it took the Premier to overrule the Treasurer and reach this stage. It does not matter whether it is academics, economists, lawyers, private investors or industry; the Treasurer does not listen to anybody. It took the Premier to overrule him, and here is the amendment at long last. He went away, copied my amendment over lunch, dropped it in the House, and here we are.

There is one interesting thing that I would love the Treasurer to confirm. We know that the Premier has walked away from the tax but that the Treasurer stands by everything he ever said about it. That is interesting, because I note that the Treasurer has said that it is the government's decision 'not to proceed at this time'. What coded message could the Treasurer possibly be sending? I will look forward to the Treasurer moving his amendment after he went away at lunch, stole my amendment and brought it back into the House. The national embarrassment that is the Treasurer is of a grand scale, and his humiliation is now complete.

I have only 10 minutes left. I turn to the appropriation bills, because we know how important appropriation bills are. Taxpayers' dollars must be spent wisely, soberly and calmly, but what do we have?

**Mr Stevens:** A record blowout.

**Mr JANETZKI:** We have a record blowout. The member for Mermaid Beach knows all about it, because he was on the committee examining the bills. I thank him and our committee members. We know that this is important, and the only reason we are even debating this—it is always important to remember the history—is because of a Liberal National government.

Back in the day, when Andrew Fraser was treasurer, the supplementary appropriation bills would only be debated at the same time as the next year's budget bills. Who brought transparency and accountability to Queensland? It was the Liberal National Party, and we are going to keep doing it. There is only one side of this House that is committed to a parliamentary budget office, and that is ours. In government, we will do it. There is only one side of this House that is committed to an intergenerational equity report, and that is ours. We are committed to transparency and accountability in Queensland, and we will bring it under a Crisafulli government.

I want to turn now to a couple of particular appropriations. Outside of the House, we are looking forward to speaking about the wasteful spending that is on display. I remind the House again of the wise words of Sir Leo Hielscher, Queensland's greatest public servant. Sir Leo said that the job of the treasurer was to constrain and manage the wasteful spending of his colleagues around the table.

**Mr Weir** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Condamine. What we have seen here is a Treasurer who is incapable of controlling the wasteful spending of his cabinet colleagues. It is writ large across the budget in the \$2.8 billion budget blowout. I will let others talk about Wellcamp, but obviously it is in my region. I note that our deputy leader is in the chamber. He will have a bit to say about Wellcamp. He will talk about the white elephant and all the wastefulness that went along with it.

I want to spend a moment or two talking about the equity adjustment in the Treasurer's own department. There was an equity adjustment in relation to Visy. The Treasurer's portfolio had half a billion dollars of supplementary appropriation, but I want to comment on the Visy arrangements. Boy oh boy, has that been prominent! It looks like in Queensland there is a way of doing business. It does appear that in Queensland the government has some serious questions to answer. I will table this little picture before I get into the details.

**Mr Powell:** It's a big picture.

**Mr JANETZKI:** It is a big picture. It has been in the *Courier-Mail*, the *Australian* and the *Financial Review*. I table it.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 31 October 2022, titled 'Breaking ground on our new \$500M recycled glass factory' [[1868](#)].

The picture is of a fake sod turning. The real digger was outside, but they had transported some dirt and some golden shovels into the indoor arena, along with a billionaire. I have tabled the *Financial Review* version of that photo, because it is about the only time the Treasurer's face will appear in that august publication since he has been destroyed by every other commentator and state government across the nation on the renters tax. It will be the only time the Treasurer is seen favourably in any newspaper such as the *Financial Review*.

We know that Visy has received at least \$16 million from the state government, but there are a whole range of other transactions where there is no accountability for what is given. At the moment there is secrecy around the money that the government has given to Visy in Queensland. I pose the question: is this how government operates in Queensland—that the Premier hands over taxpayers' money to billionaires in exchange for free advertisements? Is that really how government is done in Queensland? It raises some serious questions. There is wall-to-wall blanket advertising of the Visy group while the Premier hands over taxpayer money to billionaires in exchange for free advertising. Is that really how government operates in Queensland?

**An opposition member:** Yes.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection—it appears so. When we come to the supplementary appropriation bills, there are serious questions to be answered in terms of how much money has been granted to the Visy group and what the quid pro quo is. Have the 30 spinners in the Premier's office approved these advertisements? Was the Premier's office aware that if they handed over the money they would receive wall-to-wall advertising across our nation's newspapers? There are serious questions that have to be answered.

The report on state finances was released a couple of weeks ago. The Treasurer spoke about revenue lines and commented on payroll tax and transfer duty—they were up. There is one particular revenue line that the Treasurer just does not want to talk about. He does not want to mention it; he does not want to say anything about it. Ultimately, it is propping up the Queensland budget right now. I am referring to coal.

The Premier does not want to talk about it either, but the Treasurer really does not want to talk about it. However, the truth is the forecast last year was for \$2.6 billion in royalties and it has topped out at \$7.29 billion in coal royalties. The government had collected in three months what it had projected it would collect over four years, and the Treasurer does not say a single word about it. There are rivers of gold flowing across this government—revenue gold flowing across it—and what have we to show for it? We have wasteful spending and we have revenues of gold flowing that we have nothing to show for.

I am interested in the fact that the Treasurer has not spoken about coal. The Queensland Resources Council lunch is coming up in a couple of weeks. Somebody should tell the resources minister, because he never knows what is going on! Somebody should tell him that the lunch is on because the guest speaker at the Queensland Resources Council lunch in November is none other than Shingo Yamagami, the Japanese Ambassador. When has it ever occurred before that the Japanese Ambassador would be the guest speaker at a function like that? It is because this government

holds the industries that prop up the Queensland economy in contempt. It holds industries that prop up our economy and deliver revenue gold in contempt. My hope is that the Treasurer and the resources minister will be there to hear Mr Yamagami speak at the Resources Council lunch.

I also want to comment about the relative silence of the Treasurer on coal in his report to parliament on his overseas trip. This was his trip to Korea, Japan and Singapore for the investment and trade mission. I did a little CTRL-F search to try and work out what the Treasurer was talking about. I have heard some rumours that the Japanese are very disappointed and expressed it in the only way they know how—in courteous and formal tones—but I just wanted to do a quick CTRL-F search on the report to see how often 'coal' got a mention. This is the report to parliament that the Treasurer tabled a couple of weeks ago. There were 39 mentions of gas, 30 mentions of hydrogen and even 12 mentions of oil. How many mentions of coal were there do members reckon? It was not zero. There were three. There were three mentions of coal on a trade mission, and in what context was it mentioned in the report? They were pretty repetitive—


JOGMEC discussed the history of long-term Japanese coal industry development in Queensland.

My guess is that that is code for a number of greater things, so I am going to go to the other mention because it is telling—

The Treasurer received a briefing of Idemitsu's corporate history and investment in Queensland's coal industry ...

The Treasurer holds the industries that prop up our economy in contempt. The Treasurer is a national embarrassment, and we see it in the land tax amendments here today. He cannot control the wasteful spending of his colleagues. It is clearer than ever that under this Labor government all you get is more taxes, wasteful spending and the wrong priorities.

**A government member:** Angry little man!

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.13 pm): He is an angry man and he is angry because Queensland's unemployment is at record lows, and that is not what the shadow Treasurer wants to see. He does not want to see the record jobs and he does not want to see the record surplus—the largest since accrual accounting was put in place. This is what makes the member for Toowoomba South so angry. He says that there is no mention of coal, and I thought that that was unusual because I remembered the Treasurer in his speech speaking multiple times about coal, and I did a quick Ctrl-F and found it multiple times. I went to the 'hidden' coal page. On the page for [budget.qld.gov.au](http://budget.qld.gov.au) what is the first link on the left? Coal! If it is hidden, it is hidden only from those who are blind. What do we know the member for Toowoomba South closes his eyes to? He closes his eyes to the record surplus that we are delivering. He closes his eyes to the strong investment that we are seeing, including in the coal industry. He closes his eyes to the record low unemployment rate because he does not want to see it and he does not want to talk about it.

I want to talk about the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) because it is an important part of our budgetary process to ensure that we deal with unforeseen expenditure. I note the deputy chair is in the chamber and together we looked at the unforeseen expenditure, and in some ways it is very normal. It happens every year and it is very boring. Every member of this House knows that this bill is a requirement presented every year and on some level it is so standard and so boring and accepted that our committee received no submissions on it—none—and the statement of reservation was possibly the shortest on record.

We heard Treasury give a very professional report on the need to respond as good prudent governments do to expend funds in response to new and emergent policy, changing costs of supplies and of course emergency contingencies relating to floods and to COVID-19 in the case of the 2021-22 budget. We understand that this is a normal part of government, but after reading the breathless and excited media and especially the breathless and excited LNP press releases they made some claims that simply do not stack up to the briefest amount of examination or scrutiny—very much like that reference to coal which did not stack up for 30 seconds after looking at the budget website. I hate to repeat the statements they have made, but it is worth taking a quick look. Today we have an appropriation separate from the past budget of \$2.8 billion after the passage of the 2021 budget. I noticed in press releases it was called 'staggering', and the deputy chair might agree with those words—I hope he would not, but he might. However, when we compare it to other years—and the deputy chair would know this—since 2008 there have been four years that have had larger unforeseen expenditure as a percentage of the overall budget. Members here know that and none would be so silly as to claim that it was in any way out of the ordinary—well, I hope!

What is extraordinary though is what our state and our nation faced in 2021. I said I hoped they would not do it, but of course we have already heard the shadow Treasurer call it a record blowout when the very briefest examination of the documents since 2008 shows that it is the fifth largest, and those budgets did not face the crisis that we faced in our state and our nation in 2021-22. COVID-19 cases, especially hospitalisations, peaked in Queensland during this period. The state, like most good Queensland businesses, had to adjust. It had to be agile and adjust to keep Queensland strong, to keep creating jobs and to keep Queenslanders safe. That meant new expenditure and to not have done this would have hurt Queensland. That is obviously what the LNP and especially the shadow Treasurer would do. He wanted to hurt Queensland.

We also faced floods during this period, but to put a standing budget in place for an event that is predicted to perhaps happen once in 100 years is obviously not the way budgets should work. Just like thousands of flood-affected home and business owners, the state faced this unforeseen expenditure. What is extraordinary is that these floods were the third most costly disaster event in Australia's history. That is what we faced in that budgetary year. We did not hear the shadow Treasurer talk about any of that. These were truly extraordinary twin events and truly unforeseen. A newspaper editorial claimed that businesses that were affected by COVID and floods and changed their budgets should have their leadership sacked, and possibly the shadow Treasurer put out a press release that agreed with this. The newspaper stated—

Can you imagine a company that did the same?

It is referring to unforeseen expenditure. It continues—

No. Chief executives either stick to their budget or they are asked to look for another job.

Does the shadow Treasurer agree? The newspaper seems to be claiming that businesses such as Qantas which faced extreme budget changes should sack their CEOs. The TWU actually agrees with that but not because Qantas was unable to adjust to the ravages of COVID; rather, it has other problems with the CEO. Businesses everywhere in the last three years have had to be agile and have had to make large changes to their budgets and as unusual challenges arose they needed to adapt.

This agility should be applauded, not attacked as the LNP has done and not, by proxy, attack those very businesses that have grown jobs in Queensland, which is part of the reason we have strong growth and record unemployment.

**Mrs Frecklington:** \$2.8 billion!

**Mr POWER:** Sorry, I missed that?

**Mrs Frecklington:** \$2.8 billion.

**Mr POWER:** It is almost like a Dorothy Dixter! The member says \$2.8 billion. Perhaps we should examine, as the member has called out, other states because we know other states had to be agile and react to these changes. We note that in New South Wales the LNP's favourite Treasurer, Matt Kean—I know those opposite all love him—announced an unforeseen expenditure of—and the member for Nanango might chip in here—\$17.8 billion in 2021-22. Maybe someone on that side could get out a calculator and tell the member for Nanango how many more times that is than our budget. I can see their blank faces so I will do the calculation for them. It is 6.3 times more. That is truly staggering.

I recognise that New South Wales faces a challenge. I would not be as silly as the shadow Treasurer would be. He would say let New South Wales burn; do not spend that \$17.8 billion. That is the kind of wastage that goes on in New South Wales where LNP governments expend 6.3 times as much as Queensland. I am not really making a criticism of the New South Wales Treasurer. They had to react to that deep need and expend that money. What I am critical of is the New South Wales government's response to COVID-19. They adopted the LNP's suggestions. The member for Nanango's suggestion was to open the border—those opposite said it 64 times; let it rip. There was only one result: \$17.8 billion in extra expenditure. That resulted from the member for Nanango's policies, the policies the member for Broadwater supported. They ended up costing New South Wales \$17.8 billion. This is the extra deficit. This is on top of the huge deficit they were already running. They knew going into that budget they were in a disaster.

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Logan has talked for the last 3½ minutes about the New South Wales appropriation bill. Could you bring him back to the title of this bill?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin):** Resume your seat. There is no point of order.

**Mr POWER:** They do not want to talk about the New South Wales comparative budget because nothing will save them from the embarrassment of wanting to run a budget that would have had these deficits and debts. Our government was focused on strong action to keep Queenslanders safe. It had the agility that meant we have had the opposite situation to New South Wales. This expenditure, appropriately applied to the right areas, has paid off. This morning the Treasurer spoke of our economic recovery and highlighted two things: we have the lowest unemployment since records began and, simultaneously, the largest budget surplus since accrual accounting began. These are things that LNP governments, which we know stand for deficit, deficit, deficit, can only dream of.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): I would like to acknowledge visiting students and teachers in the gallery from Rolleston State School in the electorate of Gregory.

**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.23 pm): I have just listened intently to the member for Logan who, incidentally, is the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee. I wonder how he ever got that job. Looking across the Labor Party, who else would have got it? They are as bad as each other.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I also point out to the member for Mermaid Beach that the reason the member for Logan talks so often in his contribution about other states and not about Queensland's record is because the Labor Party do not have a track record to be proud of. We have seen motion after motion debated in this House where the Labor Party talk about international affairs and state and territory affairs but never much about Queensland because the longer they are in government the more arrogant they get. The more the hubris builds up in their government the less they want to talk about themselves.

Queenslanders have now woken up to the fact that after eight years under the Palaszczuk government all they have to show for it is \$2.8 billion in unforeseen expenditure. The member for Logan, the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, would have us believe this is just run-of-the-mill stuff. Member for Logan, it is for the Labor Party. Budget overruns and unforeseen expenditure is very much the Labor Party's way. It is easy for the Labor Party to spend money when it is not their own. They do it in droves. They waste it. I will get into some of the details in a minute.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Logan!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I cannot hear him under his mask. Take it off so I can hear you! The reality is that Treasurer Cameron Dick is the worst treasurer in Australia, just as he was the worst attorney of Tuvalu. His record precedes him in this place.

**Mrs Frecklington:** The worst attorney-general in Queensland too.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. He was the minister for health. He was also the minister for education. They keep moving him from portfolio to portfolio, as they do with other Labor ministers. Incidentally, rather than the Treasurer coming in here as proudly as the Premier did and getting rid of the renters tax, he slips it in before the lunchbreak hoping that no-one notices. He did not talk about it. He did not circulate his amendment during the second reading. He just thought, 'I'll wait until the lunchbreak and maybe no-one will hear about it or know about it'. Absolutely we know about it because the amendment that the Treasurer is making to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill gets rid of the renters tax. At least one would think it does, but alas it does not. Treasurer Dick says in the explanatory notes 'amend the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act to give effect to the government's decision not to proceed at this time with the changes to Queensland land tax'. 'At this time' is code for 'it is coming back'.

Treasurer Cameron Dick is so arrogant that the first day the Premier said they were not going to proceed with this renters tax due to the public scrutiny she was under, the Treasurer already had a statement ready to issue to the media from his office which said, 'The Treasurer stands by everything he said about the renters land tax.' That is because he did not want to get rid of it. He still does not and he is begrudgingly coming in here now and moving an amendment to get rid of it 'at this time' which is code for 're-elect the Labor Party in two years and the first budget they hand down in 2025 the renters tax will be back on the agenda'. For the next two years we must not let Queenslanders forget that this high taxing, big taxing Labor state government will continue to do it. The Treasurer has been caught out.

The Premier goes to Canberra and after negotiations with her state and territory chief ministers, where she was told they were not going to support and introduce a similar regime, she says we did not get the support. The Treasurer was on record saying he never needed the support of the states and



territories, but he still wanted to do it. People who have served in this parliament with Treasurer Dick know he is arrogant. That is why this amendment says 'at this time'. The Treasurer knows the Premier is likely not to go to the next election and he is telling his colleagues he will bring it back because he is too arrogant to accept the fact that he came up with a bad idea. It should never have been introduced. Because of his arrogance and hubris and long term in government he had no other option but to maintain his view that the tax should be still there.


As I said, he is the worst treasurer in Australia and we have seen that time and time again, not only with the rent tax but also with other things that we have seen from this Treasurer. Members of the Labor Party would have us believe that it is unprecedented to have \$2.8 billion in unforeseen expenditure. Of course, some of that expenditure relates to 'waste camp' or Wellcamp. Over \$200 million has been wasted on a white elephant in the Toowoomba region. That is \$200 million that I say would have been better invested in health, in education or in trying to fight the youth crime crisis we have in the state. Can members imagine the reaction of the victims of crime who were in the gallery this week if, as a government, we said to them, 'You've got \$200 million for law and order and safety campaigns so what should we do with that \$200 million?' There are patients who cannot get into a hospital at the moment, particularly in regional Queensland where the government is not investing. In fact, they are closing services in regional Queensland. Imagine if we asked a cancer patient, 'What would \$200 million do for the public health system in this state?'

As I said, the reason the Labor Party does not care about the waste is because it is not their money. They do not care. When it is someone else's money they have no regard for it. This is someone's money. It is Queensland taxpayers' money. Queensland taxpayers are working harder than ever and their taxes are being wasted by this government.

The Department of Energy and Public Works is to get \$57 million. That is about as much as the plan they have announced for energy. Incidentally, three days after they announced their big Energy and Jobs Plan they were talking about plan B because they anticipate that plan A, which is the catalyst project in the Pioneer Valley, will be a failure. They are planning plan B on the assumption that plan A will fail. Twenty-five families will lose their homes without consultation. What does that remind you of? That's right: TMR's Minister Bailey and people in Griffin, in the electorate of Murrumba, losing their homes due to a lack of consultation because—guess what—this government has stopped listening and, under Premier Palaszczuk, this government has stopped caring! She has checked out. Because we have a Premier who has checked out Queenslanders are suffering.

In the youth justice space, I suspect that the \$175 million of additional unforeseen expenditure includes over \$1 million wasted on the Caloundra youth jail that they were going to proceed with. The member for Caloundra, who sits in here today, was handing out brochures saying how great it was going to be for the Caloundra electorate and how it was going to keep the community safe. He put out a myth buster saying that the member for Ninderry and I were misleading the community on that. He put out myth busters about the Caloundra jail, but when he realised that his community did not want it—which the LNP knew from the very start—the member for Caloundra tried to claim credit for the government getting rid of it. It was his government that wanted it! Guess what? A year later it has not been turned back into a watch house. The police do not have it back. They said it was always going to be upgraded but that was misleading. It was never going to be upgraded. We have a youth crime crisis in Caloundra and the best that the member for Caloundra could offer his constituents who were having their cars stolen was a youth jail in the heart of the Caloundra tourist strip. What a failure! The member for Caloundra failed to listen to his community. The LNP will listen to the electorate of Caloundra when their member will not.

I finish on this point: the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Minister Bailey, said that the former Morrison government's commitment of over \$1 billion for the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail was in a fake budget because it was never passed. How it is then that a federal Labor government can rely on a fake budget to fund \$1.6 billion for the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail? It is because the money was in there from the LNP federal government! I call on the state government to now fund 50 per cent for the heavy passenger rail linking Beerwah, Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore. The Sunshine Coast community deserves heavy passenger rail.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate of the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am a member of the Economics and Governance Committee that inquired into the two appropriation bills last month. I thank the department for the briefing provided to members. The appropriation bills authorise the unforeseen expenditure from consolidated funds above the amount previously approved by the parliament. The

amount previously approved by this House for the financial year starting 1 July 2021 was just over \$63.5 billion. The amount of unforeseen expenditure we are here to authorise, through these bills, for that financial year is just over \$2.8 billion.

The three biggest departments accounting for the unforeseen expenditure are the Department of Environment and Science, Queensland Treasury and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. The Department of Environment and Science spend is primarily due to advance payments to local councils with respect to the waste disposal levy. These advance payments were delivered to councils to help offset COVID expenses and shortfalls experienced by councils across Queensland during the pandemic. Queensland Treasury's unforeseen expenditure included the provision of the Australian government's HomeBuilder grant, increased First Home Owner Grants and payments against the Queensland Government Insurance Fund. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning expenditure was due to the allocation of money to the Building Acceleration Fund, the on-forwarding of the federal government's Financial Assistance Grants to local governments and costs incurred by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to cover reconstruction costs arising from the flooding across Queensland in 2021-22.

As we can see if we look at the bulk of expenses across other departments, these spends were incurred by a government and departments to stimulate the economy during a pandemic and in response to the double whammy of natural disasters. I note that the statement of reservation refers to these expenses as 'wasteful spending' and the result of a government that 'no longer values Queenslanders' money the way it should'. Allow me to retort. This is the same opposition that called on the government to do more and spend more during the pandemic. They felt that our economic stimulus packages, whether to businesses, councils or individuals, were not enough. 'More', they said. 'Do more', the opposition said. And so we did. This is the statement of reservation we get when we spend. They say it is wasteful and shows no respect for Queenslanders' money. Let us look at the result of this spending and compare it to other jurisdictions.

The Queensland economy is powering ahead following our world-leading response to COVID-19 and not just in a health sense but also, clearly, in an economic sense.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:** I take the interjection because the Morrison government should have been responsible for immigration during the pandemic but, no! It was left to the states to shoulder the burden of looking after people coming through international borders during the pandemic because the Morrison government was left wanting. The Queensland government and Queensland taxpayers had to pick up the cost when the Morrison government failed and was negligent in its constitutional duties.

We were and are the best-performing mainland state with respect to the economy. Our state is attracting people from every other state. We have clearly managed this right and people are voting with their feet. We can compare our performance to that of New South Wales. 'Botched' is the best way to describe their performance with lockdowns long after the horse had bolted. They lost weeks and months to lockdowns. New South Wales's unforeseen expenditure during the corresponding period is \$17.8 billion and ours is \$2.8 billion. The New South Wales economy and population is not six times the size of Queensland so either Queensland has done exceptionally well or New South Wales has done atrociously. Why not have both?

We make no apologies for supporting the Queensland economy and Queenslanders through the pandemic and in times of natural disaster. When the private sector recoils and retracts in those times, it is the role of government to step up and step in to stimulate the economy and we make no apologies for doing so. The recovery results speak for themselves, particularly when we compare them to those of New South Wales. We responded. We brought forward the spending of hundreds of millions of dollars for Bruce Highway upgrades. We stimulated local council infrastructure projects in communities across Queensland. I did not hear those opposite complain about those unforeseen expenditures in their electorates. Those opposite now claim that spending for grants and recovery assistance is wasteful and not respectful of Queenslanders' money. I would say that there is nothing more Queensland than reaching out and helping other Queenslanders in their time of need, whether it be in a pandemic or natural disaster.

I turn to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset I admit that I am not a punter. I have not been to a race day since Easter in the Country 1992. I did not know how to place a bet then and I still do not. My exposure to Melbourne Cup Day is really limited to the \$2 sweep. I confess that it is just not my bag. What does interest me in this bill is the mechanism by which large multinational often offshore companies that profit from the Queensland racing industry will be required


to contribute to the funding of country thoroughbred race meetings. Companies that make billions of dollars worldwide should be making contributions when they are established overseas and are largely out of taxation reach. Particularly where they generate money from Queenslanders, that money should be going back into the Queensland racing industry, particularly in relation to the facilities at our country racecourses.

I note that female jockeys account for the biggest increase in apprentice jockeys in Queensland. We need to invest in our country racing facilities to ensure they have appropriate facilities. We want to encourage our female apprentice jockeys. We need to make sure they have appropriate facilities. This is a fantastic mechanism to ensure the facilities in the Queensland racing industry are properly maintained and funded.

Something contained in this particular bill that is of interest to me are the amendments to payroll tax. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Act has already considered the requirements legislatively to implement the mental health levy. During consideration of that legislation it was foreshadowed that additional amendments to the Payroll Tax Act would be required to implement administrative, machinery and transitional arrangements for this levy. The levy will apply to employers or organisations with Australia-wide wages exceeding \$10 million per annum and a higher rate where wages exceed \$100 million per annum.

This levy will affect only the top one per cent of Queensland businesses—businesses such as Coles, Woolworths, Wesfarmers and Telstra, businesses that benefited and profited handsomely during the pandemic such as Harvey Norman and Best & Less. During that same pandemic the mental health of millions of Queenslanders went backwards. I refer to the findings of the Australian Productivity Commission inquiry into mental health. It stated that improving and investing in the mental health system will provide an annual benefit of \$1.3 billion in economic participation alone. While the top one per cent of companies will contribute directly by funding mental health services through this levy, they are also directly in line to reap the benefits of increased economic participation. Queenslanders will benefit from the money generated by this mental health levy—\$183 million in the first year of implementation and a dedicated funding stream for mental health, alcohol and other drug services.

Over lunch I met with some of our local Logan mental health service providers—Lives Lived Well—who have a fantastic facility out at Logan House in the Logan electorate. They have one of the few residential addiction services in Queensland. That is, a family with their children can live in while they receive the addiction services they require in a holistic environment. As we on the Mental Health Select Committee discovered, we need more of them. We do not have enough detox beds in Queensland. We do not have enough residential beds in Queensland. Initiatives such as the mental health levy will pay for these things. That is why I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.43 pm): I will start my contribution to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill with three words: 'at this time'. If somebody says to you 'at this time', what does that mean? That is not a definitive, 'This is over.' That is not, 'I have been rolled.' That is not, 'You will never see it again.' That is not a 'rule it out'. That is 'at this time'. Aaron Finch is the opener of the Australian Twenty20 team 'at this time' but perhaps for not much longer. Make no mistake: they are the words of a Treasurer who has been humiliated, embarrassed, humbled and put in his box and does not have the ticker to admit he is wrong. That is the language of a government for which, if it were given one more opportunity for a fourth term, this would be back on the agenda.

I say to every person who is struggling to make ends meet, every person who is looking at this state and every person who is considering the future of a government that respects good strategy and implementation of tax policy: this is a government that will sneak this tax back on you at a moment's notice if given another opportunity. This was not a definitive putting to bed. This was not a Treasurer who should know better; this is a bloke who has been humiliated by his leader after getting an endorsement on several occasions. He will not rest until he gets an opportunity to finish what he believes is good policy. It is not good policy. It would not be good policy at any time. It is certainly not good policy in the middle of a full-blown housing crisis. This is a Treasurer with a glass jaw who will do anything to try to square the record after being humiliated mercilessly by his leader. He does want to be the Premier. He does not have the ticker or the intellect to do so.

I want to talk about the bill that cleans up the mess of the payroll tax from June, the 14 clauses in the mop-up. Very briefly, this morning the Australian Medical Association bravely stood up and explained what has happened to some of its members who for the first time have received payroll tax bills. Do members know what they wanted? They wanted the opportunity to talk to the Treasurer. They wanted an opportunity just maybe to put across their point, but he would not meet them. If ever you

need to show what a third-term government that has lost its way looks like, when a Treasurer will not meet a respected lobby group such as the AMAQ you know everything that is wrong. Perhaps they needed a lobbyist. Perhaps they needed someone to be able to bring them to the table to discuss, say, for example, a point-of-consumption tax—on 40 occasions. This is a government that no longer respects taxpayers' money. It no longer respects transparency. It no longer respects the people who have put it there. The conduct of the Treasurer—his sloppiness and his constant belligerence—proves that this is a government that has lost the trust of the people who put it there.

I want to talk about the \$2.8 billion figure. It was dropped a couple of weeks ago. The Treasurer attempted to say the number quickly in a bid to make it not sound as big as it is. When a government misses the mark by an historic amount like that, you know that its attention to detail is not there. We will continue to talk about waste, because the Wellcamp saga proves it. Every time we talk about wasteful spending, the government will do all sorts of things and try to run the same old scare campaigns. Treating taxpayers' money with respect is how you deal with waste. You deal with waste by not constantly looking for a get-square with political opponents. You deal with waste by being respectful and diligent. This government has given up on that.

I want to talk about what that \$2.8 billion could have delivered—projects in my electorate of Broadwater such as the duplication of Jabiru Island Bridge. I know that my good friend the member for Bonney is interested in that, because many of his residents would also use it. That is a project that has been constantly put on the backburner without any planning. I will have a little more to say about that tonight. I mention schools in my electorate—schools that have demountable buildings that were brought there on the back of a truck decades ago. Young kids who deserve the right to equality of education at places like Coombabah primary and Biggera Waters State School—

**Mr O'Connor:** Coombabah High.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** That is just in the neighbouring electorate of Bonney. I take the interjection. They are great state schools, led by great principals and great staff and they have facilities that are not fitting of a modern Queensland. It should not be the case in 2020 and beyond that children have to learn in facilities like demountable buildings. We have the opportunity for schools to provide an environment where children can get the best out of each other and out of the staff at the school, and right now that is not occurring.

I look at the shortcomings in housing. There is a dearth of social housing on the Gold Coast and indeed there is a dearth in my electorate. The social housing that is there at the moment in many cases is not well administered. I have spoken about the need, particularly at Errol Avenue at the moment, for those properties to be properly managed. What this money could do to provide more quality social housing in the electorate is important.

I speak about policing. The number of officers at Runaway Bay Police Station has remained static for a long time. I will continue to push for more police for the growing northern Gold Coast and I will continue to push for Hope Island to come under the jurisdiction of Runaway Bay. That makes a lot of sense. I will continue to advocate on my residents' behalf for that to occur. That is an important change. With a small geographical change, the two officers who are attached to Hope Island could be transferred from the Coomera Police Station to the Runaway Bay Police Station. There are some great synergies there. All of the police on the ground want that to occur. I have had some good meetings with the QPS hierarchy, but I am again calling on the minister and the commissioner to facilitate this. It is important to the northern Gold Coast. It is important to the local area.

Quality health services are important to the local area and \$2.8 billion could have given us a hospital and then some. It could have delivered that hospital in that growth corridor well ahead of when it is slated for. There will be more on that shortly. We will continue to fight for a government that treats people's money with respect.

I am going to come back to where I finished. If the Treasurer is serious about giving a message to investors and young people looking to rent or get into the market, he will come in here today—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr Walker** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! Members!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** If the Treasurer were serious about sending a strong signal to young people looking to rent or get into the market, if the Treasurer were serious about sending—

**Mr WALKER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Broadwater, resume your seat.

**Mr WALKER:** Member for Currumbin, I take deep offence at that comment.

**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I did not speak at all. There was no comment from me. He has it wrong.


**Mr WALKER:** I take offence at being calling 'Mr Punchy' and I want that withdrawn.

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw.

**Mr WALKER:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. When I raised my first point of order there was a denial and now there is an admission. I would hate to think that this parliament was misled.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mundingburra, resume your seat. That is not a point of order. The comment has been withdrawn.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I only have a minute to get to the punchline so here goes! If the Treasurer were serious about sending the right message, he would come in today and say that this is ruled out forever—not at this time, not for a time of our choosing, not for 'if we get a fourth term we will stitch you up', not for 'once the Premier goes I will be able to get my way'. If the Treasurer were serious about sending the right signals to investors, renters and Queensland, he would rule this out forever. Anything short of fully ruling it out shows a Treasurer who is so hell-bent on defending the indefensible, a government at war with itself and a third-term government that no longer governs in Queenslanders' interests.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.54 pm): I rise in this cognate debate in support of the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before us today. The appropriation bills seek parliamentary approval for unforeseen expenditure in 2021-22. As we know, this is a financial process under the Financial Accountability Act and is to reconcile departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year against the relevant budget projections.

In July this year the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure during the 2021-22 financial year of over \$2.8 billion, comprising around \$2.1 billion for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service and \$2.8 billion incurred by 14 other departments. Some 62 per cent of that arose from three departments. State departments incur unforeseen expenditure for many reasons. Those opposite say it is due to waste but we know it is for other things. For example, a department may need an additional appropriation to respond to emergent issues, to implement government policy or due to the change in the timing of Commonwealth payments or project delivery. The unforeseen expenditure in 2021-22 is more than in 2020-21—we admit that—but, as Economics and Governance Committee report No. 36 states, the financial year was heavily impacted by COVID measures, floods, the bringing forward of federal government payments, accelerated capital works by TMR and targeted measures by the government to support Queenslanders.

As I have said, the majority of unforeseen expenditure arose from three departments, including funding to bring forward payments to local councils in relation to revenue collected from their waste disposal levy through the Department of Environment and Science. These payments were brought forward to not impact customers and to provide councils with a level of certainty so they could progress investment in recycling and resource recovery. There was further unforeseen expenditure for Business Support Grants such as the JobTrainer Fund, infection control training, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and the Future Fund. This expenditure was provided to support and keep businesses solvent during the COVID pandemic. Many of my local businesses in Hervey Bay benefited from this excellent funding during tough times.

The difference in fiscal management is quite evident between the Palaszczuk government and those opposite. Under the Palaszczuk government, the state of Queensland continues to power ahead. The Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan is working and is delivering with strong growth and recovery as our economy rebounds. These appropriations we debate continue to drive the government's economic recovery plan, following on from our strong health response. They bring forward works and programs to drive our economy.

This is no more borne out than in the recently released labour force data. This data confirms what all the reputable national data is showing us and that is that Queensland's economy is leading and pushing forward Australia's economic recovery. Queensland has 417,100 more Queenslanders in jobs today than pre COVID. Earlier the member for Kawana said that Queenslanders were working harder than ever. I agree with that. Of course they are. There are 211,800 more Queenslanders working in August 2022 than there were in March 2020. That is before COVID struck and brought the world to a halt.

Since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015, an additional 467,600 jobs have added, and 42,700 of those have been in regional areas. They are regional jobs. That is more jobs for the people of Queensland and more jobs for the people of Hervey Bay. In comparison, we know what the LNP did. They cut 14,000 public sector jobs, including frontline workers.

Around my electorate the activity is increasing year on year. These appropriations we are debating are not just numbers. They are the new and enhanced facilities that are being utilised by our school communities. They are the paths and roads being upgraded and being made safer. They are the local hospital being upgraded and enhanced. They are the jobs that drive our community forward.

Works and projects are being completed regularly because of the forethought and timely response of the Palaszczuk government to assess the need and get the job done. A few such facilities in my electorate are the Hervey Bay Special School toilet block, new canteen facilities for Urangan State High School and the recently completed STEM building at Hervey Bay State High School. Work is moving forward on the new school halls at the Urangan State High School and the Urangan Point State School—all accelerated because of the growth Hervey Bay is now experiencing under a proactive and forward-thinking government.

This is a government that leaves no-one behind. It lifts the community and drives positive outcomes, unlike the cut, sell and sack policy approach of those opposite. Appropriations for the Department of Transport and Main Roads are going towards new intersections to ease congestion and improve safety. These major pieces of infrastructure will assist people to move around the Hervey Bay electorate more efficiently and a lot safer.

It is noted that with one of our major intersections the opposition spokesperson drove up the Bruce Highway to Hervey Bay the other day to find a camera to have his three minutes of fame. He then proceeded to bang on incoherently with a factually incorrect statement about the status of the intersection. He said we needed a plan for it, when the intersection is already in the detailed design phase and one step away from shovels in the ground! If that is not a plan, I do not know what is. Maybe he should start talking to people who might know something about this, like the department whose appropriations we are debating today, and not rely on the advice of their local LNP hack and part-time councillor.

It is okay that he got it totally wrong. I thank the spokesperson for coming to Hervey Bay because nothing showed the Hervey Bay community more accurately how incompetent and lazy the LNP is in getting its facts right regarding our local infrastructure. That is what our community is getting used to lately from the LNP spivs from Brisbane, running around for five minutes, peddling their inaccurate mistruths and talking down our region, before scooting back as fast as they came.

Further appropriations have seen the Palaszczuk government's \$34 million investment in a mental health unit well underway, with the new hospital service rising from the ground and now nearing completion. This will be a great addition to the public health system in response to our regional mental health needs. The Hervey Bay electorate is part of a growth region that has received massive commitments and investments by the Palaszczuk government. With the release yesterday of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan, we further commit to building on this and are looking further forward, setting the Wide Bay region on course for the next 25 years of growth.


Investing billions of dollars in the manufacturing industry and infrastructure is having a dynamic impact on the people of the region. The volume of jobs being produced in the region is extraordinary, with the knock-on effects of supply chains moving the new jobs count into the many thousands. All this is in stark contrast to the former Newman government, a government that ignored our region, slashed and burned our jobs and devastated our community. At the end of their sad legacy, it was left to the Palaszczuk government to rebuild shattered regional centres like Hervey Bay.

The unemployment rates in the Wide Bay when the LNP left power and left its mess was 10 per cent. It is now 6½ per cent, with the rate in Hervey Bay at the lowest it has been in 13 years since July 2020. All this has made Queensland the envy of Australia.

The Palaszczuk government's health and economic response has enabled our state, and in particular our regions, to stay safe and rebound. In the Hervey Bay electorate you can see this growth everywhere. Our building industry is red hot, our businesses are busy, expenditure is up and the people are seeing their hard efforts of the past years being rewarded. The people of Hervey Bay know that our city is thriving and that is in spite of the fear mongering of the LNP and its local operatives who are set on destroying our social cohesion for their own political advantage, taking down our great city and our lifestyle.

As part of the committee that reviewed this bill, I want to thank the committee for its deliberations, ably led by the committee chair, the member for Logan, and the committee deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach. I would like to mention the magnificent work done by the committee secretariat. The appropriation bills are what give our communities services, not waste that the other side keep talking about. It actually gives our communities services. The state could not function without the appropriation bills. With these bills the corrections are measured and required.

Finally, the Palaszczuk government has steered the path required to get us to this point and has taken thoughtfully considered decisions through these appropriations to safely navigate the stormy waters created by a worldwide pandemic. It has got us to this point safely and it is focused on our future. Well-managed appropriations are what this bill is about. I support the cognate bills before the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.03 pm): In the short time I have I would mostly like to talk about the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill because I have been known to have an occasional flutter and I have some experience in this particular area.

**An honourable member:** Go Gold Trip!

**Mr STEVENS:** I backed the winner of the Melbourne Cup—Gold Trip. Mine was a real gold trip; it was not a trip to Melbourne on a boat! Anyway, I will move on from that.

I would like to put some facts before the House in relation to matters that the member for Logan raised about the \$2.8 billion in appropriations that this bill is addressing. Members on the other side often refer to the LNP government years of 2012 to 2015. We hear it time and time again in this House. Under the LNP, unforeseen expenditure in 2012-13 was \$63 million—I will round it up. In 2013-14, it was \$447 million. In 2014-15, it was \$12 million. The figure in this appropriation bill for this Labor government in 2021-22 is \$2,800 million. That shows us the care they take in spending Queensland taxpayers' dollars. Unfortunately it is in their DNA to keep spending willy-nilly.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. This has been a fairly wideranging debate. I want to hear what the member for Mermaid Beach has to say. There will be no more interjections or I will start warning members.

**Mr STEVENS:** In the \$2.8 billion of expenditure, we see \$227 million going to a white elephant. Thailand is the land of the white elephant; Queensland should be the land of the white elephant. They have history. This is the same project and approach that the Bligh and Beattie governments used when they put in the water grid across South-East Queensland which gave us another white elephant in the form of a desal plant at Currumbin and a recycled water pipeline—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, I just gave a general warning. The member for Maryborough will cease his interjections. The Attorney-General will cease her interjections. All members on this side of the House will cease their interjections. I will start warning members.

**Mr STEVENS:** The hallmark of a Labor government is to spend willy-nilly on different projects with no concern or regard to the long-term debt that they place on Queenslanders. The forward estimates are up to \$130 billion. Unfortunately, this appropriation bill—it has all been expended so there is nothing for us to oppose, so we will be supporting it—highlights the fact that this government has no regard for financial duty to Queensland taxpayers whatsoever.

I now move to the other cognate bill, the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill did not come before our committee but one thing we did note was that the consultation process involving the people who were going to be affected by this particular bill was zilch, nothing, diddly squat, crickets. That is not the way to deal with any new taxes that you are proposing.

I remind everyone that this point-of-consumption tax was introduced by a previous treasurer, then treasurer Trad, who had no intention of putting any of the 15 per cent tax back into racing mainly because she is on the lefty side that hate horses being whipped and dogs chasing around Parklands. Unfortunately that changed and they did commit moneys, but they did not tell the betting agencies like Ladbrokes and Bet365. There is a new one called betr. They tell me that it had 90,000 subscribers on the first day it was launched. These agencies are a big part of the betting community in Queensland.

I would like to say that I have always had a TAB account. I have not had any of these other accounts because as a former racing person I know that the money that goes through the TAB goes back into racing, so I deliberately have not taken out an account with any of the other attractive betting mechanisms. It always amazes me how much advertising we are seeing on television from these groups about gambling responsibly. It is just like the cigarette companies saying—this is my wife's

line—'smoke healthily'. It just does not happen, but they are a big part of the racing industry. The younger people in particular, like the 46,000 people who were at Randwick for the running of the Everest, are all into those betting groups rather than the TAB.

So the TAB gets hold of Evan Moorhead, that great racing aficionado, and takes him along to lobby on their behalf—very effectively—for a five per cent whack across the head for those gambling groups. They are a little upset, and I will tell you how they reacted. They reacted by wiping Queensland racing. As we all know, of course, the best channel on which to watch racing is Channel 7's free-to-air live coverage of what was Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales racing. As soon as this tax came in, bang, no more Queensland racing because Ladbrokes sponsored the day's coverage on the television. They took away all of the incentive programs for gambling—in other words, you get \$50 back or whatever—and there was none for Queensland racing. I would like the Treasurer to tell me in his windup speech what was the diminution in gambling numbers as a result of the new tax he whacked on these people without consultation in terms of the dollar downturn they will pay as a result. I am told by racing people that they are back in the groove a bit now and helping out Queensland punters with incentive programs as well. The fact of the matter is that there was a reaction, as there always is, to the extra tax they are going to cop like our mining industry and our good friends in Japan. People react to those sorts of things. For a government that promised no new taxes, hello, it is very, very embarrassing the way they have gone about introducing these new taxes.

I am sure that we will see more matters come to the fore in terms of irresponsible spending and irresponsible taxing by this government. As the economy gets worse—we have had a bit of a boom through coal and other matters we have heard about—and we move forward into next year you can see that worldwide problems are hitting Britain, Europe and America. I hear the Democrats are not travelling too well over there at the moment, so that might be reflected by the lefties over here in Queensland at the next election. When times get tough they will not be relying on the profligate spendthrifts over on the other side of the House in government coming up with \$2,800 million worth of extra expenditure, particularly on white elephant projects like the Toowoomba Wellcamp accommodation—

**An opposition member:** 'Wastecamp'.

**Mr STEVENS:** Yes, 'Wastecamp'—exactly like the desal plant that is still rusting away down at Currumbin. What about the recycled pipeline? I think there is about \$9 billion worth in that water grid. It is just more Labor spending, and we will see it continue until 2024.

**Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.14 pm): I rise to support the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. Like the member for Mermaid Beach, my dear dad was a mad keen punter and he would have bet with nobody else but the TAB. As a kid I remember every Saturday morning the form guide would be out and he would be raring and ready to go. I even remember his phone account number: 10145 KIRA, KI for Kim and RA for Rachel. That was the account number. I heard it so often that it is still stuck with me at 51 years of age.

**Mr Stevens:** You're not 51!

**Ms RICHARDS:** Yes, I am.

**Mr Langbroek:** Can I use that number?

**Ms RICHARDS:** I think it is closed now, member for Southport, and I do not think it had much left in it. He never seemed to be very good at picking a winner, I have to tell you.

**Mr Langbroek:** The same as Ray!

**Ms RICHARDS:** Probably the same. The Racing Integrity Bill and this bill were referred to our committee. Hopefully I am not messing up your speech, member for Theodore, but he won on the Melbourne Cup.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Through the chair, please, member for Redlands.

**Ms RICHARDS:** It was the first time he has ever had a bet in his life. That was on the back of some great champions, the member for Rockhampton and the member for Hinchinbrook, who are both very passionate about the country racing program, which this bill will support.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all of the committee members, the secretariat and all of the witnesses, submitters and the departments for their briefings and public hearings. This bill has been prepared to create a more sustainable funding model for racing. Racing is one of those sectors that has been extraordinarily disrupted by technology and the players who have come into that market. We heard from one of the witnesses in the public hearing, Mr Ryteskild from Tabcorp, in terms of what that



has meant for their business and how they are able to contribute back to Queensland racing. I think this bill will be very good for Queensland racing. The CEO Mr Parnell also confirmed that this is going to be really good for Queensland racing, particularly for country racing.

In addition to looking at the funding model for racing, the bill also looked at the new mental health levy on large employers to create a dedicated funding stream for mental health. Can I take this opportunity to thank everybody on the Mental Health Select Committee for all of their hard work in coming up with some fantastic solutions. As a result of its mechanisms this bill will help bring those funds in in a streamlined way for employers.

The two main sources of revenue for racing have been wagering revenue and grants contributions. Wagering revenue totalling almost \$221 million made up 61 per cent of Racing Queensland's consolidated revenue in 2021-22 and payments from Tabcorp made up roughly half of this revenue. They also had grants totalling \$107 million. Racing Queensland's funding model no longer provides it with adequate financial certainty. This bill will go to the heart of making sure we provide certainty for that industry.

One of the competitive pressures affecting Tabcorp is the growth of foreign owned Northern Territory licensed online bookmakers, and we heard a lot about that. Responsible Wagering Australia appeared as a witness in the public hearing. Their response to a question on notice was interesting in terms of where their parent companies are domiciled, where their tax revenues are going and where Queenslanders' betting money is going. There is a lot of it that is not staying in Queensland and it is not staying in Australia. There are an awful lot of people who are using the Northern Territory licensing system as an opportunity to not do the right thing by Queensland and Queensland punters, so I think this bill will be very good in that space.

During the inquiry process we received nine written submissions. One was from Mr Ken O'Dowd, and I know the Treasurer spoke about that. He said that this is a very good, sensible piece of legislation. We also received written submissions from: BetGold Racing & Sports, Redcliffe Peninsula Harness Racing and Sporting Club, Gold Coast Turf Club, Racing Queensland Board, Harness Racing Australia, the Australian Trainers' Association, Tabcorp Holdings and the Queensland Hotels Association.

One of the other interesting things in the public hearing was hearing the benefit this will provide back to our sporting clubs, like the Victoria Point Sharks that has its own little TAB outlet. What this bill will do is equal the playing field and that was good to hear. In the public hearing, we heard from the CEO of Racing Queensland, the CEO of Tabcorp, the CEO of Responsible Wagering Australia and the CEO of BetGold Racing & Sports.

I know that country racing was a really important part of the inquiry process, particularly to the members for Hinchinbrook and Rockhampton. This bill will ensure they have that secured certainty with that minimum set amount that will come through out of this tax. It is really important because racing is such a big part of the social fabric of communities, and it gives them certainty to know they can keep investing in the infrastructure that our communities enjoy using.

The committee made three recommendations. The first was that the bill be passed. The second was that the bill be amended to remove the opportunity for aggregated totaliser bets in the free bet space. We heard a lot about free bets and how they have not been included as part of the taxing. I think they are included in every other jurisdiction outside of Tasmania in terms of being able to collect that revenue that goes back into the infrastructure for racing and back into making sure we have a sustainable Queensland racing industry, particularly country racing.

I turn to the large multinationals which are principally foreign owned. A significant amount of their money leaves Queensland. Ladbrokes and Neds recorded nearly \$2 billion in revenue last year, and Betfair recorded \$2.5 billion in global revenue. This goes a long way to making sure we can keep Queenslanders' punting money delivering for the industry and delivering for Queenslanders.

We heard from the department on the mental health levy. As a result of amendments made by the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022, the mental health levy will be imposed on employers or groups of employers for payroll tax purposes with annual taxable wages over \$10 million. The explanatory notes to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill noted that, as the Queensland Revenue Office prepared for implementation of the mental health levy, it would be necessary to develop further administrative, machinery and transitional arrangements, and that is exactly what this legislation will do. It will make it easier for employers within the payroll tax system to make sure they contribute their fair share. It is great that the large employers will assist with the pressures and ensure that workers have good mental health by actually contributing back to Queensland and providing better mental health infrastructure and services to support all Queenslanders.

I did not touch much on the appropriation bill, but I think it is pretty much nuts and bolts business as usual in terms of the overs and unders. In conclusion, I thank the committee, the secretariat and all of the people who were involved in the betting bill. May you have happy racing days and good luck and good fortune in your betting prosperity. I commend the bills to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): That was nice and peaceful. Let us keep that going, member for Coomera.

**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.23 pm): I will do my utmost. I am going to stick with the Appropriation Bill (No. 3). The report makes some comments around the report and the overspend. While I have this opportunity and so I do not forget, I want to thank the secretariat for the hard work they do. As we all know, their work is outstanding. They pull these reports together for us. Sometimes they are very urgent reports that have to be pulled together, and they do such a fine job in that regard.

In relation to keeping things civilised, I note that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is unwell and is unable to be with us today. In fact, he was going to be at the same table as me at the P&Cs Queensland 75th jubilee luncheon, and that would have been a great opportunity for us to have a chat off the record. I acknowledge that we have several P&Cs Queensland delegates in the gallery as we speak, one of whom—and he is going to be embarrassed about this—is my son, Jason. I will be taking him for a wander around the precinct later. I will not go anywhere near the crane, I can assure you, Mr Clerk.

I want to focus on two particular areas. What we are talking about with the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) is an overspend of \$2.825 billion. A couple of million of that is the responsibility of the Clerk and Mr Speaker, but the other \$2.823 billion is all on the Treasurer's shoulders. I am going to focus on two particular areas: the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, with an overspend of \$574 million in round figures; and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with an overspend of just over \$330 million.

It really does seem sad that we have that sort of an overspend. One of the areas of the overspend was the Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre, which is affectionately known as Wellcamp to some and 'Wastecamp' to others. That is in the order of \$200 million plus, so 40 per cent of the overspend from infrastructure relates specifically, as I understand it, to the 'Wastecamp' facility. What we are talking about is unforeseen expenditure—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON**: I take that interjection from the member for Logan, who is the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, because in the public hearings we were talking about the questions that I wanted to ask about how we could rectify some of the other overspends or some of the other interesting ways the Treasurer is managing the portfolio. For example, I saw going out to the forward estimates that funding for exit 49 has been pushed out beyond the completion date, with \$38 million—which is about a third of the funding—being pushed out to beyond the completion date. I put a question to the transport minister in relation to that and he simply said that sometimes the figures do not match up. Well, that really does nail it because the figures do not match up here. We have a \$2.823 billion overspend.

This unforeseen expenditure leads me to a question. If it is possible to bring forward funds for projects, why would you not bring those funds forward for projects in the fastest growing region in Queensland? Everyone knows where that is. It is the state seat of Coomera and I will give the House a few statistics. There are 87,000 residents in the state seat of Coomera—and I see the Clerk smiling because he gets the information from me every month as it is updated for us—and over 51,000 voters. We know that and we have known that for a long time—in fact, since 2011—

**Mr Lister**: They're all racing to be represented by you. They all want to move to your electorate.

**Mr CRANDON**: That is exactly right. That is why they are moving into my electorate and moving out of everyone else's. We have the fastest growing region in Queensland with a massive number of the residents of the Coomera electorate living in Pimpama—something like a third of the residents—yet we have these issues with exit 49. The funding was made available in 2019 by both the federal government and the state government in the budget—so this is very relevant to this bill and the overspend in relation to this bill—but they have just started clearing the trees. We are almost in 2023 but they have not started any construction. They put up a few fences and they started clearing a few trees, but no construction has started.

Here we are, 3½ years down the track from early 2019, all of the funding was there and meant to be made available. That could have been fast-tracked. It is proof here that we could have brought funding forward for that. It is the fastest growing region in Queensland—Pimpama, a suburb in the


Coomera electorate—yet that has been left stuck in the slow lane. I have often said it. By this time I would be getting a point of order from the transport minister on this; he would be asking what the relevance of it was. I have often called on him to fast-track this funding, yet it has not been done.

It goes beyond that. If you are going to bring funding forward to fast-track projects, why would you not do the project that is having a massive economic impact on the businesses in the Coomera electorate? Yet again, in the Yatala enterprise area, we have exit 38. Trucks are stuck in the slow lane trying to get on and off the M1 at exit 38 every day. In fact, it is seven days a week at exit 38. The business case was on the minister's desk at the end of 2018, and there has not been one dollar of funding, not one cracker, not a penny. Ask me how much that is? It is zero. There has been no funding whatsoever for exit 38 since then and there is still no funding in the 2022 budget. We do not even have a suggestion that we might look at some funding or look at some further project planning in the forward estimates. There is nothing there, not a cracker.

Traffic conditions on the northern Gold Coast is a diabolical mess. What do we have? We have a bandaid solution on exit 45, and I would like the minister to explain that to me as well. What we have is a \$20 million project that will be finished by the end of this year, just in the next couple of months, yet the funding, according to QTRIP, is pushed out for another two years beyond this current financial year. The funding for it is pushed out another two years. I think there might be somebody moving figures around just to try to make the books balance.

When we eventually get to it, we find they have to come back to the House and say, 'By the way, we have overspent \$2.83 billion on these projects and we need you to ratify them for us.' Okay, we will ratify it—it is an appropriate thing for us to ratify—but let me ask the Treasurer, let me ask the departments, let me ask in particular the Minister for Transport and Main Roads: if you are going to have an overspend, if you are going to bring funding forward which you have proven you can do, because there is something like \$330 million in TMR alone, put it towards the urgent projects. The most urgent projects, of course, are on the northern Gold Coast, the fastest growing region in Queensland.

I will stand here every day and fight hard for the people of the northern Gold Coast. I hope that eventually I will get through to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. If I do not, that is okay—October 2024 will be the time that we will make a total difference to the way things are handled in this state.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (3.33 pm): I rise in support of the cognate bills before the House. I have to say that I was very pleased when, on 6 June, the Palaszczuk government announced changes to our betting tax arrangements in order to provide a more sustainable funding model for the three codes of racing in Queensland. The three key parts of these changes involve an additional five per cent racing levy to the current taxing rate of 15 per cent, the incorporation of free bets into the calculation of betting tax and the hypothecation of 80 per cent of the annual tax revenue to Racing Queensland. It should be clear and noted early on in this debate that all jurisdictions, bar the Northern Territory, currently have a betting tax on their books and, of those that do, only Tasmania currently excludes free bets.

Locally, in my electorate of Sandgate, racing is one of the major employers in the area, be it the staff at Racing Queensland headquarters in Deagon or the many trainers that ply their trade in the streets surrounding nearby to the track at Deagon. It is so engrained in the community that racing is very much an important part of the fabric of 4017.

Trainers like Pat Duff and Jim Murdoch, who are not in the industry for the money or the accolades but rather for the challenge of preparing a horse to race, are both great examples of the commitment to the industry and the great characters that we have in the racing industry right across the state but particularly in my local area. Both of these local icons have always offered and provided to me great insight into the needs and issues affecting racing, and it has been great to have their advice and guidance over many years in relation to that very important industry and the important role it plays in our local community. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Pat on his recent induction into the Queensland Racing Hall of Fame. I really cannot think of anyone more deserving of this accolade than Pat Duff.

More broadly, the three codes of racing are an enormous contributor to the Queensland economy, with an economic boost of more than \$1.9 billion supporting more than 13,500 jobs and around 43,500 participants overall. This economic contribution has increased nearly 60 per cent since 2016, and it is very pleasing to note that around 48 per cent of the economic benefit is seen in regional economies in this state. This is a direct result, I have to say, of the great work done by Minister Grace

in her implementation of the Country Racing Support Package, initiated by her, and I am pleased to say I played a role as minister in implementing it as well. It is a recognition of how important those country racing meetings are to the social and economic fabric of so many towns and districts across the state.

One of the terrific things that this bill seeks to achieve is to ensure that, going forward, \$20 million per annum, as a minimum of the hypothecated betting tax revenue, will go to fund country thoroughbred racing. This is a massive increase from the recent past where, prior to 2016-17, the minimum funding amount was 5.32 per cent of the net product fee, which equated to a paltry \$5.65 million. It is no wonder the country tracks were falling into disrepair and the prize money on offer would not even cover the petrol to transport the horses to events, let alone feed them or care for them. The Country Racing Support Package revitalised racing outside the south-east corner. Clubs had more funding, prize money increased and facilities were upgraded—in many cases, simply made safe and fit for purpose.

This bill in part seeks to right some of the wrongs of the past, and I have to highlight that. We have come off a really low base out of this. We have done amazing work during the time of the Palaszczuk government to support, in particular, country racing, but to support racing more generally. This particular measure contained within this bill does seek to right some of the wrongs of the past.

I specifically want to call out the absolute dud deal signed by those opposite when they were in government, led by the former minister Steve Dickson—there is a blast from the past—and signed off with wilful disregard for the industry by the member for Clayfield. That former deal did nothing other than leave the industry hamstrung, reliant on the goodwill of the government of the day to drip-feed support. The history of this appalling outcome is littered with stories of pre-election deals to forgive debt and promises of bigger things to come that would not ever possibly have been delivered. How the member for Clayfield could have endorsed that deal when he had two of the major thoroughbred tracks as well as the headquarters of harness and greyhound racing in his own electorate simply beggars belief. I will not even care to speculate on how the member for Clayfield seemed to have been outwitted by Steve Dickson in convincing him to sign the deal in the first place.

This bill gives certainty to racing. It provides racing with a sustainable funding model that will allow it to operate and grow without having to come cap in hand to government seeking money on an ad hoc basis. It does this by making the largest of the online wagering operators pay their fair share. These multinationals have been ripping profits out of Australia at alarming levels, and it is only right that if they seek to profit from racing in Queensland they also contribute something to the viability and sustainability of the industry.


When even the former LNP federal member for Flynn, Ken O'Dowd, recognised this and makes a submission supporting these changes, to coin a phrase 'you know you've backed a winner'. Equally, one of the other key elements of the bill that I want to acknowledge and speak to in my remaining time is that which delivers on the bipartisan recommendations of the Mental Health Select Committee and provides an ongoing flow of funding to the vital provision of a multitude of mental health services across the state. I want to acknowledge all those people who contributed to that Mental Health Select Committee, particularly the chair, the member for Greenslopes. This levy, which will only affect the top one per cent of Queensland businesses, will deliver an anticipated \$425 million per annum towards mental health services. This is another example of a word that I do know sends a shiver down the spine of many Treasury officials, but I welcome it: hypothecation. Whilst seeking to fund very different aims, these measures achieve the same outcomes: being a dedicated source of revenue that secures a sustainable and ongoing source of funding.

Further elements of these bills address parts of unforeseen expenditure incurred by a number of government departments as well as the Parliamentary Service. I want to acknowledge that, while this is not particularly unusual in nature and, indeed, given the massive uncertainty of the last two years with the not insignificant issue of a global pandemic confronting people combined with serious weather events, it is entirely understandable that these measures have had to be taken in this place. It is a demonstration of the ongoing strength of stewardship of the state's finances and the state's economy.

I particularly want to rebuff and rebuke the wild contribution of the member for Mermaid Beach. It is not unusual; he has been on the same rant since we both came to the parliament. We came to the parliament together in 2006. It seems he has not moved on. I have moved on in a number of ways, but he has not moved on at all. It is the same old rants that were going on back then.

It is entirely appropriate that we make these appropriations to ensure that we have the ability to do what we say we will do—that is, to provide quality services, opportunity and economic security for Queenslanders. That is what the Palaszczuk government has committed to and it is what it has been renowned for amongst Queenslanders during its time in office.

I particularly want to pay credit to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade for his diligence, commitment and leadership of the financial affairs of the state but also, ultimately, the strength of our economy. As he has said today and as he has said on other previous occasions, the health of our state has resulted in the health and the strength of our economy. Protecting the health of Queenslanders has contributed to the strength of our Queensland economy. We are seeing that repaying us in so many ways and that will further be demonstrated by the delivery of the services, the opportunity and the economic security contained within the legislation before the House. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.43 pm): We are often talking about budget blowouts in this place and here it is written in black and white in the appropriation bills. The state government have lost control of the budget and we see the evidence here today with the Treasurer asking the parliament to authorise an extra \$2.8 billion on top of the budget that was previously approved by the parliament.

**Ms Boyd:** It's a normal part of the process.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear those opposite saying this is a normal part of the process, and I think I heard earlier that this is business as usual. This is a record overspend since the Bligh government, a government which was dysfunctional and was rightly and soundly voted out by the people of Queensland long before I came to this place. The overspend is \$2.825 billion, which is the largest overspend in 10 years. I do not know how many Queensland households or businesses would tolerate a \$565 budget blowout for each and every person in their business or household. That is what this equates to: an extra \$565 for every single Queensland. I can tell honourable members right now that they would not tolerate it. When I worked at ANZ and the NAB I would have been sacked if I blew my budget in the same way the Treasurer has. I would have been sacked and I would deserve to have been sacked, just as this Treasurer deserves to be sacked.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** They do not like it, but the truth is they cannot control the budget, they cannot manage the budget and it is Queenslanders who are suffering.

The Treasurer comes in here and tries to pretend that this blowout is simply because of unforeseen circumstances like COVID and floods. I say that \$138 million of the budget blowouts that we are debating today are due to the failures of Minister Farmer. The budget blowout in the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training is primarily due to funding for business support grants. Never mind that the budget that we are debating contained no provision for grants to support small businesses in the middle of the COVID pandemic; never mind that 335,000 Queensland small and family businesses were in lockdown on the first day the budget that we are now debating came into effect. Two-thirds of Queensland businesses were in lockdown on the first day that this budget came into effect and this state Labor government did not have the foresight to provision for business support grants. That is why we are here. It was only after advocacy from the CCIQ, the opposition and others that the state government were dragged kicking and screaming to provide the support that small and family businesses needed in their hour of need.

That is why we are here with this state government asking for another \$2.825 billion, because they cannot plan. They cannot plan, they cannot execute, they do not listen and they do not anticipate the needs of the very Queenslanders they purport to represent. Time and again the state government are left to react. They react in a shoddy and haphazard manner and it is Queenslanders who suffer. They cannot plan and they need to react.

What happens as a consequence when they fail to plan? What happens when the state government fail to plan? We end up in situations where Minister Farmer presides over \$4 million of potential fraud. There is \$4 million of potential fraud that is simply ignored by this state government because they cannot plan and they cannot deliver. That is \$4 million of potentially fraudulent business support grants that could have been paid to those small and family businesses who needed it most in their hour of need. Rather than fix the problem, rather than plan, rather than anticipate the needs that might occur, the state government choose to ignore problems like \$4 million of fraud of Queenslanders' money.

Every single ministerial portfolio the member for Bulimba touches ends up a basket case. That is why we are here debating supplementary appropriations, because the ministers on that side of the House are incapable of governing. Who can forget the kids in detention fiasco and that train wreck of an interview that the member for Bulimba delivered when she was the youth justice minister? Now she is the Minister for Small Business and Training and she has presided over failure after failure—failure of the business support grants and the business basics grants. She managed to muck it up twice in a month and it is Queenslanders who pay for those failures.

Some of the other brilliant ideas rolled out by Minister Farmer include spending \$2 million on two tradies under the Tradies in Paradise scheme. I think we can safely say that the Tradies in Paradise scheme was a failure. The minister said it would attract a thousand qualified tradies to help with flood recovery, but they got two—not a thousand but two. That was \$2 million wasted on a PR ad campaign which could have been used to help several small businesses through flood recovery or to even rebuild a few of the damaged homes.

Under Minister Farmer, Queensland has 14,400 fewer apprentices than should have been delivered. That is 14,400 fewer apprentices in the middle of a skills crisis. They talk about their plans—about their employment plans and their workforce plans—but they do not deliver. This Palaszczuk Labor government have failed to meet their own objective by more than 14,000, never mind the \$4 million worth of fraud that the minister is ignoring. Queenslanders deserve better than ministers like Minister Farmer who cannot govern and cannot serve the people of Queensland.

Infrastructure is another area that has been a victim of the failures of ministerial accountability. We have come to know them as 'Bailey's budget blowouts'. In my electorate of Buderim alone we have had multiple critical projects delayed. I speak of projects like the Sugar Road-Mooloolah Road intersection upgrade and the Mooloolah River interchange. They are just two of the many that come to mind. The state government committed in early 2019 to upgrade the Sugar Road-Mooloolah Road intersection and work was meant to commence in mid-2022, four or five months ago. However, we still have not even seen a shovel in the ground and this year's budget saw funding for this critical project cut almost in half.

Why did funding need to be cut in half? It is because this government cannot manage the budget. They have consistent overruns on key projects like Cross River Rail—right across the board. That is why we are here debating an extra \$2.8 billion. That is why key projects like the Sugar Road and Mooloolah Road intersection have been cut. Funding has been cut for the Mooloolah River interchange—all because this state government cannot manage a budget. Never mind that the federal government is providing 50 per cent of the funding for a state road that this government should be funding entirely. They cannot plan, they cannot manage a budget and they do not care.

The Treasurer, with his dismissive answers and theatrical performances, shows that he is just auditioning for the top job—never mind that he has no hope of getting the top job. He likes to audition for the top job when he should be focused on doing his job. Queenslanders deserve a Treasurer who cares about the budget and cares about them. Right now, they have a Treasurer who is more interested in getting the top job.


The opposition will not oppose the appropriation bills because, let's be honest, this money has already been spent and all of this is window-dressing. All of this is to make us all feel good. These bills have simply highlighted the wasteful spending of this government, which is overseen by a Treasurer who is out of his depth. Now is probably a good time to remind everyone that the Treasurer promised 26 times that there would be no new or increased taxes—never mind we are considering three new or increased taxes as a part of this debate. For me, that is a pretty good reason Queenslanders cannot trust this government.

I note that this bill amends the Payroll Tax Act, which was rushed through the parliament during budget week, with only three days between the introduction and the consideration in detail. This type of behaviour is becoming more and more consistent in this third-term government. As Albo said, governments do not get better in their fourth term. If the performance of this tired, third-term Labor state government is any evidence, Queenslanders definitely cannot afford another term of a government more focused on themselves than on the people of Queensland.

Do members know what is not contained in this bill? There is no funding for Sunshine Coast heavy rail between Beerwah and Maroochydore through the CAMCOS corridor. Federal Labor have said that they will maintain the funding allocated by the former LNP federal government to build the project. The only thing standing in the way is this state Labor government. They will not come to the party and they will not fund their 50 per cent share.

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads likes to carry on blaming others and suggesting that the federal LNP budget was not real, despite the fact that his federal colleague Catherine King relies on the same document as her evidence for Labor's commitment to the project. As the tireless Sunshine Coast rail advocate Jeff Addison brought to my attention on the weekend, the truth is that the state Labor Party actually committed funding to build heavy rail to Maroochydore all the way back in 2006, when the member for Sandgate entered the parliament. In that year's state budget, funding was allocated 'as a part of \$2.6 billion committed under SEQIPP to construct the Caboolture to

Maroochydore corridor study between the north coast line at Beerwah and the high-growth area of the Sunshine Coast'. I ask: what work was done? Where is the heavy rail that was promised in 2006—16 years ago? We have nothing. The Sunshine Coast is still waiting for rail which was promised in 2006. Labor does not care about the Sunshine Coast, and Sunshine Coast residents know it.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.53 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The Education, Employment and Training Committee was tasked with the examination of this bill. The primary objective is to provide a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry. The bill achieves this through the introduction of a five per cent racing levy in addition to the 15 per cent betting tax rate; including free bets in the calculation of the betting tax; and providing for the hypothecation of 80 per cent of the annual betting tax revenue to the Racing Queensland Board.

The bill also proposes changes intended to ensure that country thoroughbred racing meetings in Queensland receive a minimum amount of the betting tax revenue paid to Racing Queensland. I am going to speak to the importance of supporting Queensland's regional and country racing. If you have not been out to a country race meeting, I encourage you to do so. It is so important for our local economy to hold those meetings. For many regional towns, their country race meeting is the biggest or the second biggest event of the year. This is where the town and country come together for a social day of catching up with friends and having a great time.

These race events are the major social event of the year. Generally they will also have a fundraising activity for local charities, so they are giving back to the community. I have been fortunate to attend many a country race meeting—from Mount Isa to Birdsville, Quilpie and around Gympie and Central Queensland. I have been known to enjoy having a bet and a couple of beers, and I love going to regional Queensland.

I know how important this bill is to our small regional towns. In Rockhampton in early July of each year, the TAB Northern Queensland Winter Racing Carnival happens. It features more than \$3 million in prize money and is launched at Callaghan Park. This two-day extravaganza at Rockhampton Jockey Club begins in early July and closes with the Cairns Amateurs in September. It starts with two days of big prize money and huge crowds for the \$100,000 Rockhampton Newman Handicap held on the Friday, followed by the \$150,000 Rockhampton Cup and the Magic Millions Capricorn Guineas on the Saturday. The Winter Racing Carnival then shifts to Mackay, where feature races are staged over two weekends beginning with the \$75,000 Mackay Newmarket Handicap and then, on the following weekend, the \$150,000 Mackay Cup and the Magic Millions Whitsunday Guineas.

The Northern Queensland Winter Racing Carnival is the centrepiece of thoroughbred racing in Central Queensland and North Queensland and is a major social event for these communities. Without the benefit of the betting tax, we would not be able to support this racing carnival and other events. These racing events are important to our local economy. People get dressed up to go out in their finery, and it is an absolutely wonderful day. It benefits our local shops and there are parties afterwards at our hotels and clubs. For some country race meetings, people who are visiting from out of town fill motels. Of course, you also have those who are working in the racing industry who travel to the various regional race meetings across the state.

Without the funding of country racing, we would not have seen the \$2.3 million upgrade that has recently been carried out at Callaghan Park. The facilities for female jockeys at Rockhampton's Callaghan Park received funding for major upgrades as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to regional and country racing. The Rockhampton Jockey Club could cater for only four female jockeys in its current form, and this funding will triple the capacity of female riders, meaning that they can now cater for up to 15.

I welcome the upgrade to Callaghan Park's facilities which will also see improved flood resilience for the administration offices. As it sits beside the Fitzroy River, Callaghan Park will always face some risk of flooding. The new facilities will support 23 jobs during construction, which is scheduled for completion in time for next year's running of the Archer in May.


In the future, the Rockhampton Jockey Club would like to install the longest straight. They are currently working with the Rockhampton Regional Council. Once installed, it will be the longest straight found at any regional track—another thing to make Callaghan Park unique to the racing industry.

The Palaszczuk government understands how important events like the Archer and the Northern Queensland Winter Racing Carnival are to cities like Rockhampton. That is why we are delivering a new, sustainable funding model for Racing Queensland which sees all betting companies pay their fair share of tax, no matter where they are based. Racing plays a key role in Central Queensland. On an

annual basis it contributes more than \$55 million to the local economy and provides more than 450 full-time jobs. The Rockhampton Jockey Club is one of the busiest racing facilities across the state, with close to 40 races staged each year.

As a committee we considered a range of factors relating to the betting tax act, the Racing Act and racing regulations. We met with a range of stakeholders, the majority of whom indicated support for the proposed changes. The current funding model for Racing Queensland was no longer sustainable and it was not sufficient into the future for that future planning. It is estimated there will be an additional \$80 million in revenue that the changes to the betting tax are expected to generate each year.

The proposed changes will provide Racing Queensland with more certainty and sources of revenue which are expected to reach approximately \$198 million in the first full year of reform. Through these changes we will be able to provide an adequate and stable source of funding for country thoroughbred racing, which will receive at least \$20 million a year. With racing in Central Queensland, it is so important to have those country events. It is the time when we all come together and enjoy each other's company. It really makes a difference to people's lives. When we look at what happened through COVID when we were not able to meet and things like that, we have since been able to get out, socialise and enjoy life. It is great fun having a bet and a few beers at the racetrack. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.01 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution in the cognate debate of the racing tax bill and the appropriation bills. I want to acknowledge my fellow committee members on the Education, Employment and Training Committee as we were the committee that considered the racing tax bill. By and large, I do not have too many problems with that aspect of this cognate debate. It does support Queensland racing. It does assist pubs and clubs with revenue by ensuring that those on their sites that transact wagering are able to secure a commission so that they are not locked out of the traditional sources prior to the advent of the online gaming that we have now. I also acknowledge that this provides certainty to Tabcorp in that it will enable it to continue to be the betting hub of choice for the member for Mermaid Beach.

However, it does concern me that that wicked name Anacta appears to rear its ugly head from time to time, and this is another occasion where it seems that Anacta Strategies had been engaged by Tabcorp to deal with the Palaszczuk government. Whenever there is a suspicion that there is corruption involved in these sorts of things it ought to be spoken about in this House, and it escapes no-one's attention that Anacta Strategies has been a very significant donor to the Labor Party. It was not just of course its dealings with Tabcorp that ultimately led to a settlement with the state government; it was also prominent in the Wellcamp debacle, and that has occupied a great deal of discussion in the House today, particularly from members on this side of the House who have the freedom to question what is an outrageous waste of public funds.

When we look at the \$200-odd million that has been spent on the facility, that represents an enormous opportunity lost. It represents an opportunity to retire some of the great debt that we have incurred in recent years that we are on the road to bequeath to our grandchildren and their grandchildren, which I think is hardly fair. To an electorate like mine in Southern Downs, it also means foregone opportunities for important infrastructure and projects. Naturally, members would expect me to mention Emu Swamp Dam. That \$200 million which has been laid out for a facility that the Queensland government does not own and will not own at the conclusion of the lease could have easily built Emu Swamp Dam. That is a project which will provide water security to the town of Stanthorpe which had to have water trucked to it for 14 months during the height of the drought. It would provide water security to the industries that employ most people in the Granite Belt region, and that is horticulture—growing the fruit and vegetables that we need to provide prosperity for ourselves as well as food and food security for ourselves and our customers throughout Australia and throughout the world. I see that \$200 million which has effectively been blown there as a dreadful waste.

As part of the Wellcamp facility we were drip-fed information about what had gone on there and it had to be dragged out of the government. There was a \$108 million contract drawn up with Aspen, which, like the contract with the Wagners, was done sole source. I am led to believe from reports in the *Courier-Mail* that this Aspen contract had expended about \$16 million at the time that operations at the facility had ceased which represented about \$700,000 a day for a facility which most of the time had almost no people on board, and that was facilitated by Anacta as well. It was again a sole-source procurement which was objected to by other industry players and providers of healthcare services which were not invited to tender. The successful firm, Aspen, had paid Anacta Strategies to undertake representations to the state government. The contract was secured and Anacta Strategies donates money to the Labor Party.



I invite members of this House to imagine how a local government councillor would feel about that degree of corruption and impropriety, because if they were to be involved with taking donations from a lobbyist that had secured a successful contract with the council they would find themselves before the CCC. In fact, I reckon they would find themselves in prison. That sort of thing is an indelible stain on the credibility of this government.


It perhaps would be more easily digested if it actually produced something, but instead we got a white elephant which, by all accounts, has been used as a weapon to try and wedge the previous federal government in the context of a highly contested federal election. The people of Queensland will not thank the Labor government for the \$200 million which was wasted there. It would not just build Emu Swamp Dam; it would also build 350 social houses. In my electorate of Southern Downs, which has just been identified as having the tightest rental market in Queensland in the local government areas of Southern Downs and Goondiwindi, that is an opportunity lost. We could have refurbished all of the hospitals in my electorate, and then some—hospitals like Goondiwindi, Millmerran, Inglewood, Texas, Stanthorpe and Warwick. We need dialysis services. We need decent radiography services.

**Mr Dametto:** Hear, hear!

**Mr LISTER:** I take that approval from my good friend the member for Hinchinbrook. These are not academic matters. For the people in my electorate who depend on health services in Southern Downs and who have to go to Toowoomba or Brisbane for treatment, it is a crying shame and that money would have done a great deal of good for us. When I make an observation about a budget item I always try to put it in the prism of the people I represent in Southern Downs and the people of Southern Downs by and large want a tight ship run. We do not object to borrowings if they are for things which will provide value to the people of Queensland and to the state. We do not object to spending when it provides services and when the additional spending that has occurred has improved services rather than what we tend to see with countless millions and billions of dollars thrown at problems, only to find that the problem does not get fixed. Anybody who looks at the government and asks themselves what they are getting from it would be disappointed to see more money spent to get less back in return.

I am disappointed at the degree of additional expenditure that has occurred here which has not gone to worthwhile projects, which has not provided lasting value to the people of Queensland, which has not delivered things like irrigation and water security for my electorate, which has not improved roads like the Cunningham Highway and the Gore Highway. That \$200 million wasted on Wellcamp could have made a real difference and improved the lives of people who live there and improved the economy in my neck of the woods where road transport is king and the cost of trucking is immeasurably increased because of the bad situation of our roads.

I say to the people of Southern Downs that this is a disappointing appropriation; however, it has already been undertaken and therefore the opposition is bound to support it. I will never take a backward step from reminding the government that it ought to use public funds carefully, it ought to restrain unnecessary growth in the size of government and it ought to provide decent services and decent facilities for the people I represent.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise to support the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Before I move on to the broader appropriations elements of these bills, I thought I would start by touching on the racing betting reform elements of this bill, as the bill came to the Education, Employment and Training Committee for the obvious reason that Minister Grace's portfolio responsibilities include the racing industry. As the member for Redlands said, we have had quite a bit of work in this space this year.

We clearly support these sensible reforms, but what is unclear is exactly what the position of those opposite is when it comes to this betting tax. Members opposite, particularly the shadow Treasurer in his contribution, seem to say that on one hand they recognise the investment that this brings to racing, recognise what it will do for the industry, including what it will deliver for country racing, but then complain about the tax reform that delivers it. They claim to support investment in racing, but they do not want multinational offshore betting companies to chip in for it. It is pretty obvious where their priorities are.

The shadow Treasurer spent some time talking generously about the apparent extraordinary contribution made by LNP members on the committee in outlining their contribution, except that they did not put in a statement of reservation. That is no reflection on my fellow committee members. I genuinely assume it reflects their thinking and what was the general tone and broad cooperation throughout the written and public briefings, the consideration of submissions and the public hearing itself. It is a shame for them that their front bench now come in here and try to put words in their

collective mouth. The shadow Treasurer also failed to recognise the genuine work of the member for Hinchinbrook who was quite engaged in this bill, particularly in relation to country racing. I think it is a shame things get portrayed that way.

As to the bill, the reforms to change the betting tax deliver a better funding model for Queensland's racing industry. These reforms include introducing a five per cent racing levy to effectively bring the racing tax up to 20 per cent; incorporating free bets into the calculation of betting tax which effectively recognises the nature of many incentive programs that companies run and the money flow throughout the online gambling world; and providing for the hypothecation of 80 per cent of annual betting tax revenue to Racing Queensland. This provides much needed certainty, particularly for regional and country racing. What those opposite will not say in this debate is why they are so hesitant to say that they will vote for the betting tax reform. Is it because they clearly do not want to insult offshore multinational betting companies? Their priorities are just wrong. These multinationals, almost all of whom operate through licences in the Northern Territory for dodgy tax purposes, undercut the racing industry here in Queensland. Requiring them to pay their fair share through a point of consumption tax is more than reasonable.

As we saw in the submissions during the hearing and, indeed, as we see across our own local communities, these betting companies simply do not invest in our community. They do not have infrastructure in our community. They do not have infrastructure in our community sporting clubs or our local hotels and pubs. They do not employ staff at those venues. In practical terms we have the situation where people at clubs or pubs in our community are watching electronic infrastructure that these companies do not fund, are watching content on TVs that they do not fund and they are taking bets from Queenslanders where that tax is not returned to Queenslanders or, indeed, the Queensland industry from which they are profiting.

Even the CEO of the Orwellian named Responsible Wagering Australia, representing the largest multinational betting companies, had to admit as much during the hearing. I think the tone of the contribution from Responsible Wagering Australia in the hearing was very telling. I think it could be described as showing disdain when asked pretty simple questions about their business model and elements of their structures. In case we were going to give him the benefit of the doubt as a committee, he put it beyond doubt with the disdain he showed in the response to a question taken on notice by basically saying that, despite the fact that we have an oversight role in this place representing the people of Queensland, it was none of our business how they operated and how they avoided paying tax. My view is this: quite simply, they benefit greatly from the racing industry, making huge profits, so they should contribute to the future of that industry.

In terms of the appropriations element of the bill, I want to associate myself with previous contributions, including from the member for Sandgate. I support the work of this government in delivering the mental health levy, recognising the greater recognition and understanding of this issue and representing our government's commitment to tackling this issue. It is an important issue and a really important delivery for Queenslanders and their families who live with the challenges of mental health.

In terms of the economy, can I start by thanking the Treasurer for his strong economic management of our state. Under the Premier and her team, the government delivered a strong health response to COVID and now, because of that determination, we are able to deliver a strong economic response across the state and locally. That prudent economic management has seen this government prioritise important investment in services for Queenslanders across the state and in my own electorate of Stafford. Locally it means investments like \$300 million for an extra 93 beds at the wonderful Prince Charles Hospital and \$750 million to deliver a specialist cancer centre co-located at the RBWH. I should point out to the member for McConnel it is 200 metres outside of my electorate, I will give her that, but a lot of the workers are based in the state electorate of Stafford.

We have seen investment in housing, with great new dwellings already coming on board in Kedron and future premises already under construction in Alderley and two new fantastic locations in planning and delivery in Chermside and the Chermside West-Craigslea area. Locally in health we have seen \$3 million invested in the Stafford Dental Clinic just around the corner from the Stafford State School and my electorate office. It is a wonderful facility for our community. There has been investment in all of our local schools: in Somerset Hills we are delivering on our election commitment to sporting and educational facilities; at Stafford we are delivering a hall upgrade and accessibility upgrades to what is a beautiful but old school—it is wonderful to get that accessibility; investment in classrooms at Stafford Heights; Wavell Heights State School has had its hall and tuckshop upgraded; Kedron State School has a new outdoor area; air conditioning in all of our schools; more investment in Wavell High, Kedron High, Craigslea High and Everton Park High and, of course, a new hall for Wilston State School.


**Mr Tantari:** They have a great member!

**Mr SULLIVAN:** That is in just two years.

**Mr Nicholls:** Kedron High is in my electorate.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** With the catchment in my electorate, member for Clayfield. In transport we have the Northern Transitway which is well underway and is going well. The Frederick Street Bridge in Alderley means fantastic accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians alike. It is really good for that local pocket. There are also smaller, but important, things on the social level like investing in the Community Place community centre, in our Stafford Meals on Wheels, in our Chermside Meals on Wheels and delivering Skilling Queenslanders for Work which was savagely cut by those opposite. We have had fantastic results through partnerships with the Kedron AFL, the Chermside Bowls Club and the multicultural centre at Newmarket providing wonderful opportunities for young people and migrants with English as a second language, delivering great results and getting people into the workforce.

With the limited time I have left I would like to give a few thank-yous. I start by thanking our fantastic chair, who does a great job. We have had a busy schedule, but have got through it really well. I thank the secretariat for again managing a tight time frame. I am really glad we can deliver. Across the department there have been fantastic public briefings and material provided to us as committee members. I appreciate them for that. Some of this is technical in detail, but the information provided was quite useful and I think really improved both the public hearing and the result that we see in the legislation today. With those few words I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.18 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the bills being debated in cognate this afternoon. I will focus mainly on the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee it was a pleasure to scrutinise this bill with my fellow committee members. I thank the chair, the member for Redlands, and our deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs, for their contributions during our examination of the bill.

Country racing is at the heart of most regional communities and it is something that I am very passionate about so I took a fair bit of interest in the legislation before the House. We will continue to fight for more funding to help country racing and the small regional tracks that form part of the fabric of society in those areas. They are places of congregation. They are places where groups come together once or twice a year.

While I am on my feet, I must talk about my regional area and the Herbert River Jockey Club. Club president, David Adcock, does an absolutely brilliant job. Over the past couple of years things have been challenging with poor track conditions, COVID and so on. It warms my heart to know that there will be funding into the future to keep those small clubs going. Everyone in this place should be very proud to see money being allocated to country racing.

Unfortunately, this year both our race days have been cancelled. The track conditions are not safe enough for jockeys or horses. However, this Saturday, 12 November, we will be having a phantom race day that is being supported by Tabcorp and bookies will be there. The town will come out in force. Indeed, the whole of the Hinchinbrook Shire will come out in force to support the club, which I think is absolutely great. For most people—and I am usually one of them—it would not matter whether or not there are horses going around; I reckon we will be having a good time on Saturday afternoon.

An objective of the bill is to provide a more sustainable funding model for Queensland racing. This bill achieves that objective by doing a number of things including: (1) introducing a five per cent racing levy in addition to the current 15 per cent betting tax rate; and (2) incorporating free bets into the calculation of betting tax. The bill's proposal to include free bets and bonus bets in the calculation of the taxable wage or revenue is important because online betting companies and corporations have really taken what I would say is pride of place among most people's phone apps and we need to make sure that they are paying their fair share if they are operating in Queensland and Australia. For years a lot of them have been syphoning cash to tax havens. I will not name them outright because I do not want to be sued. I cannot afford that.

Millions of dollars worth of Queensland and Australian betting funds are going to places such as Dublin, the Isle of Man and even the UK. It saddens me to think that that money is taken offshore by corporations. I think that this legislation does the right thing. A big part of the KAP mantra is to support Australian owned product, especially Queensland grown or produced product, to ensure that the money stays right here in Australia and Queensland. Therefore, of course we support the passage of this legislation through the House.

The bill proposes amendments to the Betting Tax Act that are designed to provide Racing Queensland with more certainty and stability in its funding model. If it stays on its current trajectory, there is no way in the world that Racing Queensland could survive. Something needs to be done. It is good to see that the state government has listened to Tabcorp and Racing Queensland and delivered this bill to ensure that they can proceed.

Some stakeholders have concerns about the bill. Neither the bill, the Racing Act nor the regulations provide a definition for 'country thoroughbred race meetings', which I am a little concerned about. The explanatory notes imply that Racing Queensland will have the power to determine which events fall within this category. Some race meeting groups have raised concerns that they might be precluded from receiving a share of the \$20 million that has been promised. The committee has rightly recommended that the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment clarify how 'country thoroughbred race meetings' will be defined for the purpose of the Racing Act and the Racing Regulation 2013 and who will be responsible for defining that term.

These reforms are in the best interests of the racing industry in Queensland. All wagering operations have a role to play in ensuring a well-funded and sustainable industry moving forward. That is vitally important. We want racing to continue in Queensland and Australia. We want to continue to enjoy going to the races on the weekends, whether it is to enjoy a glass of champagne or to have a flutter. We have to ensure that horses can still run round the tracks and that needs funding. From his investment in racing in Queensland and from feeding a thoroughbred that did not really go too far, the member for Rockhampton knows all too well that these things are expensive. Sooky Lala did not really make it and that is a fact. However, the horseracing industry does not run on hopes and dreams; it needs to be funded from somewhere. Tabcorp had the market share before the online betting companies took hold in Australia and they had a sustainable model. It is great to see that through this legislation we will move forward.

Over the years, foreign owned gambling providers have reported increased profits and market share. Some companies are making as much as \$15 billion worldwide. That is an incredible amount of money. To think that over the past years that money has been funnelled offshore without anything to slow them down is concerning to all Queenslanders. For example, Sportsbet is licensed in the NT and based in Dublin. Ladbrokes and Neds are in similar situations. They are all running off Northern Territory licences and operating here in Queensland through betting apps. We need to tighten that up and make sure that we keep the money here. As I come towards the end of my contribution—

**Ms Pugh:** Oh!


**Mr DAMETTO:** You don't want me to stop? I take the interjection from the member for Mount Ommaney. It is always great to hear her contributions in the House.

There is no doubt foreign gambling providers have pocketed large amounts of money. There are many multinationals operating in this country and for too long we have seen too much money going offshore. It is great to see that the state Labor government has finally acknowledged that the brakes need to be put on this group. We need to make sure that Racing Queensland has a sustainable model going forward. We need to make sure that our country racing organisations—people such as David Adcock and the Herbert River Jockey Club—have a sustainable model moving forward.

Before I finish I want to acknowledge how the money that is generated from gambling in this state is pushed back into the community. All of our small organisations, from the P&Cs all the way through to the QCWA, benefit from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

**Ms PUGH:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DAMETTO:** I take that interjection. Recently, we had some success. The Herbert River Jockey Club gained a grant from the super round worth over \$100,000, which will be spent on a new kitchen. The lovely ladies and gentlemen who make sure we are fed on race days will be able to work in better conditions. A couple of weeks ago we were down there for the Maraka Queen's Cocktail Night and it was absolutely stinking hot in that kitchen. It is great that the club will be able to put the project out to tender and hopefully have a kitchen built in a timely manner and under budget for those people who volunteer their time. We need to make sure that they have the resources to do the job locally. Without further ado, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.28 pm): I note that my speech will have some thematic similarities to the speech of the member for Hinchinbrook. It is a pleasure to rise to speak on the cognate debate. Today I will focus my contribution on the significant impact of the February floods in my community. Later in my contribution I will touch on the significant good works that the Gambling Community Benefit Fund has had in helping my community clubs recover from the floods. My community was really badly impacted in a number of ways by the floods in February. I can never thank

enough the hundreds of volunteers and public servants for all they did during that terrible time for my community. Many community clubs were impacted, and I will certainly speak about that later, and hundreds of residents' homes were also very badly impacted.

Hundreds of residents in Oxley and Corinda in particular were displaced during the floods. For residents whose homes were inundated, some are still renting and are unable to return home. I would expect that members of the House would be familiar with the state-federal joint funded flood recovery fund. Over \$700 million has been allocated between both levels of government to help impacted home owners retrofit their homes to be more flood resilient—up to \$50,000 per home—or to raise their homes out of the floodwaters so that the next time the water comes through, their house is not in its path. For home owners who are interested, there is also the option of applying for buyback whereby the state and federal governments facilitate the purchase of the home. That purchase is conducted in my area by Brisbane City Council. In other cases it is facilitated by the local government in that particular district.

A few weeks ago the QRA, alongside some other departments, hosted a flood forum in my electorate at the Oxley Bowls Club, which was very badly inundated in February. They have had a remarkable recovery thanks to Vaneet and all of the volunteers there. Local residents were able to pre-book a time or walk in off the street between 12pm and 4pm. They had the opportunity to catch up with all kinds of support services, including mental health and pastoral care. They could get an update from QRA about where their application is up to and connect in with some of the other services that they might not have spoken to for a number of months since the floods in February.

The aim of this program—over \$700 million—is, simply put, to ensure that next time we have a rain event like the one we had in February there are far fewer homes in its path. Many people in my community have now been through two floods in just over a decade. Many of those residents have shared with me the mental health strain that experiencing those two events in fairly quick succession has put on them. Some residents in my community were actually around for the 1974 floods and remember that, too. We can only imagine that even the sound of rain to some of these residents can be really distressing.

This funding program gives them the options and the autonomy to have a real say in what they want to do with their home and their future. I recognise that some residents do not actually want to have their home bought back even though that is an option for them. We respect and recognise that. The good news is that we now have a set of criteria and a funding scheme designed for future natural disasters. Now that we have that criteria in place, we do not need to redesign that should another event occur.

I now turn to some of the smaller grants given out in this year's budget from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. As I said, my clubs were heavily affected by the February floods because, rather than having houses constructed on this land, most are built on land that floods easily. The recovery periods have been fairly staggered, to put it mildly. Some have made an almost complete recovery; others are still really struggling months on. Thank goodness for the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, which has provided a huge boost to many of my flood-affected clubs. In round 114, several of my flood-impacted clubs received huge grants. I would love to share them with the House.

In February, Centenary Little Athletics lost all of their gear and equipment in the floods. It was really awful to have to throw it all away. The amazing volunteers at the club threw it all out quickly so that it did not fester. Grants officer James submitted a great application to replace the equipment and to upgrade the facility. The Centenary Little A's share their facility with the mighty Jindalee Jags. The Jags are a brilliant club. Their clubhouse was flooded as well. The federal member, Milton Dick, and I spent hours at the club helping hundreds of other volunteers clean the clubhouse after the floodwaters receded. They did a brilliant job of getting the clubhouse back up and running in record time. They have been flooded twice in the last 11 years—2011 and now—and some of their facilities desperately need an upgrade, especially the female changing rooms. I should mention that their female teams are phenomenal and regularly make the finals alongside their male counterparts.

I am beyond excited to share that they have received \$100,000 to upgrade their change facilities and make them more modern. Our Jaggies are a phenomenal club under the leadership of president Michael Rutch. They have done an amazing job in pushing through COVID and now these floods. I know that Michael would be the first, if he were here, to say that he is supported by lots of amazing volunteers like Dee, Bill and so many more. This funding will be a game changer for the club. I cannot wait to see the final outcome.

The Jindalee Bowls Club was absolutely smashed by the floods. Everything inside the clubhouse was wrecked. The management team did a wonderful job trying to salvage what they could. We tried to hose off the chairs and salvage whatever possible. They have received over \$67,000 to upgrade

their building and purchase new equipment, because they did not get much out unfortunately. Milton Dick and I really loved using their hall. They had a huge hall. It was a really well used community facility. We used it for our annual Seniors Morning Tea. It has been a huge loss for the community because it was a regular meeting place for Probuss clubs, seniors groups and lots of other community get-togethers. It was also home to the fabulous Centenary RSL and the Centenary Meals on Wheels. This hall cannot be rebuilt soon enough. That is why this \$67,000-odd will come in handy.

I say a special thankyou to the Centenary Salvos. They have taken on many of the regular tenants such as Jindalee Taekwondo and Centenary Meals on Wheels. My community has really pulled together and done its absolute best to get us all through a really tough year.


Just around the corner from the bowls club is the flooded Jindalee pool. Guess what! The Centenary Dolphins Swimming Pool received \$71,024.99 for equipment. The club has done such a great job promoting the benefits of swimming and it has done an excellent job promoting and growing this lovely community-based club.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:** A lot of clubs flooded; it was pretty awful. The Corinda Pony Club has been absolutely amazing, hosting flood recovery forums and catch-ups. It is a delight to see their community spirit rewarded with \$100,000 to upgrade their arena after the floods, because a lot of it washed away. When I contacted club member Jemima to give her the heads-up, she was beside herself with how this is going to benefit their members. They also lease out and share their facilities with other groups including Equus Terra, a riding club that supports young people with different needs to enjoy the pleasures of horseriding and all of the mental health and development benefits that come with it.

Of course, none of these grant applications would have ever been written or even remotely possible without the dedication of amazing club and school volunteers—our coaches, referees and grant writers. I take a moment to recognise the work that has been put in by our volunteer club presidents and their teams of committee members and helpers. I will name just a few: Russell, Helen and Claire from Oxley United, whose AGM I am attending tonight via Zoom—thank you, Zoom; Bill and Wayne and the gang from Jindalee Jags; Simon, Belinda and the Stormers team; Stacey, Amanda and the team at the Centenary Dolphins; and the lovely girls down at the pony club, Jemima, Di, Christine and Brenda.

There was one more grant: Mount Ommaney Special School received \$39,847.50 for a facility upgrade. It just could not go to a more deserving school. The last word has to go to the Centenary State High School students, who wrote their grant application as a gift to the school for a shade sail for around \$30,000. They received the grant, which they applied for themselves. They will give that as a gift to the school. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022, the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As we have heard, the objective of the bills is to seek formal authorisation for the specified amounts in each bill that the Treasurer has paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure that occurred by the Legislative Assembly and by 14 government departments and agencies in the 2021-22 financial year. The Consolidated Fund is the Queensland government's central bank account which comprises all taxes, imposts, rates, duties and other revenue and income streams of the state. Under this bill, the Treasurer is authorised to pay \$2.823 billion from the Consolidated Fund. This is in comparison to last year's bill, which sought \$447.456 million for only six departments. Of course, we have heard about the comparison with previous years and that it is a record amount for this type of bill.

It should be noted that the non-government members of the Economics and Governance Committee, along with the LNP, hold serious reservations about the sheer amount of overspend required to be approved by the passage of these bills. I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Buderim who pointed out, when others suggested that it is normal business that the overspend, for example, that happened in the department of small business to allow for business grants that they had not allowed for in the budget, that was when we were in the midst of a COVID disaster. The department had to distribute \$138 million in small business grants, but the year before there should have been some planning for that. Whilst I note that these funds have been awarded to and spent by departments already, these bills highlight the fact that the Treasurer is unable to contain the wasteful spending of his government colleagues, to point where he has been forced to break the no new tax promise he made to Queenslanders 26 times.

I want to highlight the land tax assessment phishing that the Treasurer and government have been undertaking. It is a form of fishing spelt phishing, which is a deceptive message designed to trick Queenslanders into paying something they do not owe. A number of constituents in my electorate received letters from the Queensland Revenue Office demanding payment of land tax. I had a letter from a constituent and then my wife received the same letter. I have de-identified the letter, but it reads—

In Queensland, as a natural resident individual, you become liable for land tax when the total taxable value of the land you own at midnight on 30 June reaches \$600,000.

Your land in Queensland has exceeded this value, which means you become liable for land tax as at 30 June 2022.

This constituent has a land tax valuation on this assessment of \$669,674 and an estimated land tax liability of \$1,196.70. I point out that this is not the land tax that the government has been forced to withdraw; this is the current land tax. The point about this that I am raising is that this constituent does not have included in this valuation the exemption for their principal place of residence which goes up to \$600,000. It says that their land valuation was \$669,674. It says in the letter from the Revenue Office—

Exemptions are **not automatic**—you must apply.

When I received a copy of that letter from my constituent—and I had heard of this happening in previous years—I encouraged them to apply for an exemption, which they did and which they subsequently received.

When I received my wife's land tax bill, I then applied for the exemption for her. I can tell honourable members that the application process is very complicated. It is so complicated that it took me looking at two devices to be able to register for my wife's exemption. That tells me that there will be Queenslanders—many of the 10,000 Queenslanders who received assessments and especially elderly Queenslanders—who received a notional bill who will pay it because they will not apply for the exemption. An exemption that people have been granted in the past they now have to apply for. The principal place of residence has not been included in the valuation for which they have been assessed for land tax purposes.

A number of Queenslanders who have received a land tax bill will pay it because the exemption application process is complicated. The fees in the case of these two couples were \$1,427.20 and \$1,196.70 yet both of them were exempt when they applied for an exemption. I table a copy of those letters.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents relating to land tax [\[1869\]](#).

This government is clearly desperate to raise revenue and is sending land tax bills to people who do not have to pay land tax but may be conned into doing so. That is this government. When we look at the current debate around payroll tax involving medical practitioners, it is obvious that Treasury and this government are getting more and more desperate for revenue. Treasury sends people a bill and unless people apply for an exemption for their principal place of residence—and that is a time-consuming and complicated affair—they will pay the bill.

The shelving of the interstate land tax by the Premier on 30 September is the greatest embarrassment for a Treasurer in recent memory. From the day the renters tax was announced, the LNP said it would drive out investment and drive up rents, as did investors, economists, academics, industry, lawyers, bankers and renters. It was only the Premier and the Treasurer who refused to listen. I table an article from the *Australian Financial Review* on 30 September 2022 titled 'Palaszczuk dumps land tax after revolt at The Lodge'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 30 September 2022, titled 'Palaszczuk dumps land tax after revolt at The Lodge' [\[1870\]](#).

The article goes on to highlight that both the New South Wales and Victorian premiers made it clear that they were not happy about being asked to help lift taxes on their own constituents, from which they would not benefit, so that the Queensland Labor government could bring in a new, damaging tax. Finally the Premier conceded the tax was damaging and unworkable and shelved it without telling the Treasurer first. The Premier and the Treasurer still do not have a consistent story about how this tax unravelled.


The overspend contained in this year's appropriation bills is the highest since the blowouts in the dying years of the Bligh government and is symptomatic of a government which, in its third term, no longer values Queenslanders' money the way it should. The amount of budget blowouts contained in these bills exposes a large list of wasteful spending, including: Wellcamp quarantine facility, \$220 million; small business grants given to the wrong people, \$4 million; Tradies in Paradise, which

attracted two tradies, as we heard from the honourable member for Buderim, \$2 million; Dreamworld koala research money spent on a new roller coaster, \$2.7 million; the energy GOC IT upgrade blowout, \$186 million; the Coomera Connector blowout, \$600 million; and the Gold Coast Light Rail blowout from \$709 million to \$1.2 billion. Overall, it is becoming increasingly clear that the current Treasurer and those opposite are completely unable to manage the state's finances and are not treating Queenslanders' money with the respect it deserves. Queenslanders deserve so much better than this Treasurer and this government.

As I have mentioned previously, since becoming Treasurer, the Treasurer has said that there would be no new or increased taxes in his term. The Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 is yet another example of that broken promise. This government has introduced 15 new taxes at a cost of more than \$10 billion to Queenslanders. The main objective of the bill is to provide a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry. The proposed amendments will introduce a five per cent racing levy in addition to the 15 per cent betting tax rate or point of consumption, incorporate free bets into the calculation of betting tax and provide for the hypothecation of 80 per cent of annual betting revenue to Racing Queensland, up from the currently legislated 35 per cent.

It will tax private operators on a level playing field with Tabcorp. I do have concerns with those opposite maintaining that the other operators do not contribute anything. I have been to their place of employ where Queenslanders are employed. I acknowledge the concerns of Responsible Wagering Australia that the policy decision was announced without any prior consultation.

The secondary objective of the bill is to amend the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to facilitate the implementation of the mental health levy. As the shadow minister for disability services, I, of course, welcome funding commitments by this government for mental health support, but I am concerned this levy will create an extra burden on businesses to administer.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to support both the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As members are well aware, the appropriation bills represent an annual process which reconciles departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year against the relevant budget projections—in this instance for the 2021-22 financial year. Once again, the disingenuous way that those opposite seem to frame this debate needs to be called out. This is an annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009. We also have an annual process from the opposition of mock outrage and the faux clutching of pearls in dealing with these bills. The Oscar in this debate would usually go to the member for Mermaid Beach. He always shares some weird mistruths or odd conspiracies with us all. To be fair, he still did that—just not with any real gusto. It was very disappointing, I have to say.

The Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 proposes to authorise the Treasurer's payment for unforeseen expenditure incurred by 14 departments in the 2021-22 financial year as set out in schedule 1 of the bill. The 2021-22 financial year was a year heavily impacted by the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and a significant weather event in the early part of 2022. I want to acknowledge the member for Mount Ommaney whose electorate was heavily impacted by those floods.

During this time, our government provided additional funding to support local businesses and tourism operators through our COVID-19 Business Support Grants and other funding—which, as Treasury advised the parliamentary committee, was a significant amount of spending not anticipated at the time of the budget. In a time of great uncertainty and necessary lockdowns, I certainly know that small businesses in our electorates on this side of the House very much appreciated those business support grants, though it would seem that those opposite believe these grants were a waste of money—that funding for small business was a waste of money. This is a message I will certainly be sharing with businesses in my electorate.

It is also worth noting, and as the Treasurer advised in the last sitting, the final position for the 2021-22 financial year is a surplus of \$4.3 billion—the largest recorded surplus since records began. For all the opposition's misleading comments about financial mismanagement, once again, the facts speak for themselves. As the Treasurer also outlined, our government does not deliver surpluses for their own sake. The 2021-22 surplus is being put to work delivering infrastructure, services and jobs for the people of Queensland.

The opposition in their statement of reservation reference wasteful spending and claim that our government does not value Queenslanders' money the way it should. My question to those opposite is: what will they be cutting? All evidence indicates that this is the road that we are heading down under the Leader of the Opposition—cutting, sacking and selling.



Will they cut our defining Health and Hospitals Plan, which included a record \$23.6 billion health budget, \$9.78 billion in additional funding for the Capacity Expansion Program, three new hospitals, a new Queensland Cancer Centre and 11 hospital expansion projects? Will they cut the new Toowoomba Hospital? As the shadow Treasurer told us, he is very keen on using Ctrl-F. I can tell you that the people of Toowoomba will be Ctrl-F'd if he ends up as our state's Treasurer!

Will they cut our Better Care Together plan—\$1.64 billion in additional funding over five years for mental health, alcohol and other drug services? Will they cut or indeed say anything about our world-class Energy and Jobs Plan—\$6 billion investment in our energy future, a future of clean, reliable and affordable energy, a plan that will power good jobs and new industries across our vast state but particularly benefiting regional areas?

Will they cut the additional \$1 billion we have announced to support our Housing Investment Fund or the \$363 million to respond to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce? What will they cut? What they consider to be 'wasteful spending' is important funding that is addressing the significant issues that matter to the people that we represent.

Locally, in the Jordan electorate, my constituents see the important investments that we are making, particularly in infrastructure—our \$44.5 million Springfield Central park-and-ride completed this financial year, as well as the new Brighton Homes Arena, the home of the Brisbane Lions, for which our government contributed \$18 million. Construction is currently underway on the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange upgrade, as well as our brand new school in Augustine Heights, Woogaroo Creek State School, and Flagstone State School's new learning centre—both to open early in 2023.

Early works are beginning on the new Mater Public Hospital and the new Greater Springfield Fire and Rescue station, as well as construction beginning shortly on the WesTec Trade Training Centre expansion. There is also additional funding for the Centenary Highway and catalyst funding for extensions to New Beith Road and Teviot Road in Flagstone and Greenbank. These projects are important for the people I represent—and I am very proud that I have been able to deliver them with the support of our Premier, Treasurer and the Palaszczuk government.

I now turn to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We know that its primary objective is to provide a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry. That will be done by introducing a five per cent racing levy in addition to the 15 per cent betting tax rate, incorporating free bets into the calculation of betting tax and providing for the hypothecation of 80 per cent of annual betting tax revenue to the Racing Queensland Board.

The bill also proposes changes intended to ensure that country thoroughbred race meetings in Queensland receive a minimum amount of the betting tax revenue paid to Racing Queensland and this has had strong support from the racing industry. In fact, Racing Queensland expressed strong support for the funding model proposed in the bill, noting that the proposed changes will, in their words, 'enable the racing industry in Queensland to benefit directly from what it creates'. They also indicated that certainty of funding is critically important for their industry to thrive and is the basis upon which they can create long-term strategies which will grow the industry.

The bill also proposes changes to the Payroll Tax Act which are designed to better align the mechanisms relating to the mental health levy with those relating to payroll tax. These changes were foreshadowed by the Treasurer at the time the original legislation was passed and ensure issues identified by the Queensland Revenue Office as they prepare for the implementation of the levy are properly addressed.


As members are aware, from 1 January 2023, a mental health levy will apply to large employers, or groups of employers, in Queensland that pay Australia-wide wages in excess of \$10 million annually. The mental health levy will be imposed at 0.25 per cent on Australia-wide wages more than \$10 million, plus an additional 0.5 per cent on Australia-wide wages over \$100 million.

Our record health budget committed an additional \$1.6 billion for mental health services over the next five years, together with \$28.5 million in capital funding. I am really proud of our government's commitment to addressing the mental health crisis that we know is in all of our communities. This is the biggest ever investment in mental health services in Queensland.

I want to congratulate the health minister on the release of Better Care Together—a five-year plan that will continue the momentum we have seen to improve the mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Queenslanders by transforming, optimising and growing state funded mental health, alcohol and other drug treatment, care and support and responses to the mental health crisis and suicide. It also recognises the importance of balancing the provision of this treatment, care and support

across community and hospital-based services, addressing that ‘missing middle’ that I have previously referenced in this parliament, and delivering an optimal mix of services and the right treatment and beds for the right purpose at the right time.

Our government’s response to the pandemic, the resulting strength of Queensland’s economic performance and our willingness to invest heavily—whether in critical infrastructure or key services—means we are well positioned for the next phase of Queensland’s economic future. I commend the work of the Queensland Treasury and the Treasurer in both the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Hon. Cameron Dick introduced the appropriation bills into the House on 12 October. The bills were referred to the Economics and Governance Committee for joint consideration, along with the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The committee was to report back on 4 November 2022. The bills were considered urgent through the committee process, as was the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that we finished earlier today, so there was very little time for the committee to receive submissions or feedback from the community, organisations and business.

We all know that this Palaszczuk government has an appalling record when it comes to spending and service delivery, with cost blowouts and overruns. This appropriation bill puts that beyond any doubt. The appropriation bill is requesting the House to authorise an unforeseen expenditure for 2021-22 of \$2.823 billion. This is a staggering overspend by this government and shows that this Treasurer has no control of the spending of his cabinet colleagues. Where has this money gone? Which department cannot balance their budget? It is almost all of them. Let’s have a look.

The government departments and agencies are: the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, \$2.225 million; the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, \$175.791 million; the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, \$138.224 million; the Department of Energy and Public Works, \$57.098 million; the Department of Environment and Science—this is a good one—\$623.215 million; the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, \$4.444 million; the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—it has done fairly well!—\$573.696 million; the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, \$85.222 million; the Department of Transport and Main Roads, \$330.326 million; the Office of the Governor, \$76,000; the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management, \$62,000; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, \$224.315 million; the Queensland Police Service, \$56.917 million; and Queensland Treasury, \$551.513 million.


That is staggering. That is the number of departments that could not control their budgets. The majority of this total unforeseen expenditure—62 per cent—arose from, as you have heard, just three departments: the Department of Environment and Science, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, and Queensland Treasury.

What have we got for this? We know that we have the Wellcamp quarantine facility at a cost of \$230 million which will be handed back to the Wagner family in April. That is in the seat of Condamine, so I see this big, empty white elephant on a regular basis. I drive past it all the time. I would like to know the cost per person who has stayed at that facility. At \$230 million, there would not even have been 230 people who stayed there. This will forever be a landmark for the wasteful spending of this government.

Debate, on motion of Mr Weir, adjourned.

## SPEAKER’S STATEMENT

### Cameras in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that television pool cameras will be filming proceedings during the private member’s motion debate.

## MOTION

### Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House has no confidence in the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

I will be direct: the Minister for Health is in way over her head. She is out of her depth. The way that our hospitals and ambulance services are run matters to Queenslanders.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** It matters! It is a privileged position which the member occupies. The portfolio that she is responsible for interacts with the daily lives of Queenslanders more than most in this place. That is why Queenslanders put such a high price on how much they value their health care. They value health care, and they expect the person ultimately responsible for the system to be just that: actually responsible for it. Yet that is not what Queenslanders are getting with this minister.

When substantive and legitimate issues are raised with her, both in this place and outside, she does not listen. When failures are highlighted and a line shone on them there is a total lack of empathy and compassion. The minister has failed to gain any respect within the medical profession, which regards the minister as an abject failure. When things fail, when promises are not kept or when the minister is caught out, she is not accountable. The minister is never accountable—ever. Deflect the issue to the Commonwealth; blame a hospital board; throw GPs under the bus; say it is playing politics; delay releasing the figures; leak our own RTI; and do not release the report in full. Queenslanders will not cop it anymore. They have had enough.


The minister is losing control of Queensland Health and it is Queenslanders who are paying the price. Queenslanders have lost confidence, and that is exactly why this motion has been moved. Queenslanders have no confidence in the health minister anymore. The word on the street from those in the know is that the caucus has entered a state of panic because they have come to that realisation too. Open the paper, Mr Speaker, and read about the health crisis. Turn on the six o'clock news and see the latest footage of the health crisis. Turn on and tune into the radio and you hear about the health crisis. Constituents' emails are all about the health crisis. It is becoming all-consuming, and don't the backbench over there know it.

They absolutely know it, and we hear that it is becoming all too real for some of them. The private anxieties have become whispers, then the whispers became murmurs and now the murmurs have become outbursts. We now have a situation where the minister's own colleagues in this place have lost confidence in her too. Those opposite have a decision to make here this afternoon. I say to the agitators on the backbench and the front bench, 'Here is your chance. Here is your moment.' Those members can show a bit of spine and vote for the motion as it is put. They can send a message to their constituents and say 'enough is enough'. They can say, 'I'm not going to stand idly by and watch the deterioration of public health services in my community under this minister's watch', or they can vote against it. Should honourable members on that side vote against the motion as it is put, they are saying to their constituents that they are happy. They are saying they are satisfied with the minister's performance and the health crisis which has beset Queensland Health. Good luck selling that to your constituencies.

How will the member for Capalaba vote? The hospital that services his constituents has the worst ramping in the state. He publicly defied the minister and called for his own local board to be sacked. Here is the member's chance to show the people of his constituency that he will not accept it. Or is the member for Capalaba happy to accept the worst ramping in the state? How will the member for Gladstone vote? He represents a community where mothers cannot even give birth in their own local hospitals because maternity services are shut. How will he vote? Is it his job or hers? Member for Hervey Bay, think long and hard about your vote, because ramping and patients not seen on time in the Hervey Bay ED are in uncharted territory.

The minister is running out of people who trust her to do her job. She has pointed blame in so many directions that now they are all pointing back at her. It cannot keep going on like this. Queensland patients have lost confidence in the minister. Frontline clinicians have lost confidence in the minister. Her own colleagues have lost confidence in the minister. If the Premier had not already checked out, she would have sacked her incompetent health minister months ago. Minister, time is up. Abandon ship!

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.05 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'House' be omitted and the following inserted:

- '(a) supports the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services deliver the Palaszczuk government's record investment in health care in Queensland and the government's strong Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan which supports all Queenslanders;

- (b) has no confidence in the shadow minister for health and ambulance services, the member for Mudgeeraba;
- (c) condemns the member for Mudgeeraba for her comments regarding “dud” health workers in regional Queensland;
- (d) condemns the Leader of the Opposition for not showing leadership and sacking the member for Mudgeeraba from his shadow cabinet for her disgraceful comments about Queensland health workers;
- (e) condemns the member for Mudgeeraba’s membership of an organisation which actively promoted anti-vaccination sentiment during the peak of the COVID pandemic; and
- (f) condemns the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba for their participation in the Newman LNP government which sacked 4,400 healthcare workers.’

I move this amendment because, simply put, the motion put by the member for Mudgeeraba is founded in bad faith and politics pure and simple, and that is coming from a member of this House who has made a speciality of bad faith politics. The member for Mudgeeraba did not serve long in the cabinet of Queensland. I am not one to praise Campbell Newman, but even Campbell Newman recognised that the member for Mudgeeraba should not be in his cabinet when he accepted her resignation. That is more than we can say for the current Leader of the Opposition. The member for Mudgeeraba not only openly supported a fake union that is associated with anti-vax sentiment; the member for Mudgeeraba is proud of it. The member for Mudgeeraba calls regional health workers duds. Even so, the Leader of the Opposition continues to put her forward as the alternative health minister for Queensland. Not even Campbell Newman would do that.

That is the thing about the current Leader of the Opposition: the Leader of the Opposition does not have any strength of character. Look at the member for Broadwater’s record on the budget and the economy. The Leader of the Opposition supported the revenue bills passed by the Assembly, then he opposed them, and then the member for Broadwater in the House today demands more spending for his electorate. The Leader of the Opposition has no discipline. He has no coherent plan for Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition just makes it up as he goes along with whatever issue floats past.

Nowhere is that weakness clearer than in relation to the member for Mudgeeraba on his front bench, when not even Campbell Newman would have the member for Mudgeeraba. While the member for Mudgeeraba only had a short ministerial career, the member for Mudgeeraba was there in the cabinet for the horror 2012 Newman LNP budget and the member for Mudgeeraba supported the sacking of over 4,000 health workers, including 1,200 nurses and midwives. The member for Mudgeeraba is—or at least was—a registered nurse, as she constantly reminds everyone. You would have thought that in that situation when she was in a position of power and influence the member for Mudgeeraba might have stood up for nurses and midwives and not denigrated and sacked them.

The member for Mudgeeraba did not. She did nothing of the sort, and as a consequence all of those nurses and midwives lost their jobs. Even though the member for Mudgeeraba left the cabinet so early after such a brief and non-illustrious career, the member for Mudgeeraba did not take the opportunity to apologise for what the member for Mudgeeraba did. The member for Mudgeeraba has never apologised for what she did to those nurses and midwives. The member for Mudgeeraba never has. The only conclusion we can draw from this—

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Maroochydore will cease her interjections.


**Mr DICK:**—is that what the member for Mudgeeraba once supported the member for Mudgeeraba will support again, because if you do not have the character to apologise, to recognise your failure, to apologise for the lives that you wrecked and destroyed, there is one conclusion: the member for Mudgeeraba, if she had the opportunity, would in her own words sack those ‘dud’ health workers in regional Queensland.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** This goes to the character of the member for Mudgeeraba and, very importantly, the character of the Leader of the Opposition, who stands by the member for Mudgeeraba in her shameful role as the shadow health minister in this state.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.10 pm): Here is a lesson for the Treasurer of the state. I guarantee him this: when patients have concerns about the hospital crisis and the health crisis in Queensland, when Queenslanders are ramped at numerous hospital ramps in ambulances, they are not going to the health minister for advice. They are going to ‘Nurse Bates’ for advice. They are going to the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow health minister—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Correct titles will be used.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They are going to the shadow health minister for advice on how to fix the health crisis. They are not going to the state Labor health minister because they know the state Labor health minister is a failure. The state Labor health minister has shown that she does not have the capacity to fix any of these issues.

On a vote of no confidence against a minister, usually you would just express confidence in your comrade. That is what they would ordinarily do. They would say that it is a rubbish motion and then express confidence in their comrade in the Labor Party. They could not even bring themselves to do that, so they have to amend the motion and talk about what is happening in the future with this health minister. They did not even congratulate her on her record or thank her for her record in the last couple of years. The Treasurer talked about the shadow health minister for five minutes like she was the minister. Mr Speaker, I ask: Why could the Treasurer not bring himself to utter the words, 'I support health minister D'Ath in this House'? He could not, because as the Treasurer knows, and as we know, it is time for the health minister to move on.

I know why she jumped on a cruise and sailed away in the middle of the health crisis. I know why parliament times were changed. It is so this health minister could sail away and get away from it. She got away from the health crisis. The speakers list tonight is telling, and I table a copy of the speakers list for this debate.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Private members motion' [\[1871\]](#).

We have the Treasurer and the members for Thuringowa, Keppel, Bulimba, Bundaberg and Sandgate. They are the backers of the health minister. Where is the assistant health minister? The deputy health minister cannot even bring herself to be put on the speaking list and back your boss—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member for Kawana.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The assistant minister cannot bring herself to back her boss, the health minister, in this House. That is telling. I would say that this health minister we have in Queensland, with her record, is the worst health minister we have had. Wendy Edmond has got nothing on this minister. Gordon Nuttall—

**An opposition member:** Steven Miles.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Steven Miles. Stephen Robertson.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, regardless of whether you were taking an interjection, people's correct titles will be used in this House and not their names.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** As I said yesterday, the Deputy Premier left the health department and gave a hospital pass to the health minister. It is very telling that the senior ministers and not even the Premier—not even the person who appointed the member for Redcliffe as the health minister—can stand in this House and back her health minister in her cabinet. It is the Premier's cabinet. This is a vote of no confidence in the health minister, and the Premier cannot even bring herself to back it. Do you know why, Mr Speaker? They do not want support for the health minister on the record because we all know what is going to happen. There is going to be a reshuffle and the health minister is going. That is why she did a little pre-brief on the Melbourne Cup cruise just to see what life is like on the high seas—


**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. Just like the psychic mayor who just got elected in Whitsunday—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—the health minister must have known that Golden Trip was going to win the Melbourne Cup so she jumped on Golden Trip for a golden ticket out of Queensland. I take the interjection from the member for Everton. The reality is that this government has lost confidence in its health minister—otherwise, it just would have voted against this motion—and so they should, because Queenslanders have lost confidence in this health minister. We only have to look at all of the issues in the health crisis. It is no wonder the Labor Party backbenchers are leaking against this health minister in droves.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.16 pm): We have just heard more rabble from the opposition. Here is a lesson for the LNP and the member for Kawana: do not abuse our regional health workers. There is only one person we do not have any confidence in in this House, and that is the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow minister for health. She should resign and apologise for her disgraceful remarks about the hardworking, dedicated, professional health workers in regional Queensland.

I rise to support our health minister and support the motion condemning the member for Mudgeeraba for her comments calling regional health workers in regional Queensland duds. Worse still, the member for Mudgeeraba refuses to apologise. Predictably, there was a backlash from regional health workers and unions, including people from my electorate in Thuringowa. Grant says, 'The shadow minister for health should apologise for her remarks. The silence is deafening.' Alexander said, 'She should apologise and resign her portfolio.' Carol said, 'She should apologise.' Tom, a nurse, said, 'Thank you, Aaron, for standing up for health workers in Queensland. Every day we leave our loved ones to go to work and help those who are in need of health care and this is the thanks we get from the shadow minister. She should apologise or resign. We don't need such leaders.' Brad said, 'Thanks for standing up for regional health workers.'


The shadow minister for health needs to own up to the mistake. They are disgraceful comments and the member knows it. There was a decade of failing to support health workers and restore Medicare rebates in the bush under the former LNP federal governments of Turnbull, Morrison and Abbott. It is hard enough attracting health workers to regional Queensland and retaining them without insulting them with such horrible language, calling them duds. Again I call on the Leader of the Opposition to show some backbone, show a bit of ticker, show some intestinal fortitude and sack the shadow minister for health. She is a disgrace and the Leader of the Opposition knows he needs to stand up and apologise to the people of regional Queensland. The member for Mudgeeraba no longer has the confidence of regional health workers. Her position is untenable.

I will get straight to the point of what our health minister has done in Townsville. After the LNP cut 398 staff in their time, including 156 nurses, and took \$1.6 billion out of the health budget, in Townsville we have restored 143 beds and we have put on 633 extra frontline staff—171 doctors, 254 nurses and 208 health professionals.

That is what Labor does. We back our health workers; we do not sack our health workers. The Palaszczuk government continues to deliver: three new hospitals and 11 hospital expansions, including Townsville, and in my electorate the Kirwan health precinct, which was overlooked in their time. We are sinking \$40 million into it, to redevelop it and provide modern services for our hardworking health professionals in regional Queensland. They are not duds. This is in addition to the long list of new satellite hospitals and upgraded hospital and health facilities right across Queensland.

In contrast to the LNP, we have hired almost 20,000 health workers: 106 more doctors, 10,000 more nurses and midwives, 5,000 more allied health professionals and, one of my favourites, 1,103 more ambulance officers, paramedics, EMD staff—those hardworking frontline staff. The LNP needs to grab a mirror, have a long look into it and understand their record of failure in delivering for regional Queensland. I will double down and ask that the shadow minister for health resigns. Stand up! Own it! You were wrong!

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.21 pm): I rise to support the shadow health minister's motion before this House. If that was an audition to be the next minister for health in Queensland, I would say that the Minister for Health's job is safe so far. Let's look down the list—

**Mr HARPER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you have taken personal offence to which aspect?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, I will hear the member.

**Mr HARPER:** Whatever the inference was that I would be some kind of hopeless health minister. As chair of the health committee, I am—

**Mr SPEAKER:** You are not debating the point, member, unless you can—

**Mr HARPER:** I take personal offence at the remarks of the member for Nanango.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is a general inference, not one directly at your direction. However, member for Nanango, I will caution you to ensure you are not labelling members incorrectly in the chamber.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Sure thing, thank you, Mr Speaker. What I will say is that it sounded like the member for Thuringowa was just trying to read out his resume. He was just trying to say, 'Hang on a minute, I'm a contender; I have been the chair of the health committee,' and he wants to go straight

to the frontbench. I say to the member for Thuringowa: I think the health minister's job is safe until we hear from the next person. Who is that going to be? The next one to speak is the member for Keppel. At least the member for Keppel is an assistant minister.

I want to spend some time talking about the horrendous failures of the health system in Queensland in and around Mackay. I thought I would come in here today and probably speak following the Assistant Minister for Health, the member for Mackay. It is one region that deserves better health care. It is one region that deserves an assistant health minister to stand up for the over 20 women who can never again have children, who have been harmed. If that assistant health minister wants to be the health minister, she needs to look in her own backyard at the failings of the health minister in that region. It is an absolute national disgrace.

I actually googled 'Mackay Health'. In just the last three or four days, there have been these headlines: 'Mackay Base Hospital—midwives furious', 'Women harmed at Mackay Base Hospital', 'Mackay Base Hospital victims meet Yvette D'Ath—not happy', 'Misconception', 'Complaints'—it just goes on and on. This is only for the last couple of days. Yet the assistant health minister is no better than the Minister for Health. They are absolutely clueless.

Let's have a look at what else is going on in that region. Clermont—the member for Burdekin has been advocating for a Queensland Health GP doctor for four years. Four years! What has the Minister for Health done? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! What about Callide? The member for Callide is on the speaking list, so he can talk about that.

I will say as well—and I have said this in the House many times: when I decided to run for parliament to represent the great seat of Nanango, it was because Anna Bligh stood up. The Premier was in that cabinet. The Treasurer was in that cabinet. The then premier, Anna Bligh, stood up and said, 'The health system is such a basket case, we are going to split it into two.' What was the ambulance ramping at that time? It was 30 per cent. What is it right now? It is 44 per cent. When Anna Bligh was the premier of Queensland, the member for Inala was in the cabinet, along with several other ministers. If they determined that the health system was so bad it had to be split into two, what is the health minister going to do? Split it into three or four? The health minister obviously has no ability to manage her department.


The problem is that it is the health of the people of Queensland that is at risk. That is the issue here. When we on this side of the House say that we have no confidence in the health minister, we already know that the member for Thuringowa has no confidence; he did not even mention it. The Treasurer has no confidence; he did not even mention it.

**Mr HARPER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the member did not hear my contribution. I indeed did express confidence in our health minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member will resume his seat. You have had an opportunity to contribute. It is not a point of order. I will caution all members that if I hear frivolous points of order today it will result in members leaving the chamber. I hope that is clear.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Here in Queensland, 31 per cent of patients—so 31 people out of every 100—presenting at our emergency departments are not seen in time. What about the pressure that puts on our hardworking health workers? What about that pressure? That is why the health minister must go. If the Premier does not have the backbone to sack the health minister, the minister herself should stand up and resign immediately because it is embarrassing the government. We know that no-one in the cabinet supports her. We know that none on the backbench will support her. We on this side do not support her. I am sure the crossbench do not support her. The only one left standing is the health minister, and she must go.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.27 pm): I rise this evening to speak against the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba and in support of the amendment moved by the Treasurer. I support our health minister, Yvette D'Ath. She is a fine leader and a caring minister. One of the greatest traits that I love about our health minister is that she cares about people. She cares about our healthcare workers. You will never hear her coming into this place calling our regional healthcare workers duds. That was an interesting contribution from the member for Nanango—lots of talk about Mackay and the member for Mackay. Look out, member for Mackay. You would think the member for Nanango might come in here and talk about health investments in Nanango, like that brand new \$92.5 million hospital in Kingaroy. The town—


**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Member for Bulimba and member for Nanango, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber. You are both warned under the standing orders.

**Ms LAUGA:** First of all, the member for Nanango could have come in here and condemned the comments by the member for Mudgeeraba where she called regional healthcare workers duds. She should have done that but, no, she said nothing in this place about her comments. In fact, none of those opposite have said anything about the comments by the member of Mudgeeraba. The standard that you walk past is the standard that you accept. All of those members opposite have ignored the member for Mudgeeraba's disgraceful comments about regional healthcare workers—when she called them duds. Last week when I was making a private member's statement the member for Nanango interjected numerous times in support of the member for Mudgeeraba when I was speaking about the comments she had made.

Secondly, I would have thought that the member for Nanango would come in here and talk about the wonderful health investment in her electorate: the \$92.5 million brand new hospital in Kingaroy, the town that I was born in. That project created 72 new jobs during construction. It involved an expanded renal dialysis unit and increased specialist outpatient services. The new hospital increased the number of patient treatment spaces from 46 to 66 and improved the hospital's capacity as a hub for trauma, paediatric, obstetric, rehabilitation and mental health services. What a wonderful project in the member for Nanango's electorate, but we do not hear anything about that in this place. This includes four treatment spaces for assessing mental health patients, increased security, staff who have been trained in supporting patients with complex mental health needs—all staff who are not duds—and a secure access room staff can use as a safe room if needed. Can I congratulate the Darling Downs health staff—also not duds—and the infrastructure team—also not duds—for the job they have done in ensuring the project has progressed on schedule with minimal impact on people accessing services at the hospital.

I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's record on health. I am surprised that the opposition is actually going down this path tonight with this motion, a path which brings up a very sad history for the LNP. Let's not forget—and I know that the thousands of healthcare workers have not forgotten—that the LNP sacked 4,400 healthcare workers. The member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Nanango and the member for Broadwater—in fact, 40 per cent of the opposition front bench—sat around the Newman cabinet table and agreed to sack 4,400 healthcare workers. Then they have the hide to come in here and move this motion about our healthcare workers and our health minister considering the amazing job our health minister has done undoing Can-do Campbell—all that hard work. In fact, 197 doctors, nurses and healthcare workers in my electorate in the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service were sacked under those opposite. Under Labor, I am proud that 686 extra frontline staff have been employed. That is 130 additional doctors, 423 nurses and midwives and 133 health professionals who are now working in our Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service despite the fact that those opposite cut 197 full-time jobs from our HHS.

It was interesting to hear this morning that the opposition is now interested in GPs considering not only did they pick big fights with doctors when they were in government but also they were completely silent about GPs when their mates were in government in Canberra. We know that under the Liberals Medicare has faced rolling cuts and attacks beginning with attempts to end universal fee-free health care with a GP co-payment every time someone sees a doctor followed by a cut of billions with a six-year freeze on Medicare rebates. I do not support the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. I support the amendment.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.32 pm): I rise to support the motion as moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. Let's talk about some facts because we all know that is what the government absolutely hates hearing about. They do not want to debate our private member's motion as it stands because they do not like the truth.

Callide is an electorate with 14 hospitals. At face value you could be led to believe that my electorate is well serviced. The reality is that hospitals in Callide are becoming little more than bandaid stations. A complete lack of interest from the Minister for Health with regard to services in rural and regional Queensland means that communities are regularly without doctors at our public hospitals.

The community of Monto in the North Burnett is staring down the barrel of having no doctor come Christmas. This hospital services an area of over 2,000 people. Moura had many weeks without a doctor just this year. This is a town that has a population of 2,000 with many more in its surrounds. It has a major coalmine nearby as well as a nitrate plant. The fact that a community that provides so much wealth for our state was without a doctor for so long is nothing short of a disgrace.

Gayndah, Eidsvold, Mundubbera, Miles and Wandoan are just some of the communities that are being failed by the Palaszczuk government. These towns have inadequate or intermittent health services, which is the direct result of failed planning by this health minister.



The minister refused to launch a royal commission into the forensic labs for months. She said the member for Broadwater and the LNP team were playing pure politics. We know who was really playing politics; she was. She was playing politics while ducking and weaving from the failures in Queensland's DNA labs as rapists and murderers potentially walked free.

The list of failures of this minister runs for miles. If we broke the list down patient by patient it would probably run the length of the Bruce Highway. If we were to write this list along the Bruce Highway, it would be fitting to make sure the names lined up. Little Matilda, born only last month, could have her name etched in the bitumen right where she was born. Matilda, daughter of Greg and Chloe, was born in the early hours one morning only a month ago. She, along with baby Beatrix from Chinchilla, have seven letters on their birth certificate that no baby should ever have.

**Ms Leahy:** Highway.

**Mr HEAD:** They have 'highway' stamped on their birth certificate thanks to the failures of the health minister. For those opposite who are falling in behind to support this failure of a minister, I table a copy of Matilda's birth certificate.

*Tabled paper:* Redacted birth certificate [1872].

I dare them to read it before they get up again and try to claim they have confidence in this minister. Wait, they are not even doing that with their own amendment because they cannot bring themselves to do it. Speaking of ministers who should resign—

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask for your ruling on a member tabling a child's birth certificate, please.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, and I am going to sight the document. It will not be tabled until I have sighted the document and I will discuss this with the Clerk.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members to my right.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am giving a ruling, Leader of the Opposition. Member, I will have to look at that document to see not only if it has been redacted but if it is possible to be tabled and I will make a call on that. You have one minute and 53 seconds to continue your contribution.

**Mr HEAD:** Speaking of ministers who should—

**Mr BROWN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe also the contribution by the member for Callide has specifically identified the child already along with the tabled document, so I would ask that both be taken into consideration.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take your point of order and give consideration to this. Member, you have one minute and 50 seconds remaining.

**Mr HEAD:** Speaking of ministers who should resign, Matilda just so happens to be a constituent of the member for Gladstone.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Algester will cease her interjections.

**Mr HEAD:** The member for Gladstone still refuses to set a date for when he will resign after making the claim to his community that he will do just that if maternity services do not come back online. The member for Gladstone can show his community that he cares about health services in his community by joining us on this side of the chamber come the vote on this very motion. If he cannot do that, he needs to stay true to his claim and pack his bags. His electorate is without full maternity services as is the electorate of Callide. That is right, there are 14 hospitals and yet there is not one maternity ward in my whole electorate, an electorate bigger than Tasmania.

What does this have to do with other surrounding areas? I have heard of numerous resignations from the Rockhampton Hospital thanks to the stress the bypass of Gladstone and Biloela maternity wards have placed on staff. This has happened under the watch of the health minister while the members for Rockhampton, Keppel and Gladstone sat around.


Until recently the community of Theodore had a terrific maternity service. This service was closed under the watch of the Labor government and this minister has not lifted a finger to get it reinstated. Expectant mothers at Theodore now have to travel over 200 kilometres to give birth. I say to the

expectant mothers down the road at Cracow: I hope your babies are happy to wait around; you are 270 kilometres from the nearest maternity ward. Chinchilla still has not had a look-in and Biloela is still on bypass. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the failures of this health minister.

Queenslanders deserve basic local health services without geographic discrimination. I will not give up the fight until the people in rural and regional Queensland have the services they deserve.

### Speaker's Ruling, Tabled Paper

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next speaker and in responding to the previous points of order raised by the members for Bulimba and Capalaba, I will allow the tabling of the document in question. It is not good practice, I would add to the House. I would caution against doing so. However, it will comply because of its redacted nature and the fact that, whilst it does reference a child, the child is not under any child protection order. We will allow it at this point. I will still give further consideration, but I will allow it to be tabled at this stage.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.39 pm): I rise to absolutely reject the motion moved by the opposition and to support the government amendment. Firstly, the Minister for Health is an outstanding human being. She is totally dedicated to her role. She is a woman of integrity and a woman with a work ethic that most of us would struggle to match. She stood up every single day during COVID to talk to Queenslanders about what they needed to do to keep themselves safe and to keep them informed. She worked around the clock with the Chief Health Officer in that scary new world to ensure the right decisions were being made about the health and safety of Queenslanders.

This is a woman who has overseen the hiring of almost 10,000 new health workers this term alone including 1,500 doctors, 5,800 nurses and midwives, 1,700 allied health professionals and 535 ambulance operatives. She is overseeing the rollout of a health infrastructure budget which is greater than at any other time in this state's history—it includes nearly \$10 billion for the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, three new hospitals, 11 hospital expansions and a new Queensland cancer centre delivering just over 2,500 extra beds—and the largest investment this state has ever seen in sorely needed mental health, alcohol and other drug services. Do I think this is a woman who should be sacked? In no universe whatsoever should this woman be sacked.

Do I think the shadow minister should be sacked? Absolutely. This woman should be sacked. In fact, this woman should not be in any position of authority whatsoever. Let's have a look at the record of this woman. Campbell Newman was the king of dodgy-ness, and she was so dodgy that even he could not bear to have her in the cabinet because she was such an embarrassment. Let's look at her record as a registered nurse, which she tells us all the time gives her a badge of honour. As a registered nurse she voted against nurse-to-patient ratios. As a registered nurse she backed in the Newman budgets that sacked 4,400 health workers. As a registered nurse she backed in the calls to open our borders to the southern states before widespread vaccination, endangering the lives of Queenslanders. As a registered nurse she cast aspersions on Dr Jeannette Young, repeatedly backing in calls from the member for Nanango to see the health advice when the results of that advice were plain to see. As a registered nurse she failed to call out the Leader of the Opposition when he called Dr Jeannette Young a 'punch-drunk bureaucrat'. How disrespectful! She joined the fake union the NPAQ, which boosted anti-vaccination sentiment, seeking to undermine our pandemic response and risking the safety of our healthcare workers. As a registered nurse, even her own Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency had to sanction her and place conditions on her work: 'The practitioner will only use her'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms BATES:** I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made with regard to my registration.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

**Ms FARMER:** I withdraw. Let's look at the latest travesty of this woman. This woman called regional health workers 'duds'. There is not one member of this House who has not had a positive experience with a healthcare worker—who has saved their life, their time, their children's time or their parents. In the last couple of years, these people have gone above and beyond. They have worked extra shifts, been abused by people and put themselves and their families at risk. Do they need to be abused? No, they need to be lauded. They need to be lifted up; they need to be praised. These are people who save lives, and this woman called them duds. What a disgrace! Not one single person has apologised. She has not apologised.

Members opposite want to talk about people on this side of the House leaking. What are their regional members going to say when they are back in their communities? How will the member for Burnett explain to his regional health workers that they are duds? How will the members for Theodore and Whitsunday explain? Do you think they were sitting there saying, 'Good one, Ros'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms FARMER:** What about the member for Nanango?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member—

**Ms FARMER:** What about the member for Toowoomba South?


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba!

**Ms FARMER:** What are you going to say to your nurses?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am trying to call you to order. Correct titles will be used in the chamber.

**Ms FARMER:** Sure, Speaker. I take your guidance. What will the member for Burdekin say to the nurses in his electorate? What about the members for Warrego, Southern Downs, Lockyer and Buderim? They are cringing, because she is such an embarrassment. She was an embarrassment in the Campbell Newman government and she is an embarrassment now, because they have nothing to say. They know that they are struggling to get health workers in their regions and this is not going to help, because she is an embarrassment and they all want her to go. They need someone who has integrity. She needs to go.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. Earlier integrity and work ethic were mentioned. We do not see a problem insofar as the minister is concerned in that respect, but people need to be accountable for outcomes and realities. All too often you hear, 'It's bad. We just can't find any doctors.' Someone has to be accountable for that. That is how the system works. The buck has to stop with someone.

There is an enormous sense of frustration in the areas we represent and that has to be directed somewhere. Someone has to be accountable. Issues may have been building up over a while, but here we are. A lot of the issues existed before COVID, so people cannot hide behind that and use it as an excuse for these failures. If I focus on my own electorate, in Mount Isa we have 10 renal chairs when we need 25. Alice Springs has over 60 for a similar footprint. In Charters Towers, women cannot deliver babies. Hughenden, Julia Creek and Normanton are struggling with no permanent doctor.

In regional Queensland, the mortality rate is one to three times higher than for those who live in cities. Potentially preventable hospitalisations are 2.5 times higher in remote areas than in the major cities. The mortality rate is 1.4 times higher for males and 1.8 times higher for females. I represent one of the lowest socio-economic regions in the state, and in lower socio-economic areas people are 37 per cent more likely to die from cancer. In remote areas people are 24 per cent more likely to die from cancer, even though they are less likely to be diagnosed. We would be podium finishers for just about every health statistic you can think of, and that is horrible.

I hear stories such as, 'The system is built around locums. No-one wants to go out there anymore so let's just get locums in.' Repeatedly I hear—I hear this from hospital staff as well—that there is no long-term plan. There are bandaid fixes for everything. At some point there needs to be an arrest on that situation. Sure, you cannot find doctors now, but that problem has been there for 10 years and I do not see any change to address that. The buck has to stop with someone.

I will relate a story—we are loaded up with these sorts of stories—that goes to the heart of what we deal with regularly. 'Stumpy' Barratt was buried on Friday. His family came to see me on Saturday. They were obviously very distraught. He worked for Main Roads in Cloncurry for 50 years. He fell down on the job in March this year from a heart problem and presented at the Cloncurry Hospital. They said, 'Right, you've got a problem. We'll get you an appointment.' That was in March. In July he got a telehealth appointment to say, 'Crikey, you've got a bit of a problem there, Stumpy Barratt. You need to see a cardiologist.' Four weeks ago he died in a car driving from Mount Isa to Cloncurry. He pulled over, got his dog out of the car and died there. I table a document.

*Tabled paper:* Funeral booklet service for Mr Mervyn John Barratt [1873].


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 17 October 2022, from the Coronial Services Officer, Ms Karen Porter, to Miss Cassandra Barratt, regarding a coronial investigation into the death of Mr Mervyn Barratt [1874].

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I ask you to come back to the motion. It is about health; I appreciate that. There are fairly specific points that have been raised so, in terms of relevance, I will need you to round out your point.

**Mr KATTER:** I will keep that advice in mind, Mr Speaker. He was waiting for a letter to be able to see a cardiologist and then the letter from the coroner shows that the things he suffered from could have most likely been prevented with medication. This is a person in my electorate who has presented in March, and by November he still has not got to see a cardiologist for something that could have been prevented if he got access to medication. Members can imagine how the family feels and what they are saying to me.

When I ask for funding for more dialysis chairs I am told that there is no money, but then I come down here for parliament and see Cross River Rail and \$2 billion for the new Gabba stadium—but there is no money for these health services? Members should be able to understand why we get angry and frustrated with this issue, and someone has to be accountable. This is not someone else's problem; these are real problems and they should be a priority. We cannot get renal chairs. Last week Ernie Camp in Burketown was telling me about someone who does not bother getting renal services because he is not going to leave Burketown, so he presents in critical condition at the hospital and that then costs more money. These things keep piling up and up and they are not being addressed. They are not prioritised.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.50 pm): This side of the House has every confidence in our health minister, in the Palaszczuk Labor government's health minister, in Queensland's health minister because this is a health minister who is delivering \$23.6 billion in investment for our health system and our health heroes on the front line. This is a minister who fought for that money in the budget, who championed the money in the budget and who is delivering that record spend of \$23.6 billion for Queenslanders. That is what this health minister is doing and that is why we have confidence and so does all of Queensland.


This is a minister who is currently delivering major expansions of the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals and delivering regional and remote hospital redevelopments in Kingaroy, Atherton, Thursday Island, Sarina, Blackall and the Torres Strait. This is a health minister who is constructing a brand new mental health inpatient unit in Hervey Bay, and I know that the member for Hervey Bay has worked very hard on this with the minister, whom he backs in time and time again to deliver for the people of his electorate. This is a health minister who has secured \$9.7 billion in additional capital funding to deliver three brand new hospitals, 11 hospital expansions and a new Queensland Cancer Centre. This is a health minister delivering 2,500 extra beds in addition to the 869 beds being delivered through the current expansion of projects and building on the 1,350 extra beds opened since 2015 since those dark days of Campbell Newman when he marched health workers out the doors of hospitals when vulnerable Queenslanders needed them most. That is what those on that side would do, but we on this side back our health minister who supports our health workers who support vulnerable Queenslanders.

This is a health minister who is delivering a \$1.2 billion spend for a brand new Bundaberg Hospital—a brand new Bundaberg Hospital that the LNP refused to even talk about during the 2020 election. It refused to talk about any spending for a brand new Bundaberg Hospital. Zero—zero cents, zero dollars, zero plans for a brand new Bundaberg Hospital is what the opposition had in mind. No wonder when a week out from the election when the member for Nanango came to town the nurses whom I was standing with actively sought her out at the markets to say, 'Please don't cut, sack and sell like Campbell Newman,' but that member was part of that failed government which had the cut, sack, sell mentality when it marched out 345 health workers across the Wide Bay—nurses and midwives.

**Mr Bennett** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** The member for Burnett has blood on his hands as well when it comes to this because those health workers went into his electorate office and pleaded with him: 'Please don't let your government march us out the door. Please don't let your government take us away from the vulnerable Queenslanders who need us most.' That is what the LNP stands for and that is what the shadow health minister stands for as well, because we know that the shadow health minister is going to back in the new debt reduction strategy and the new service delivery strategy which we all know is code for cut, sack and sell. We know that because 14,000 Queensland workers were marched out by what is 50 per cent of this opposition when they were part of the Campbell Newman government, so we know that that is in their DNA and we know it is in their blood. We know that those opposite will march out 4,400 health workers just like they did last time.

We know that they will attack Maryborough Hospital. We know that they will attack the Hervey Bay Hospital. We know that in over two years they still have not even committed anything in a future election promise for the new Bundaberg Hospital—nothing. They do not even talk about it. Instead, what they try to do is fearmonger, just like the fake union that the shadow health minister is a part of—the fake union that fearmongers around anti-vaxxers. When once did the shadow health minister condemn NPAQ? When once did the shadow health minister condemn the fake union encouraging anti-vaxxers? When once did the shadow health minister ever say that there will be any future commitment to the people of Bundaberg? Not once, zilch, zero, nada! I will tell members who needs to resign: it is the shadow health minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Backbench, do not wait! Sack them now!

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.55 pm): Tonight we are discussing a motion of no confidence in a senior minister of this government and the most telling sign in this debate is to look across the chamber and see only four ministers—only four ministers—coming to support one of their senior colleagues, and those four ministers are here because they are on roster! I can remember when a similar motion of no confidence was brought against a minister in the LNP government—it could have been the member for Kawana; I cannot recall—but every single minister and every single member of our side came in here to support one of our own. In fact, there was no amendment to the motion to attack somebody else; the amendment to the motion was to say that we had full confidence in our minister. In fact, I think the premier of the day said that he was a rock star.

What do we see here? We see absence and we see the B-grade side being brought out to defend one of their senior ministers. Is it any wonder that they would not support this minister? The litany of failures are there for everybody to see. We have the disgraceful situation in Mackay where women's lives have been ruined because of botched surgery. We have the situation in Gladstone and surrounding areas where you cannot even have a baby in your local hospital. We have the dysfunction in the Caboolture Hospital. We have ramping at record levels in the minister's own electorate at 49 per cent, but at least that is not as bad as Redlands which is at 75 per cent.

We have also had what some people have described as the worst failure in public administration in this state—probably other than the Health payroll debacle—and that is the forensic lab issues where we know now that there are criminals walking the streets free because of the failures of this government. This government keeps bragging about the piles of money that it has invested in our health system, and the embarrassing thing about that is that that is true. That is true, but its outcomes get worse. Its record is worse. Every time results come out we hear about something being worse than it was five, seven, eight or 10 years ago, and those opposite have every excuse under the sun. There is something in the Westminster system called ministerial responsibility. What else do you have to do wrong? What else has to go wrong until this minister accepts that she is responsible and that she needs to do the right thing and resign?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** The other issue that is incredibly worrying about this minister is the deception, and the greatest deception which many of us spoke about yesterday is the seven satellite hospitals. I remember campaigning at Bribie Island and there was the member for Pumicestone telling—

**Ms King:** And that's why I won!

**Mr MANDER:** Yes, won because you deceived—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr MANDER:** The member deceived those older people, telling them that they were going to get a hospital—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr MANDER:**—a hospital that is not open 24 hours—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Mr MANDER:**—a hospital—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I am calling the House to order. Members are shouting above the member who has the call. I will ask for interjections to cease. Member for Everton, you have one minute and nine seconds remaining.


**Mr MANDER:** Hospitals that are not open for 24 hours, hospitals that do not have emergency departments and—guess what—hospitals that do not have beds. I looked up the definition of a hospital. It is defined as—

an institution that is built, staffed, and equipped for the diagnosis of disease, for the treatment, both medical and surgical, of the sick and the injured; and for their housing during the process.

That is what a hospital is: you stay overnight if you are sick. These satellite hospitals are not a clear picture of what they really are. One definition is right, and that is the definition of 'satellite'. Satellite means—

an artificial body placed in orbit around the Earth.

They are not real; they are artificial. They are not fair dinkum. This government has continued to deceive the older people of our state in particular that they are going to get better services through these hospitals. They are already \$15 million over budget. They are already delayed. It is another deception by this government. What else does this minister have to do wrong before she resigns? It is time. Do the right thing: accept responsibility and resign.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (6.01 pm): I welcome the selective reading of the dictionary from the member for Everton which has enlightened us so much. I want to contribute to this debate by opposing the motion in the name of the member for Mudgeeraba and supporting the amendment moved by the member for Woodridge. There is a stark contrast between two contributors to the public discourse, two contributors to the community, two contributors to this parliament and the way in which we govern the state. One contributor is the member for Redcliffe, a person who has contributed significantly to this state, who has contributed significantly in her tenure as the Minister for Health to protecting Queenslanders, to making Queensland a manifestly safer place for Queenslanders, a manifestly healthier place in the most challenging of environments that the state has experienced in more than a century. As a consequence it is absolutely right that this motion expresses the strongest of support for and absolute confidence in the member for Redcliffe in her role as the health minister.

In relation to the suggestions that were made by those opposite, there is no backing away from them. The reality is we just did not take this motion seriously because it is ridiculous. However, I will highlight the ways in which this health minister has contributed manifestly to what we are achieving in terms of better outcomes for the health of the Queensland community. I particularly want to acknowledge the fact that we have seen the delivery under the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan of a record \$23.6 billion health budget. The plan will deliver three new hospitals throughout the state, 11 hospital expansions and a new Queensland cancer centre that will support individuals and their loved ones who are affected by the blight of cancer. In addition to this, there is a long list of new satellite hospitals and upgraded hospital facilities right across the state that no matter how you twist and turn the words in a dictionary will deliver better services and outcomes to Queenslanders and that is what counts.

The member for Mudgeeraba is someone who was part of a government—as brief as it was—that contributed to manifestly harming the health of Queenslanders through the sacking of some 4,400 frontline health workers who were put to the sword. In contrast, this government has hired almost 20,000 health workers. We are recruiting and building the capacity of the system to deal with the needs of the community. Let us consider the record of the member for Mudgeeraba. Who could forget when she was the minister for the arts and her great contribution in that portfolio was delivering a speech word for word that had been delivered by Rachel Nolan, the previous arts minister. That is an art that you get in the *Courier-Mail*. It is an art called plagiarism. Let us put in contrast the contribution of a member of this House who has a fine record of contributing to, protecting, speaking up for and defending health workers, be it in their former role before being in this parliament or in their role as the health minister, and someone who is part of a gang that promotes anti-vaxxer principles and, most damningly, condemns our regional health workers as duds. It is absolutely disgraceful. I support the amendment. I oppose the motion.

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

*In division—*

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. Standing orders still apply during divisions.

**AYES, 49:**

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

**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, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

Pairs: Bailey, Camm; Skelton, Rowan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

**AYES, 49:**

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

**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, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

Pairs: Bailey, Camm; Skelton, Rowan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

- (a) supports the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services to deliver the Palaszczuk government's record investment in health care in Queensland and the government's strong Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan which supports all Queenslanders;
- (b) has no confidence in the shadow minister for health and ambulance services, the member for Mudgeeraba;
- (c) condemns the member for Mudgeeraba for her comments regarding 'dud' health workers in regional Queensland;
- (d) condemns the Leader of the Opposition for not showing leadership and sacking the member for Mudgeeraba from his shadow cabinet for her disgraceful comments about Queensland health workers;
- (e) condemns the member for Mudgeeraba's membership of an organisation which actively promoted anti-vaccination sentiment during the peak of the COVID pandemic; and
- (f) condemns the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba for their participation in the Newman LNP government which sacked 4,400 healthcare workers.

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)**


### **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)**

## **BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 3464, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.13 pm), continuing: Every project this government touches results in huge overruns such as we see with Cross River Rail. What will this project eventually cost Queensland? The government has announced its long-awaited renewable energy plan, which comes with a price tag of \$62 billion. How could anyone possibly believe that this Palaszczuk government will deliver that project within the announced time line and anywhere near the proposed \$62 billion budget? We have been told that the cornerstone of the plan, the proposed Pioneer hydro dam project, will come with a price tag of \$12 billion alone. That project has no business plan. It has no development approvals. It has no environmental approvals. It has no regulatory impact statement. It has no compensation arrangements with the landholders whose lands will have to be resumed because of inundation. There are no compensation arrangements with landowners impacted by easements for power line construction.

**Mrs Gilbert** interjected.

**Mr WEIR:** This is very close to the area of the member for Mackay. If I were her, I would consider the impact this will have. Those landowners may also be impacted by the solar or wind farms that will supply the green power to pump the water. That is just to name a few of the impacts. I have heard estimates that this single project could end up costing as much as \$20 billion.


The Borumba pumped hydro project will face similar challenges. Although not on the same scale as the Pioneer Dam project, there will need to be a significant road, bridge and infrastructure spend before any works can start on the actual project. Up to 3,000 wind turbines, 36 million solar panels and 7,000 batteries and associated agreements will be needed for those projects. We have been told that the funding will be split between the state, the federal government and the private sector but we have seen no breakdown of what that looks like as no such funding agreement has been reached. It does not exist. Does anyone really think that this government can deliver those projects on budget and on time?

The Condamine electorate suffered significant damage during the flooding earlier in the year. The damage to roads is considerable—so much so that some are closed except for local traffic. Members in this House would have heard me talk many times about the sad state of the Bowenville Norwin Road. About 18 months ago the minister announced that \$7 million would be spent on that road and, at the time, I said that it would only be enough for a patch job. That has proven to be so and it is now local access only. When local residents look at the waste of \$230 million at Wellcamp, they rightly ask why sufficient funding was not allocated to the rebuilding of Bowenville Norwin Road instead of the white elephant that we have at Wellcamp. We have numerous local gravel roads where, after rain, landholders have to be towed out by tractor. How many would have been able to be repaired if a grant were given to local government instead of building the Wellcamp white elephant? The soil erosion from these events is probably the worst that I can remember seeing.

Under QRIDA, funding was made available for landowners to apply for help with remediation. It is called the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants scheme. The scheme will expire on 15 December this year in the Condamine area. The problem is that we have had a wet winter and also a wet spring, which has meant that most landholders have not been able to get machinery onto their paddocks because they are so wet. Those who have only recently been able to get onto their ground have had to make the decision to forgo repair works and, instead, prepare the ground for planting otherwise they will miss an entire summer crop. Over a month ago my office sent an email to the Deputy Premier requesting an extension to the scheme as the landowners who have planted their ground, despite its damaged state, will not be able to do work on that ground until mid next year at the very earliest. They will have to wait until the corn and sorghum ripen. That will be their next chance to get onto that ground.

This morning the Treasurer stood in this House and spoke of the returns that come to the state from agriculture. If those returns are to continue, it is time for the state to give a bit back. At this stage my office has not received a response from the Deputy Premier. I notice the agriculture minister is in the House. I hope that he pursues this because the damage is huge and the opportunity to fix it will be lost if the time frame is not extended.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Before I call the member for Ipswich, I remind the House of those members who have been warned: the members for Maroochydore, Bulimba and Nanango.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. The appropriation bill seeks parliamentary approval for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2021-22 financial year of just under \$2.9 billion. This is comprised of \$2.2 million for the Legislative



Assembly and Parliamentary Service and \$2.8 billion incurred by 14 other departments. Unforeseen expenditure is a routine part of the budget cycle and is not the same as departmental overspending. Queensland's government departments are continuously improving their scrutiny and monitoring of expenditure; however, they can still incur unforeseen expenditure for a number of reasons including natural disasters, new government decisions and policies, a change in timing to Commonwealth payments or accelerated project delivery.

As we all know, Queensland has faced a number of unprecedented challenges over the financial year 2021-22. Not only was Queensland impacted by several waves of COVID since the end of last year but also we have also faced major flood and rain events which left some communities, including my own, devastated, with hundreds of people left homeless or needing to do major repair works to their homes or community infrastructure. These events were somewhat difficult to fully anticipate and they dented our budget bottom line.

Much of the unforeseen expenditure in the appropriation bill relates to COVID business grants. When the nation was experiencing major COVID waves after we just opened up the state and the country, there was a need to provide additional support to our small businesses and tourism operators. The COVID business grants resulted in a significant amount of spending which was not anticipated at the time of the 2021-22 budget. They certainly helped local businesses in my electorate. In fact, it was the difference between many of them surviving and not surviving.

Despite the setbacks and unforeseen challenges over the last year and a half, Queensland's economy has grown at a rapid rate. On a number of key indicators we are outperforming every other state and territory in the country. In August Queensland recorded its lowest ever unemployment rate since records began in 1978—3.2 per cent. The unemployment rate is still sitting below four per cent.

Queensland is leading the nation in job creation, with almost 215,000 more Queenslanders in work than there were in March 2020. Pleasingly, 83 per cent of those jobs are full-time. Not only has Queensland's economy grown from strength to strength but also we have also outrun other states and territories on population growth. Whether or not this growth is considered a good or bad thing—it depends on who you are talking to—there is no denying the fact that Australians from around the country have recognised that Queensland is the best state to live in. Maybe, just maybe, it has something to do with the very sound decisions made by our Premier and cabinet during COVID. Over the five-year period to 2021, Queensland's population recorded the largest net gain in the country with more than 107,000 people moving here from different states or territories. Interestingly, New South Wales saw a net loss of around 102,000 people in that same period.

The investment we have seen from the Palaszczuk government in my electorate of Ipswich is unprecedented: \$710 million in this budget for stage 2 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion, delivering 200 beds by 2027. This is in addition to the \$40 million satellite hospital in Ripley which is well and truly underway. The brand new \$91 million Ipswich Hospital acute mental health unit is close to completion.

The 2021-22 budget has allocated \$4.4 million out of a total spend of \$7.4 million to continue building the new Ripley ambulance station. We are building a new \$25 million police station in Ripley, and next year the brand new \$60 million Ripley Central State School will open. We are spending a billion dollars across the Ipswich region on vital infrastructure and capital works that will enhance productivity and support around 3,200 jobs.

As I have already said, Ipswich LGA is the fastest growing in Queensland. We saw that in the latest Census data. Much of that growth is occurring in the Ripley PDA. We have committed \$45 million to that area to develop infrastructure, including \$9.2 million catalyst infrastructure to support delivery of land supply for housing.

Some \$4.2 million out of a total \$10 million will be invested to design and develop an improved fiveways intersection at East Ipswich, in accordance with the local community needs. We have also been the very happy recipients of record funding for schools in our area, especially my much loved local special schools.

The major flood events we saw earlier this year in Queensland had huge impacts on departmental expenditure. This government has brought forward hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in the much needed Bruce Highway upgrades, the Gympie Bypass and the Townsville Ring Road, because these projects are vital and cannot be delayed any longer. We make no apologies for that. The opposition can complain about this spending—in fact, its members like to brag about cutting infrastructure spending—but this is what good governments do. They support the economy, they plan and invest in essential infrastructure, and they support Queenslanders through tough times.

I now want to touch on the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. At the last election we made a promise to the people of Queensland that there would be no new or increased taxes on Queensland families, and we have kept that promise. The betting tax is not a tax on punters; it is a tax on the multinational betting agencies, many of which are foreign owned such as the Entain Group that owns Ladbrokes and the Flutter Group which owns Betfair. These two companies recorded a combined \$4.5 billion in revenue last year.


The Palaszczuk government is not one to shy away from taxing big businesses that make windfall billion dollar profits each year. In our last budget we delivered a new progressive royalty regime on large multinational coalminers to reflect the increased price of coal, and we implemented the mental health tax levy on large employers. These taxes flow back into Queensland, with the benefits going to Queenslanders. They help us to continue delivering vital public services and infrastructure across the state which are essential to our quality of life.

This bill will see a five per cent betting tax levy imposed on large betting and wagering companies, which will increase their betting tax rate from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. This is the highest betting tax rate in the country, equal to the Australian Capital Territory. It is also worth pointing out that the betting tax bill includes an amendment to the mental health levy—another tax that also impacts big businesses. This amendment will facilitate the implementation of the mental health levy by further developing the administrative, machinery and transitional arrangements relating to the levy.

The mental health levy will be introduced on 1 January 2023 to employers that record annual Australian taxable wages of over \$10 million. This levy will generate \$425 million a year to fund future mental health care and alcohol and other drug services. Right across Queensland, we are seeing increased demand for mental health services. There are many reasons for this but, undoubtedly, COVID and natural disasters have played a significant role. Over the year 2020-21, around 132,000 Queenslanders accessed mental health and alcohol and other drug services through our state's hospital and health services. For many people experiencing a mental health episode, their first port of call is the emergency department of their local hospital. Emergency departments are seeing more people present each year with acute mental health problems.

Thirteen per cent of emergencies responded to each year by the Queensland Ambulance Service are for a mental health crisis, and calls to triple-0 from people experiencing mental health crises are the second most frequent triple-0 calls after falls. It is essential that we provide ongoing and effective public mental health funding so that vulnerable people can access services when they need it most. I am pleased to note that the new mental health levy will only affect the top one per cent of Queensland businesses such as Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, Coles, Wesfarmers, Telstra and Woolworths. All of these businesses posted net profits in the billions last financial year. In fact, just this week NAB posted a profit of \$7.1 billion. In a world where there are increasing calls for major corporations to pay their fair share of tax, our government is heeding the call.

I reiterate my admiration and respect for the Premier and the government for the way they have handled the pandemic and the extreme challenges that came our way, particularly over the past two years. It has made a huge difference to people in my electorate and, I know, to people right across the state. I am really proud to be a part of a government that has such a focus on the needs of Queenslanders rather than on scoring cheap political points. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022, the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The objective of the appropriation bills is to seek formal authorisation for the specified amounts in each bill that the Treasurer paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021-22 financial year. Unforeseen expenditure refers to expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in excess of the amount provided by the budget appropriation bills and is authorised by the Governor in Council to be made in advance of authorisation by the parliament.

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 provides for supplementary appropriations for various departments for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021-22 financial year. The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 provides for supplementary appropriations for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021-22 financial year. Under the bill, the Treasurer is authorised to pay \$2.823 billion from the Consolidated Fund to 14 departments in the financial year starting 1 July 2021. This is in comparison to last year's bill which sought \$447.456 million for six departments. The total authorised expenditure equals \$2.825 billion.

While the LNP will not be opposing these bills, there is so much that needs to be said about the economic record of this current government. As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee that considered the appropriation bills, I cannot overstate the waste and disregard for

taxpayers' money that is represented by these overspends. The overspend in this year's bills is the highest since this government came to power nearly eight years ago. In fact, it even surpasses the blowouts in the dying years of the Bligh government, and is symptomatic of this lazy third-term Labor government.

Fourteen departments and agencies have reported an overspend. For the record, they include: the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, over \$175 million; the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, over \$138 million; the Department of Energy and Public Works, over \$57 million; the Department of Environment and Science, over \$623 million; the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, over \$573 million; the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, over \$85 million; the Department of Transport and Main Roads, over \$330 million; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, over \$224 million; the Queensland Police Service, over \$56 million; and Queensland Treasury, over \$551 million.

The irony of these budget blowouts is not lost on Queensland taxpayers. Despite these massive overspends, service delivery standards have declined across the board. Every day in this chamber, members on this side of the House share the often heartbreaking stories of their constituents who have been let down by this government—Queenslanders, who are the victims of failing standards and a failing government. We speak of Queenslanders like those once proud families now forced to live in their cars and line up for food vouchers, pensioners forced to swelter in the heat because they cannot afford to turn on a fan, patients left waiting for hours on ambulance stretchers in hospital corridors or mothers forced to give birth on the side of the road, innocent young children who have been failed by those meant to protect them and people forced to live like prisoners in their own homes for fear of becoming the next victim of crime.

With cost-of-living pressures and failures in health, youth justice and housing—to name a few—it is no wonder Queenslanders have lost faith in this government. This is a government with enough skeletons in the cupboard to celebrate Halloween every day. Make no mistake, there is no candy left for the masses. Despite the sugar hits from our rich resources sector, this government has gobbled it all up and has already begun sniffing around for its next victim in the guise of another new tax—perhaps a tax on patients.


That leads me directly to the other bill in this cognate debate—the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Although announced at budget time, together with the other three new taxes—the multiple land tax jurisdiction amendment, the coal royalties hike and the payroll tax increase—the change to the point of consumption tax was not legislated. According to the Treasurer, the main objective of the bill is to provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry, primarily by amending the Betting Tax Act 2018 from 1 December 2022. The bill makes a number of amendments to give effect to the government's announcement on 6 June 2022 of changes to betting tax arrangements to provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry.

The bill introduces the final of four new or increased taxes and fixes the bungled introduction of another. While there are a number of issues with this bill, they can ultimately be best summarised in the words of the Treasurer himself. He stated—

I am proud to serve in a government that keeps its promises. We promised the people of Queensland we would not raise their taxes, and we have kept that promise.

They are infamous words from an illustrious Treasurer, who made this promise of no new taxes no less than 26 times. Yes, the Treasurer has great form when it comes to breaking promises to Queenslanders. It is no wonder taxpayers shudder every time he speaks.

This bill is reflective of where we find ourselves midway in the third term of a government that has checked out—a government that lurches from crisis to crisis at greater velocity than the Premier's red carpet appearances; a government that has swept its moral compass under the same red carpet; a government that has given up on governing and is more concerned with the way things look rather than how they actually are. What we have heard in this chamber already about the abysmal ability and track record of this third-term, lazy government leaves no doubt in the mind of Queenslanders that they have been hoodwinked. They have been sold a lemon by the Treasurer who oversees a veritable river of gold, but instead has allowed the state's coffers to run dry. This is a government that no longer listens, is plagued by integrity issues and no longer governs for Queenslanders. Cost blowouts, broken promises and a lack of transparency and accountability will become the hallmarks of this government. That is a legacy that hardworking Queenslanders do not deserve.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.36 pm): I rise this evening to speak in this cognate debate in support of the appropriation bills. Firstly, I would like to say how important it is that I speak in support of these bills tonight and that I vote for these bills. One of the most important additions in this budget is the over \$60 million in capital expenditure allocated to the Rockhampton Ring Road. Endorsement of the appropriation bill in this place will set in stone the \$60 million of capital expenditure allocated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads this financial year for the early works for the Rockhampton Ring Road. I am very pleased that the early works on the primary utility plant removal are included in this budget. That is to remove the electrical, gas, telecommunications and other infrastructure that exists along the alignment of the Rockhampton Ring Road. Those early works to remove that infrastructure are budgeted for and contained within the bill.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Ms LAUGA:** I am very pleased that that contract has been awarded and that this project will be proceeding.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Ms LAUGA:** The meeting held in Rockhampton last week really did not need to happen considering the state government has budgeted \$200 million for the Rockhampton Ring Road, which is proceeding.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Ms LAUGA:** I am proud to speak in support of the appropriation bill this evening which endorses that capital expenditure to continue to flow for the early works of this project.

I am also very pleased to speak in support of the appropriation bill with respect to the appropriation for the Department of Education and the budget allocated for the Department of Education. I am very proud to work alongside the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, and as part of a government that has delivered its eight consecutive record education budget.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms LAUGA:** This is an incredible legacy for this government to have achieved. I am very proud to be working as part of this government. There really has been an education revolution in Queensland over the last eight years directly as a result of the hard work of our teachers, school staff, all of the students and school communities. This has also been supported by record budgets for education in Queensland year on year over the last eight years.

The Palaszczuk government's vision is for a great future for every Queenslander. Our purpose is to give all children a great start, engage young people in learning, create safe and inclusive workplaces, and also invest in communities for a stronger Queensland. These budget allocations seek to achieve that, ensuring that Queensland children engage in quality early years programs that support learning and development and strengthen successful transition to schools and that Queensland students engage in learning, achieving and successfully transitioning to further education and work.

The Palaszczuk government's education budget will continue to employ additional wellbeing professionals in our schools and support 50 state schools to provide free general practitioner services to secondary students at school over three years through the \$106.7 million Student Wellbeing Package. I know that a number of schools have already started employing those GPs and psychologists to work within those schools and provide that support to students on the school grounds.

We will also build on the progress made through the Youth Engagement Strategy by investing \$45.5 million over four years from 2022-23 for a range of initiatives to re-engage children and young people who have been disconnected from study or work. This lends, I think, beautifully to the debates that we have had in this place about youth crime. We are investing in engaging young people back in education and training. That we know from the research around the world is one of the most important ways of re-engaging those young people and getting them back on a happy and healthy path in life.

We are continuing to invest in delivering world-class educational facilities under the \$3 billion Building Future Schools program, with new schools to open each year from 2023 to 2026. I do not believe there is a member in this place without new work happening at schools right across their electorate. I am really proud that the department's infrastructure section has been able to really push the pedal to the metal and get new halls, admin buildings, tuckshops and classrooms built right across

this state. They were completely ignored under the former government. We have invested over \$20 million in Yeppoon State High School since I was elected in 2015, but for the three years prior to that less than \$100,000 was spent at that school by the former government.

We will continue to deliver additional and renewed infrastructure in Queensland state schools. We are also improving internet access for school staff and students by boosting bandwidth at all Queensland state schools. That is something I am incredibly proud of. We have heard from teachers and students that the internet has been an issue. In partnership with Telstra, the department is delivering increased bandwidth at every single Queensland state school right across the state. That is no easy feat particularly given how rural and remote some of our schools are and how difficult it can be to deliver faster internet.


We also have a commitment to employ more than 6,100 new teachers and 1,100 new teacher aides over four years through the Great Teachers, Great Future fund. We need more teachers to work in our state schools. We need more people to consider a career in teaching. A career in teaching is a great career. If you are considering a career in teaching, you should know that you will be supported by the Palaszczuk government. We will back our teachers in and we will give them the skills, experience, mentoring, opportunities and a career in our Queensland state schools. It is a wonderful career. I would encourage anyone to consider taking up a career in teaching.

We are also supporting 300 aspiring teachers through the Turn to Teaching Internship Program—one of my favourites—by providing financial support, mentoring and paid internship employment to complete their teaching qualification and take up a guaranteed permanent teaching position in a Queensland state school, with the first cohort commencing their teacher duties next year in Queensland state schools. The Turn to Teaching Internship Program has been incredibly successful. It is great to meet some of those aspiring teachers—people who have qualifications in other fields but who have decided that they would like to take up a career in teaching. They have been supported to complete their two-year master's degree. They have been supported by way of mentoring through that but also with a paid internship and a guarantee of a full-time permanent position when they are finished.

I am also particularly proud of the Trade to Teach Internship Program, which has just been launched. It is a pilot program which I have been very proud to champion, together with the Queensland Resources Council. It came out of the need to engage more ITD teachers, industrial technology and design teachers, right across the state. The Resources Council saw the need because they were struggling to employ young people in the resources sector as a result of young people not having completed any units in ITD. They were graduating year 12 without those skills and experience because we struggled to get ITD teachers across the state. We are encouraging people with a trade background to take up a paid internship to complete their teaching qualification and work as ITD teachers in Queensland schools. Already we have had a great interest from qualified tradespeople right across the state who are interested in taking up this opportunity.

I am also incredibly proud that we are increasing funding—\$263 million over four years and \$77 million per year—for ongoing support for the kindergarten funding reform to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for families. We are also increasing disability funding and implementing educational need funding for children attending a kindergarten in Queensland. There is a really great website which every Queensland parent can go to and put in their details to find out exactly how much they are likely to save from this investment—the single largest investment in kindergarten reform in over 10 years which I am very proud of.

There is \$80.6 million to support schools transition to a new resourcing model for students with a disability. I know teachers across the state are incredibly pleased about that because students and schools who were not previously able to access resources will now be able to under this new model. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution with a particular focus on the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. My understanding of the bill is that there is now a focus on introducing a five per cent racing levy in addition to the 15 per cent betting tax rate. As I understand it, there is a more rigorous regime of assessment for these bigger multinationals that quite likely have been avoiding paying their fair share of tax in the country. Last I checked, we were looking at \$20 billion or \$30 billion companies versus Tabcorp, which is junior in comparison. I think they are in the vicinity of \$200 million, the member for Hinchinbrook is telling me. A much smaller company with a much smaller advertising budget is doing all the heavy lifting and paying tax. This levels the playing field and addresses the fact that multinationals know how to thwart the system.

It is a principle on which I have judged the government pretty harshly in the past. I give them a gold star for this one. We in the KAP have sat here defending the public over Uber, which pays no tax in Australia and smashed our taxi industry—near destroyed it in Queensland. The government gave them free rein to do that. We defended the public over the gas reserve policy where big multinational gas companies have come in and are taking all our gas in Queensland. They took away our competitive gas advantage here in Queensland, and they were cheered on their way and patted on the back. We defended the public over the ethanol industry. The big oil companies get to exploit us as much as they want to. The government has never chased them or taken them on when given the opportunity to issue fines or to progress that.


The tide has turned. Perhaps the tide has not turned but it is time to show the government some appreciation and say well done for putting this legislation through. It is providing some much needed revenue to the racing industry. The racing industry is intrinsic to regional communities. It means a hell of a lot more than just sport. If you live in McKinlay, Julia Creek, Richmond, Hughenden or Pentland, the big event of your year is the race meeting. That is where blokes meet their wives and boyfriends meet their girlfriends. It is where you catch up with people you have not seen for years and, if you are a politician in those areas, you go to the races because that is where you catch up with everyone.

It is not just the cockies coming into town; it is the railway workers, the council workers and the fencing contractors. Everyone is mixing at the races, having a beer, having a drink, having a good time. If you do not have financial support and racing infrastructure to build around, it collapses. Country racing and metropolitan racing are completely different animals, and that is a big problem we have in the industry. There has been some movement in this area, but country racing and large metropolitan racing are often treated the same. Country racing is a much less commercial enterprise, especially the remote bush races. They are not a commercial enterprise; they are much more a community event than a money-making sport. I think that always creates a problem in policy when governing this.

I will pay the government a compliment for the investment that has gone into racing under their tenure. There has been some good money going out there for infrastructure. We have seen a lot of upgrades. I need to pay tribute to some of the leaders of those race clubs—one standout is Sally Kirkwood and her husband Robbie, a trainer in Charters Towers—for what they have done at the Charters Towers racetrack. Mind you, it was a pretty horrible track before, but there has been a lot spent there. I will not go into the details. The work was really poorly done, but there was a big investment and that is as a result of champions like that. When you move to Mount Isa, Jay Morris and one of the former presidents, Danny Ballard, and jockeys like Terry Hill are big pillars of the community, and in racing they mean a lot. They need that investment in jockey rooms and tack rooms which comes from this extra \$20 million a year.

That is desperately needed because for a long time it has been let go and ignored. We need to look after country racing because it is the feeder for metropolitan racing. A lot of the jockeys that ride at Eagle Farm and Doomben have done their time in the country and worked their way up. It is a nursery. One cannot exist without the other if you do not keep that viable. It is easy to say, 'This is where we make all our money on the betting.' Mind you, pound for pound Mount Isa used to be a huge generator of income for the TAB but it never got any commensurate return back. With the onset of online gaming there is a huge opportunity, and well done to the government for taking that opportunity. At a federal level a lot more needs to be done with online gaming because there is still a lot of this stuff out there where we miss the revenue.

We are grateful for this move. It is a turnaround in terms of the government taking on multinationals and taking hard stands, but we will give you a gold star. Well done! We need to see this going out to regional areas. It says there is money quarantined for the regions, but we need to see that is it done effectively and not squirreled away, that there is no trickery done in relation to that money, that it actually gets there and that there is some equity brought into the industry, which has been exploited for a long time by these multinationals.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (6.52 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate we are having this evening. From time to time I pause to reflect on different speakers and what they have had to contribute. I know that the member for Bundamba will contribute soon about how this great Palaszczuk Labor government continues to fund projects in his community. I was listening to his nearby neighbour, the member for Mount Ommaney, and it reminded me of the gambling benefit fund and how much money goes into small community groups. That is what good, responsible Labor governments do—they ensure that money goes to communities and organisations that benefit the broader community.

There was one particular contribution where I truly had to pause and reflect, and it was around the phrase 'at this time'. The member for Broadwater was referring to a document that was tabled and he spoke about 'at this time'. I guess he was foreshadowing the future, so I thought I would reflect on 'at this time', 9 November 2022.

At this time on 9 November 2010 the member for Surfers Paradise was the leader of the LNP. At this time on 9 November 2016 the member for Clayfield was the leader of the LNP. At this time on 9 November 2020, two years ago, the member for Nanango was the leader of the LNP, but three short days later she was no longer the leader of the LNP. I suppose at this time in 2023 only time will tell who the leader of the LNP will be. We were talking about betting. I do not want to put any odds on who is going to be the leader of the LNP, although I do hear that the member for Whitsunday is in with a chance.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the issue of relevance. This has nothing to do with the bill whatsoever. I would ask that you bring him back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): As a general principle the scope of appropriation bills are very broad; however, under the circumstances I agree with the member for Everton's point of order. Member for Bundaberg, would you please come back to the very broad terms available to you under the long title of the bill.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** Not Everton. Mr Deputy Speaker, of course I take your guidance on this broad bill. I will just go back to that phrase 'at this time' as it was brought up by the member for Broadwater. I note that at this time we have on record his quote that there will be a debt reduction strategy by the LNP. That directly relates to appropriation bills. We know what their debt reduction strategy has been in the past: fewer nurses, fewer police and 14,000 hardworking Queenslanders marched out the door of their workplace. That is their debt reduction strategy. We know that during the 2020 election there was a \$28 billion black hole and no-one from the LNP could answer that question. How big will their black hole be in 2024? At this time we will have to wait. What we do know is that Labor budgets are Queensland budgets because they represent hardworking Queenslanders. They represent the people of this state who time and time again go to the polls and reject the Liberal-National coalitions, and then when they form a party they really reject them.

Our budget is across many different departments. I have the bill here, and I will speak to some of the departments that have had to have some supplementary appropriation because of their responsible spending to ensure that Queensland represents Queenslanders. I notice that the minister for agriculture is here, and can I just say what a fierce champion the minister for agriculture is for communities such as Bundaberg. It was wonderful to be with him in Bundaberg earlier this year at Cross Family Farms. Trevor and Wendy are good, salt of the earth people who battle away on the farm every day not only for themselves and their employees but also for the whole region and all of Queensland. They also do a lot of charity work. The minister and I were there to announce the Rural Economic Development Grant, which will bring about 50 new job opportunities to that location. That is outstanding, because that is a Labor minister delivering for the regions. That is why when you look around this side of the House we far and away have more in the regions than what the LNP could dream of because it is Labor that represents the regions. It is Labor who stands up time and time again and battles away for the rights of Queenslanders. That is why we see such vast numbers across the regions when it comes to polling day, and I am sure we will see it again in 2024.

When we talk about funding in agriculture, especially in the latest appropriation bill, there is a commitment to restore Paradise Dam. There is \$600 million in the forwards with \$30 million there to start the work. Since we passed the appropriation bill we have already signed off on four contracts to start work on restoring Paradise Dam and the work has already been happening.

That is why so many people were bemused when the federal LNP and the LNP member for Burnett tried to say there would be no commitment from the federal Labor government of their \$600 million, which they had already promised. What we have is \$600 million from the Albanese government and \$600 million from the Palaszczuk government. What do we get from that? We get \$1.2 billion in Labor government money going to fix the regions and restore Paradise Dam. It will ensure that our growers have a strong future. It will ensure that our growers are not only working on the farm but increasing their manufacturing. We have seen the value in manufacturing through this Appropriation Bill (No. 3) and through the process.

What happens when we get to the LNP? I will quote from their statement of reservation in regards to Appropriation Bill (No. 3). It is a very short statement of reservation; in fact they must agree with us so much because they could not even fill half a page with their statement of reservation. They just do not have it in them anymore; they do not have the gusto. They said—

... these Bills highlight the fact that the Treasurer is completely unable to contain the wasteful spending of his colleagues—

Let us look at what they think is wasteful spending. I will go through the committee report and start with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The member for Coomera was attacking the minister. The LNP think accelerated delivery of various capital programs, including Bruce Highway upgrades, is wasteful spending. That is what they think is wasteful spending. When it comes to tourism, they think the Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Support Program is wasteful spending. They think it is wasteful spending to support the tourism industry. That is what the LNP believe.


What else do they not believe in? They do not believe in the Building Acceleration Fund and investment in a vaccine manufacturing facility. They do not support the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries putting in more money for the Drought Assistance and Reform Package. They do not support the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce. We put in more money to ensure that challenge was met, but they call it wasteful spending. That is what the LNP believe is wasteful spending. What else do they think is wasteful spending? We need to go back to the dark days of the Newman-Nicholls-Crisafulli government. Do members remember when they sent train manufacturing overseas? Apparently, good honest jobs in train manufacturing in Queensland is wasteful spending according to the LNP.

**Mr Tantari:** It went to India.

**Mr SMITH:** That is right. They would rather send the jobs and the trains over to India than actually make the trains in Maryborough. We saw that at the last election. There was no commitment to ensure that trains would be built in Maryborough. We know that was the case. They would say that is wasteful spending.

What else do we know? We know they cut \$1.6 billion from roads and transport funding across Queensland. According to the LNP, that must be wasteful spending. What about when they cut \$60 million from road safety funding? They cut \$25.6 million from the regional safety development program. They cut \$93.2 million from council road funding. Apparently, putting money into better and safer roads in Queensland is wasteful spending according to the LNP.

This next one is a kicker. They cut \$20 million from school transport assistance that helps our kids get to school. That is wasteful spending under the LNP. Maybe that is why they cut funding to our education system as well. Maybe that is why every time the LNP get into government they attack our cleaners in the education system as well—because they think a good, honest, decent job is wasteful spending. That is what they believe. This is another great Palaszczuk Labor government spend to back in Queenslanders, the same Queenslanders who never want to back in the LNP.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (7.03 pm): The most entertaining thing about the member for Bundaberg is that he actually thinks he is good. The guy has been here for five minutes, he will be here for another five minutes after this and we will never see him again. This will be his four years of fame when he was the member for Bundaberg for one election period.

**Mr Saunders:** At least he can count.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Maryborough, you need to be in your chair if you want to make any comments.

**Mr MANDER:** Good pick-up, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am actually not sure what he is referring to. I think he might be mixing me up with Bill Harrigan. I am not sure, but I suspect that is the case.

I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) and the betting tax bill. As the shadow racing minister, I want to focus on the extra betting tax. There are a couple of issues I want to focus on and one of them is broken promises. This is a government that has said time after time after time that it will not increase taxes, yet it has done it at least four times this term and I think in previous terms the count got up to about a dozen.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Member for Scenic Rim, I know you say that it is 10 but I think it was about 12 times that they promised they would not increase taxes and they actually did that and this is one of those examples.

One of the issues with this particular broken promise is not so much where the money is going to go to because this side of the House is a great supporter of racing, particularly country racing. Many of our members represent country areas and appreciate how important it is for our rural areas, not just



the racing event itself but the contribution it makes to the social fabric of our rural communities. We know how important that is. One of the issues which seems to be a consistent theme with this Treasurer is the lack of consultation. What he continues to do, in an arrogant fashion, is introduce taxes without speaking to the people it impacts the most, and this is a classic example of it.

**Mrs Gerber:** Sneaky.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Currimundi. We could describe it as being sneaky.

**Mrs Gerber:** Currumbin. Wrong coast.

**Mr MANDER:** They both start with C-u-r-r.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I want to remind those opposite that I do have feelings and I can get impacted by interjections so I may not be able to sleep tonight!

I go back to the substance of the debate. Time after time there has been no consultation with these taxation increases. I know this has been raised many times in the debate but I need to raise it again: the consultation that took place before the introduction of this increased betting tax bill happened with one party and one party only, and that was with an actor who was representing Tabcorp. I want to put on the record that any comments I make that criticise the government about this—and I said this during estimates as well—have got nothing to do with Tabcorp. If I were Tabcorp I would engage an actor. That is a smart business decision because they know the influence that an actor had on this government. It is a smart business decision and it is probably a smart investment. This actor had at least 43 engagements with the government about this particular tax, whereas those who were impacted by it, represented by Responsible Wagering, had absolutely zero interaction. That is a big issue with regards to how you go about responsible government and true consultation, but that did not happen and this is a regular habit of this Treasurer.

We just heard today about the doctors who wanted to have a meeting with the Treasurer about this payroll tax debacle. They have now gone back four or five years to charge doctors, in some cases in the millions of dollars, which is going to have an impact on patients if they carry through, not their threat, but the impact of this which may mean removing bulk-billing, which is a serious issue for those people struggling to pay medical costs. We know when it came to the mining tax there was zero consultation with those who were going to be impacted by it. These are serious issues.

The other issue about this betting tax is that they keep painting these international betting firms as demons. These are international firms that employ Queenslanders. One of those betting firms employs 550 Queenslanders, but apparently they are evil because they are international. How many international firms do we have operating in this state that employ locals? They should not be demonised; they should be encouraged.

**Mrs McMahon:** Tax dodgers.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from a member of the government calling them tax dodgers. They did not dodge any tax whatsoever because there was never a tax on them. These are the people who employ Queenslanders. That is typical of this government, which is targeting those firms that employ Queenslanders.

**Mrs Gerber:** Remember at first they did not want to tax?

**Mr MANDER:** Member for Currumbin, I take that interjection. Those issues about the betting tax are important, but they are a sideshow compared to the incompetence of this Treasurer.


**Mr Krause:** \$2.3 billion.

**Mr MANDER:** \$2.3 billion overspent. That is not a teeny little mistake; that is a whopping blunder. That you could get it so wrong! That you would overspend by \$2.3 billion! I thought it was incredibly interesting today when the Premier answered a question about the new doctors payroll tax. What authority did she refer to? She did not refer to the Treasurer. Her authority was some officer from the state revenue department. Why is that? That is because the Premier has zero confidence in this Treasurer. We saw it with the land tax backflip. We saw the Treasurer humiliated. That was proven again today when he did not even mention in his speech the amendments that he circulated afterwards that, yes, they were finally going to get rid of this land tax extension. I do not know about you, members, but I do not trust this Treasurer.

**Mrs Gerber:** No—'for now'.

**Mr MANDER:** Exactly. The member for Currumbin is making excellent interjections tonight and I will take that one also. That is exactly right. The very relevant words are 'for now'. You cannot trust this government when it comes to taxing Queenslanders because when they spend all the money they already have, whose money do they come after? They come after taxpayers' money—our money. They will continue to waste it and spill it down the drain because they cannot responsibly manage finances.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (7.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, but my contribution will focus on the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. On 12 October 2022, the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment introduced the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee for inquiry. The main objectives of the bill are to provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry, primarily by amending the Betting Tax Act 2018 as from 1 December 2022 to introduce a five per cent racing levy in addition to the 15 per cent betting tax rate; incorporate free bets into the calculation of betting tax; and provide for approximately 80 per cent of the annual betting tax revenue for the Racing Queensland Board.

Currently, betting operators pay betting tax at the rate of 15 per cent. The bill amends it to add a discrete racing levy component of five per cent, effectively raising the tax rate to 20 per cent. This tax does not affect punters. This is a tax on large multinationals, the largest of which are primarily foreign owned or foreign domiciled. For example, the Entain Group, owner of Ladbrokes and Neds, recorded a \$2 billion revenue stream last year, and Flutter Group, owner of Betfair, recorded \$2.5 billion for their revenue. These large multinational companies are bleeding Queensland racing dry and it is about time the companies that are profiting from our thriving racing industry also invest in its future.

The bill also makes associated amendments to the Racing Act 2002. The policy objective for these amendments is to ensure that country thoroughbred race meetings in Queensland receive a minimum amount of funding as a portion of betting tax revenue paid to the Racing Queensland Board under the Betting Tax Act 2018. The bill also amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to give effect to administrative, machinery and transitional arrangements required to support the mental health levy, which was recently established by the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022.

In its report, the Education, Employment and Training Committee made three recommendations. The first was that the bill be passed. Secondly, the committee recommended the bill be amended to omit sections 25 (3) and 26(2)(a) from the Betting Tax Act 2018 which will ensure that free bets made as a totaliser bet are incorporated in the calculation of the betting tax. Thirdly and finally, the committee recommended the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment clarify how country thoroughbred race meetings will be defined for the purpose of the Racing Act 2002 and the Racing Regulation 2013, and who will be responsible for defining this term.

The racing industry of Australia incorporates a diverse range of businesses including horse breeding, horseracing—thoroughbred and harness—greyhound racing and the management of the facilities used for these activities. It is estimated that horse and greyhound racing contribute approximately \$1.4 billion annually to the Australian gross domestic product. Further, value-added income from the economy is generated by breeding, horse sales, prize money and wagering.

Figures from Racing Australia suggest there are approximately 159,000 individuals involved in thoroughbred racing nationally, and these include over 82,600 racehorse owners as well as other participants, volunteers and employees. Greyhound racing includes around 30,000 registered participants, with figures from Greyhound Racing Australasia indicating that 7,000 people are directly employed in this industry, while tens of thousands are indirectly employed as a result of the industry operations.

**Mr Krause:** What about the Marburg pacers?

**Mr MADDEN:** Member for Scenic Rim, I will get to the Marburg Pacing Association later in my speech. This is why the industry needs to be self-funded, as provided for by the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2002. Almost all occupations in racing require relevant industry licences which are coordinated through industry peak bodies. Occupations that have licensing requirements include trainers, jockeys, stablehands and kennelhands, float drivers, farriers, syndicate promoters and rider agents.

In May 2013 the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board, trading as Racing Queensland, became the industry's principal authority in Queensland. The three codes have representation from the following code control boards: the Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board, the Queensland Harness Racing Board and the Queensland Greyhound Racing Board. All three codes have facilities in my great city of Ipswich and are well supported by the Ipswich residents.

The Ipswich Turf Club, located at Bundamba, is one of the premier thoroughbred racing facilities in Australia. With chief executive officer Tim Dunn, chairman Wayne Patch and treasurer Brad Bulow, the club goes from strength to strength. The premier racing event for this club is the Ipswich Cup and it is estimated that this one event—one day—contributes over \$1.5 million to the Ipswich economy and is attended on average by 15,000 punters.

The Marburg Pacing Association, located at the Marburg Showgrounds, is a true country horseracing club located less than 60 minutes from the Brisbane CBD. Under the stewardship of president Scott Neaves, secretary Denis Smith and treasurer Craig Whiteoak, the club goes from strength to strength.

The Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club is currently based at the Ipswich Showgrounds and is very professionally managed by chief executive officer Dianne O'Donnell, chairman Rob Essex and treasurer Ricky O'Donnell. Plans are well underway for the new greyhound track at Purga in Ipswich. The Greater Brisbane Greyhound Centre was first announced in 2019 and the Minister for Racing gave it the go-ahead in September 2022. The facility will include a state-of-the-art veterinary centre which will assist in enforcing animal welfare laws for racing animals and is overseen by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.


The \$39.15 million facility was funded by the Racing Infrastructure Fund and will be the greyhound code's new state headquarters. It is set to open in 2024. I am looking forward to attending the official event and I am sure I will be joined by the local members including the member for Scenic Rim—

**Mr Krause:** The member for Ipswich, actually.

**Mr MADDEN:**—and the member for Ipswich. While this project is funded by Racing Queensland, to ensure similar projects are funded in the future we need a sustainable racing industry as provided for by the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

I would like to thank Racing Queensland for choosing Ipswich as the new centre for greyhound racing in Queensland. I acknowledge the great stewardship of Racing Queensland chairman Steve Wilson, chief executive officer Brendan Parnell and executive general manager of operations Adam Wallish. In order for the racing industry to prosper it is crucial that appropriate animal welfare standards and the integrity of the racing industry is maintained. In Queensland this is overseen by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, established by the passing of the Racing Integrity Act in 2016. In control is the Racing Integrity Commissioner, Shane Gillard.

In closing, I would like to thank the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment for introducing this important bill. The Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 will provide a much more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry and will futureproof the industry. I would also like to thank the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its careful consideration of the bill, the committee secretariat, the submitters and Hansard. I commend the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.23 pm): It is a pleasure to follow the member for Ipswich West. I acknowledge his individual support for the racing industry around the Ipswich area. I hope that support from the member for Ipswich West will continue in the future. If only it was replicated by the other Labor members in the region. When the greater Brisbane greyhound facility was announced and subsequently, we have seen opposition to it from the member for Ipswich no less, even though she is a part of the government that is supporting that—

**Mr FURNER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Pursuant to standing order 236, I rise on relevance. Whatever the member is saying with regard to the member for Ipswich in this speech is totally irrelevant to the bill before the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): There is no point of order.

**Mr KRAUSE:** If only the support for the racing industry that the member for Ipswich West has exhibited was replicated by the member for Ipswich. Of course, there is a lot of talk around the Ipswich area that the member for Ipswich may not be the Labor candidate come the next election and perhaps her opposition to the greyhound facility has something to do with that. In any case it is important—

**Ms RICHARDS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is on relevance to the bill before the House. That has nothing to do with it and I would ask your guidance to bring the member back to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Redlands, I ask you to be in your correct seat. Member for Scenic Rim, you have the call.

**Mr KRAUSE:** As I was saying, there is a lot of talk that the member for Ipswich will not be the Labor candidate for Ipswich at the next election and perhaps her opposition to the greyhound facility—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Scenic Rim, I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Sure, and I am talking about support for the racing industry and I—

**Ms HOWARD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the member's comments and I ask him to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Scenic Rim, the member for Ipswich has taken offence to your comments. Will you withdraw?

**Mr KRAUSE:** I withdraw. Supporting our racing industry is something that is important to members of the LNP. It provides a huge amount of employment. As we are talking about a tax on the racing industry, it is a very relevant point to note the differences in support across the chamber when it comes to the racing industry, whether it is thoroughbreds or harness racing or indeed greyhounds.

**Mrs Gerber:** We love the dishlickers.

**Mr KRAUSE:** That is right. I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. They are colloquially known as dishlickers.

I return to this bill and the appropriation bills that we are debating—and I must say when I interjected earlier during the member for Everton's contribution I unwittingly misled the House by saying that it referred to a \$2.3 billion overspend. In fact, it is a \$2.8 billion overspend that this bill is dealing with. I apologise for misleading the House. It is worse than we originally thought—

**Mrs Gerber:** It is much worse.

**Mr KRAUSE:** It is much worse than we originally thought. This appropriation bill consolidates and continues a typical Labor budget: more debt, more spending, more taxes and more waste. We have seen no better example of the waste in this last calendar year than Wellcamp where \$230-odd million was wasted on a facility that the people of Queensland will not even own.

**Mrs Gerber:** What could the member for Scenic Rim have done with \$230 million?

**Mr KRAUSE:** The member for Scenic Rim could have spent \$230 million in a far better way than this government has in that terrible investment at Wellcamp, which was done purely for political purposes.

**Ms Bates:** Beechmont Road.

**Mr KRAUSE:** The member for Mudgeeraba mentions Beechmont Road. There could have been a terrific investment made in Beechmont Road for that \$230 million, but this government has no regard at all for fiscal discipline. This is a very serious issue. It is going to get even more serious in the coming years.

**Mr Kelly** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, order.

**Mr KRAUSE:** It is going to get even more serious, member for Greenslopes, in the coming years.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Scenic Rim, through the chair.

**Mr KRAUSE:** The member for Greenslopes knows that it will get more serious in the coming years as interest rates increase and as the cost of servicing the mountain of debt that the Queensland government has increases. Interest rates have now increased by two or three per cent in six months. When all of the debt that is held by the Queensland Treasury Corporation resets at a much higher interest rate, the servicing cost will go through the roof. Who is going to pay for that? The taxpayers of Queensland. Interest, fees and charges always go up under Labor when they cannot control their spending.

**Mrs Gerber:** The cost of living goes up under Labor.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Of course it does, because they cannot control their spending and they have to put up taxes. We are in a high inflationary environment at the moment and that will obviously lead to higher taxes, fees and charges. Worse than that, it will put pressure on our credit rating which will see yet another jump in the interest rates charged on Queensland's debt. Worst of all, it will affect people's standard of living in Queensland.

Registering cars will cost more, and we already have some of the most expensive registration fees in the nation. I do not know where we are sitting at the moment, but a couple of years ago I remember pointing out to the Premier—I do not think she was aware of it at the time—that Queensland had the second most expensive car registration in the nation. It is only a matter of time, under this government, before we become the most expensive place in the nation to drive a car.

Earlier the member for Bundaberg made some comments about the rail manufacturing industry and where particular rail vehicles were manufactured for use in this state.

**Mr Saunders:** Don't go there, son!

**Mr KRAUSE:** I take that interjection from the member for Maryborough. I will go there, because decisions made by the Premier when she was the minister for transport led directly to those trains being manufactured not in Queensland—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough, order!

**Mr KRAUSE:**—because when she was the minister she cut Downer out of the tender process.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms Fentiman:** There was only one government that wanted to make trains in India.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I will take that interjection from the Attorney-General. There was only one government that wanted to manufacture trains outside of Australia, and that was the Bligh government when the Premier was the minister for transport. She cut Downer out of the tender process, which led directly to the events that happened after that. We will not be lectured to by the member for Bundaberg when he comes into this House with his faux outrage about train manufacturing places, because it was a direct result of the actions of the Premier when she was in government under the Bligh regime.


We know what happened to the Bligh regime as a result of those decisions. They were decimated. The other reason they were decimated was their financial mismanagement. We see all the hallmarks of the financial mismanagement of the Bligh era across the chamber right now. Taxes are continually going up; people are making promises about not increasing taxes, fees and charges and then doing exactly that. Anna Bligh went to the 2009 election promising not to privatise anything but she did. Billions of dollars of assets were sold. Who sold the assets in Queensland? Anna Bligh and the former member for Ipswich were responsible for that. That is something we cannot blame the member for Ipswich for; the former member for Ipswich was responsible for that. 'Rachel the rail wrecker' I think the former member for Ipswich West used to call her.

I want to point out a couple of other things about this unforeseen expenditure bill that we are debating tonight. It has been noted that the Department of Environment and Science had an overspend of \$623.215 million, yet there are issues in my electorate of Scenic Rim to do with national parks that require investments of half a million dollars or a million dollars that have been huge problems for local communities for years now. However, there is nothing being spent on them. I talk in particular about the problem of the Cedar Creek Falls section of Tamborine National Park that has parking issues and access problems that need to be solved. We have seen zero action from the department, despite the fact that it has had a \$623 million overspend. There are other national park issues in the Scenic Rim that should be dealt with, but we will not go into them because there is not enough time to deal with them all tonight.

In the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries there is a \$2.225 million overspend. I note that there have been concerns raised with me by locals in the Scenic Rim about cost overruns or potential wastage in the Fire Ant Eradication Program. Obviously, we on this side of the House support that program—it is federally funded as well as having Queensland government investment—but there have been issues raised to do with waste that have not been adequately dealt with by the department.

I point to the \$330 million overspend in the Department of Transport and Main Roads. There was a \$330 million overspend, but it could not find a few more dollars to put in left-hand turning lanes at the upgrade of Cedar Grove and Cedar Vale roads on the Mount Lindesay Highway. There was a \$330 million overspend but it could not do that, so the highway will stop when one person wants to turn left onto that main road. It is a disgraceful decision and it shows a lack of priorities within the department and within this government.

There are too many projects in the slow lane for the Department of Transport and Main Roads, like the Boonah Rathdowney Road and the study for the Bromelton deviation and the Mount Lindesay Highway—a project that will create economic development and wealth. That is not to mention a lack of action on the Coulson Crossing on the Boonah Beaudesert Road, the Harrisville causeway and, of course, the 30-year outstanding project at Biddaddaba on the Beaudesert Nerang Road.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.36 pm): I rise in support of all three bills that form part of this cognate debate. I will start my contribution in relation to Appropriation Bill (No. 3), which deals with unforeseen expenditure as a part of our budget and our appropriation measures. Unforeseen expenditure is a routine part of the budget cycle, and it can be incurred for any number of reasons. Those reasons can include natural disasters; urgent, emergent and unforeseen issues; a change in timing of Commonwealth payments; or accelerated project delivery including the bringing forward of infrastructure and capital works spend.

It is certainly worth noting that as the 2021-22 financial year unfolded Queensland, the entire nation and indeed the world went through a period of unprecedented and unforeseen challenges. Not only were we still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects but we had significant weather related events and natural disasters as well. These events are difficult, if not impossible, to anticipate, particularly in a budgetary sense. One of these unforeseen events was the floods earlier in 2022 that decimated my local community, in particular the suburbs of Goodna and Bundamba. It was a tragic event that will leave its mark forever on so many flood victims in Bundamba as well as right throughout South-East Queensland and indeed our regions.

As part of our nation-leading response to supporting these flood victims, we had the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund. This is a fund that we had no idea we would need to budget for. This is a fund that is buying back the homes of flood victims. This is a fund that is doing flood-resistant retro fits. This is a fund that is raising the houses of flood victims out of the danger zone of future floods. It is great to see buybacks in my local community that are underway and people getting the assistance they need as part of our \$741 million fund. I pay tribute to the ongoing resilience and community spirit of the Bundamba community and all flood-affected communities across Queensland.

Many of the significant items of unforeseen expenditure are related to not only flood recovery but also COVID support and grants to support our communities and our businesses and at the time of the budget it had not been anticipated exactly what form that might take or exactly what amounts might be required for those particular grants. Queensland led the nation in managing this challenge in terms of our COVID response and the tailored support for our communities and our businesses has been absolutely critical to our success as a state in leading the nation in responding to the challenges of the pandemic.


Our record is clear. Our COVID-19 economic recovery plan provided a clear path forward and central to it was safeguarding our health and keeping our economy strong, and we are now enjoying the benefits of that strong health and economic management with record numbers of good jobs. There have been 106,400 jobs created across our state over the last year alone. In August we recorded our lowest ever unemployment rate since the series began in 1978. The 3.2 per cent unemployment rate beat the previous record of 3.3 per cent set 14 years ago in August 2008. That is not bad when one considers that we were coming off the back or still dealing with the tail end of a pandemic. In the local Ipswich community that means that more than 4½ thousand people are in work now compared to this time last year and business confidence and industry investment continue to be incredibly strong because of the budgetary measures that this government has put in place for Queensland.

Our exports have hit a new record of \$1.27 billion—that is more than New South Wales and Victoria combined—and net intrastate migration of nearly 54,000 people over the year to March leads the country, and why would you not want to come to Queensland? It is the place to be. Our surplus last financial year of \$4.3 billion is up by \$2.4 billion compared to the budget. This is the biggest Queensland surplus on record and it is a testament to the strength of our economic management and our ongoing plan for Queensland. It is also the sixth budget surplus that we have delivered. Our strong economic management is also backing our commitment to record numbers of frontline workers, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, police, firefighters and teachers.

Our government makes no apologies for supporting the Queensland economy and Queenslanders through these unpredictable and uncertain times. The members opposite would not understand this because they brag about cutting the budget. They brag about cutting, sacking and selling. We have brought forward spending of hundreds of millions of dollars for infrastructure projects like the Bruce Highway upgrades, and that forms part of the appropriations that are the subject of this bill. If the LNP is opposing the measures in this bill, if it wants to criticise the unforeseen expenditure in this bill, it is opposing things like bringing forward the Bruce Highway upgrade. Let us be clear about what it means when the LNP criticises these measures. It means that it does not want extra funding for flood and natural disaster responses. It means that it does not think that there should be COVID support for our communities and businesses. It means that it opposes bringing forward these vital job-creating infrastructure projects. It means that it opposes more doctors, nurses, teachers, police and frontline workers.

It is crystal clear that what we have is a lazy, tired, third-term opposition with no ideas and no vision for Queensland—zero pieces of legislation brought forward in this House, nasty personal attacks and the same old tired agenda to cut, sack and sell, except now it uses terms like ‘debt reduction plans’ and ‘service delivery strategies’. It has no plan for health, no plan for education, nothing for housing, nothing for transport, nothing for infrastructure, nothing for energy, nothing for our economy, and Queenslanders know it. They knew it in 2020 and they will know it in two years from now. In contrast, our vibrant, energetic Palaszczuk government is brimming with new ideas to deliver more good jobs and better services for Queensland. We have the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. We have our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. We have a Housing Strategy and a \$2 billion housing fund. Most importantly, we have a plan for Queenslanders that will deliver strong economic management through the pandemic that has delivered record jobs and our lowest ever unemployment rate and budget surpluses.

There is only one party in this House—that is, the Labor Party and the Palaszczuk Labor government—that has a clear vision for Queensland that Queenslanders can count on. They can count on the Palaszczuk Labor government to support them into more good jobs. They can count on the Palaszczuk Labor government to put downward pressure on energy prices for their homes and businesses. They can count on the Palaszczuk Labor government to build more houses. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.45 pm): When I heard the previous member talk about the government’s plans, I thought he had missed the point: this government only thinks plans are something you put in a glossy brochure, you do a sentiment survey, you spend taxpayers’ money on finding out what the polling words are that you want to go out there and do media messaging around. This government could not plan a chook raffle! In a week when people are celebrating World Town Planning Day we have seen the embarrassment of a government that cannot even plan a basic road upgrade because it does not do basic town planning provisions around road infrastructure that was totally foreseeable, and that to me is an example of waste that hurts everyday Queenslanders—the waste of taxpayers’ dollars that will potentially see a fire or ambulance station, or it might be a police station—

**Ms Bates:** An ambulance station.

**Ms SIMPSON:** This will see an ambulance station have to be demolished and a number of houses—brand new houses—having to be demolished. This is the reality involving not only taxpayers’ money but also human stories where people have invested their lives into their homes, with some only receiving the keys to those homes literally sometimes days before finding out that this government had not done the planning and had not done its job to put on the map what was required for future upgrades around a road corridor. I have never known anything like it. As members of parliament many of us have had to deal with constituents who have had compulsory acquisitions and we understand that there will be times when unfortunately people’s properties will be affected by future infrastructure, but to have a situation where brand new homes are affected because this government is so inept? That level of incompetence is felt right throughout its financial mismanagement. I have never seen anything like it with respect to brand new homes needing to be acquired and the fact that this government was so incompetent that it had not foreshadowed it as a future requirement in the planning documents when people were acquiring that property and when they were developing it. It is just a disgrace.

We see this replicated in every other department under this inept Labor government. There are very good public servants who are trying to do their jobs and they have been bullied, they have been abused and they have not been listened to because there is no tolerance of voices that are different from the ruling class of the Labor elite, and the Labor elite are the ones who rock up with Anacta, Labor aligned lobbyists, and their pay per access is via the washing machine of Labor lobbyists in Queensland

who have open doors to this government to get what they want but not to act first and foremost in the interests of Queensland. Good planning is seeing ahead and getting it right. What we are seeing with this government is the very opposite, because it thinks that planning is putting a document under your arm and something that is in fact not enacted with good policy. I want to talk about—

**Mr KELLY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is talking about planning. I fail to see how that has anything do with the appropriation bills.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member for Maroochydore, as long as you can bring it back to the long title of the bill you may continue.

**Ms SIMPSON:** This is an appropriation bill and the planning minister is requiring half a billion dollars in extra expenditure to be approved. A whole slab of that is the waste within 'Wastecamp'—or Wellcamp—a facility that taxpayers will not even get to own.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers!

**Ms SIMPSON:** The planning minister is asking for additional approvals for planning that the planning minister simply has not done. It is an absolute disgrace. There is a request, through the legislation before the House—an appropriation bill—for approval of a \$2.8 billion overrun on what those opposite expected when they were doing their budget.

I have listened to the yapping of the backbenchers who think there should not be scrutiny on overspend. The truth is that this is not some fancy title for reprofiling and delaying projects. Some projects may never happen because of the mismanagement of this government. That is a disgrace because we are a growing state. We need more infrastructure. How that is delivered requires great care so as to not waste money, which is what we have seen with Wellcamp. That is a project that has sucked the life out of many other potential projects—every local road intersection that has been pushed out beyond QTRIP.

I get that this government does not like to talk about how it is removing funding. I have seen where it has removed funding from QTRIP and delayed projects by years. I have raised with the transport minister the M2M cycleway to improve cycle and pedestrian access around a section of the coastline in my electorate. I said, 'It is not in QTRIP anymore,' and he said, 'It is funded. Trust us.' If it is not in QTRIP, where it is? There are many other projects that this government says are funded but are not in any budget documents or an authoritative document such as QTRIP. We are seeing huge amounts of overruns and huge amounts of waste that should have been directed to critical frontline services and a government that does not like scrutiny—a government that squirms when you raise the fact it blatantly misled the public.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Pine Rivers, I have given you numerous warnings. You may now leave the chamber for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Pine Rivers withdrew from the chamber at 7.53 pm.*

**Ms SIMPSON:** The yapping that we have heard from certain members of the backbench is because they do not want to be held to account. It is their government that has blatantly misled Queenslanders. It promised no new taxes but this Treasurer gave us four new taxes. When the Treasurer was caught out misleading Queenslanders—not telling the truth, saying something different from what he had stated in the lead-up to the election to what happened after the election—he said, 'No, I did not mislead people because this was a business tax.' Since when do you have different categories of promises? Is this a core promise or not a core promise? Businesses deserve a bit of respect.

We are seeing this again with this land tax—or renters tax as it has been labelled. This new tax was extending the scope of land tax to interstate holdings and essentially removing the benefit of some of those tax-free thresholds and substantially increasing people's tax rates. The Treasurer was trying to say that it was not a new or increased tax. It was a blatant new and increased tax. Those opposite do not get that the people who pay the price are the ones who do not get a roof over their heads. Industry has said that if we are going to see more investment in critical frontline services then this government has to start listening to people rather than misleading them, breaking its promises leading into elections and then trying to blame those who raised concerns about this in the first place.


The shame of the Wellcamp waste, the blowout of at least \$3 billion on Cross River Rail, the other wasteful overexpenditure and missed reallocation of expenditure means that other critical projects are not being funded or have been pushed back. This state government is yet to commit \$1.6 billion to



match federal funding to build the rail line to Maroochydore. It is a piece of infrastructure that is needed regardless of the Olympics. At a time when we are heading into the 2032 program of works that need to be delivered, we still have not seen a commitment from the state minister. I am calling on the transport minister and this Palaszczuk Labor government to make a decision to commit to this project and get it happening. The federal government has committed to the project. Why has the state government not done that? It is with projects such as this that we need to see less kicking of the can down the road and a start date and a construction time frame that can be achieved.

The more the government delays, the more evidence it is that it does not want this to happen. We must see good public transport through all urban areas and good road links through many other areas of Queensland as well. In South-East Queensland, if we are not to suffocate, if we are not to face extreme gridlock, there has to be proper and timely investment or else we will see more examples of what we have just seen with those poor families who found that their homes are to be potentially demolished for a mere road upgrade that was not properly planned. There is a whole department that has a responsibility to do that.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (7.57 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House. We all know—certainly on this side of the chamber—that appropriations can be a complex process. After what Queensland has been through over the last several years, what we have planned for the future is a real tribute to our Treasurer but also our Premier. Managing the state's finances is a considerable challenge, particularly in these current times.

One only needs to look at the most recent state budget to know that it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that has a plan for the future of Queensland. Ours is a plan to bring good jobs right throughout our diverse and decentralised state, to provide better services and to protect the great lifestyle that Queenslanders hold so dear. A good government, such as the Palaszczuk government, budgets well, plans for the future, ensures that spending is invested as necessary and shows restraint where appropriate.

Supporting Queensland's agriculture industry is not just about sitting back and waiting for things to grow. Those on this side of the House, and possibly some on the other side, understand the challenges that are before us in agriculture, whether it be drought, floods or COVID. Our farmers have been through tough times. The Palaszczuk government supports our farmers by investing in complex biosecurity defence systems, such as the \$202 million in the current budget, and being ready to deal with any threat that approaches our shores.

It is also about acknowledging the current incursions and threats in our state. It is about managing more than \$140 million in agricultural research and extension so that our already-successful farmers can grow even more and export even more, and can do that more profitably so they get a justified return for all the hard work that they do. It is about grasping opportunities for Queensland, such as on Wednesday of last week when I joined the Treasurer at the Taste of Queensland Showcase before a follow-up event with the top beef buyers from around the world who are making multimillion dollar investment decisions in buying Queensland beef, the best beef in the world.

No government can predict every spending measure that might be required through a financial year before that financial year has even begun. For example, take the increased threat of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease that our state faced this year. When both of those diseases were detected in Indonesia, the Queensland and federal governments stepped up to address the threat. Recently I was very pleased to hear the federal agriculture minister, Senator Murray Watt, announce an increase in the number of sniffer dogs. Twenty additional dogs will be trained here in Queensland. The last Morrison-Morrison-Morrison government slashed the number of detection dogs from, I think, 20 to about eight. That demonstrates the differences between an LNP federal government and Labor federal and state governments when it comes to biosecurity threats. That is notwithstanding the announcement made by the Premier at the Ekka this year of an additional \$22 million over the next five years to protect our shores, our state and our valuable cattle industry from the threats of FMD and LSD. At least 10 additional biosecurity officers will work across our state to prepare for the threat of those diseases. Time and time again this evening, LNP members opposite have described that as waste. I will tell you where the waste sits: it sits in the seats across the chamber.

We know that the opposition have taken issue with the unforeseen expenditure referred to in this bill but, just like the service delivery statements used during the budget and at estimates, the opposition does not know how it works. I want to help the opposition out so I will explain it to them. Unforeseen

expenditure is expenditure from the consolidated funds above the amount approved by previous appropriation acts. That is a normal part of the budget processes and the budget cycle. It happens every single year in every single government. The opposition struggles with that. It is just like how they try to paint the usual treatment of emergency drought assistance as a cut because it was not forecast through four years of the forward estimates.

Of course, the trouble for them is that this is how it has always been done including when the LNP was in government. They must have forgotten since they were last in power. The member for Maroochydore was in the parliament with Campbell Newman, as were the member for Nanango, the member for Mudgeeraba and—yes, you guessed it—the member for Broadwater. One might think that, between them, they would remember how budgets work but, having listened to their contributions to the debate this evening, it seems that that is not the case.

When you have an emerging issue you do not wait for the next budget; you deal with the problem when it arises. New policies can be implemented, emerging issues can be dealt with and people can be supported through natural disasters. What will the LNP approach be if they ever again form government in Queensland? If there is flooding in December, will they ask our farmers to wait until the June budget before they provide assistance? Do they class that as waste? I ask members to imagine a serious biosecurity risk on our shores such as currently exists. Will those opposite say, 'Let's wait until next year's budget to see if the disease enters our shores before we consider the appropriation of funds to deal with the incursion.'

**Mr Hinchliffe:** They'd be sacking the dogs.

**Mr FURNER:** I take the interjection; they would sack the dogs. When COVID took hold and spread across the nation, would the LNP have advocated waiting for the budget to extend lifesaving medical and other interventions?


In 2019 the monsoonal event that impacted northern and western Queensland caused up to half a million livestock losses and had devastating impacts on both private and public infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government has made extraordinary investments to restore roads and critical rail services and has backed our farmers to help them recover and rebuild. That is not waste. That is supporting primary industries. That is supporting farmers. That is supporting the whole state and the good jobs that come from those areas in times of need. That is what good governments do. That is what good Labor governments, such as the Palaszczuk Labor government, do.

What would the opposition have done? That monsoonal trough event happened in late January. Imagine an LNP government saying to those farmers and those communities, 'Sorry, we can't help you right now, but we'll see you in June.' It is a bit late when the roads and the railway lines are cut such as I saw. The member for Gympie was with me at that time. We saw it firsthand. I wait to hear the member's contribution to see if he would support the farmers in our great state of Queensland following monsoonal events or other natural events that affect our state. Will he be prepared to stand up and support these appropriation bills or will he remain silent as he does on many occasions? Considering the multiple natural disasters and the ongoing impacts of drought, additional expenditure beyond what has already been appropriated is entirely proper.

It is always instructive to look at the statement of reservation in a committee report because it creates a window into what life under an alternative government might be like in Queensland. In this instance, the opposition's statement of reservation in the report of the Economics and Governance Committee is particularly insightful. The statement of reservation, signed off by the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Coomera and the member for Ninderry, decries the expenditure in this bill as 'wasteful spending'. Once again, we know where the waste sits in this House. The waste is sitting on the benches opposite. Wasteful spending indeed!

Was the additional federal funding for the Horticultural Netting Program and the Future Drought Fund wasteful spending? Those things protect good jobs and are funded under this bill. Was the extra funding for programs under the drought assistance and reforms packages wasteful spending? Those funds ensure better services for farmers going through drought or preparing for the next drought. What about the additional funds to address the incursions of the red imported fire ant? I listened to the member for Scenic Rim somehow complaining about that, notwithstanding the fact that this government has invested \$37 million to combat that pest. If we were not combatting the pest it would have spread as far north as Mackay, as far west as Longreach and as far south as Canberra.

It is only a Labor Palaszczuk government that is addressing the concerns of our farmers in this state and protecting them from incursions such as those that currently exist on our borders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (8.07 pm): Gambling conglomerates are making a motza off Queenslanders' losses and the government says they want to make them pay their fair share, but that is not what this bill does. In the introductory speech to the bill, the Treasurer talked about the massive revenue that those companies are making. He talked of global revenue of \$2 billion for Entain Group and \$2.5 billion for Flutter Entertainment just last year. He said that the government wants these huge multinational companies to pay their fair share.

What does this government think is a fair share for those billion dollar companies to pay? How much extra tax will this bill make those international mega-corporations pay on their betting revenue? Twice as much? That seems fair, but no. Half as much? Not even that. This bill will ask those gambling conglomerates, which are making a huge amount of money off Queenslanders, to pay a measly five per cent more on their revenue in taxes. I say 'ask' because the betting tax is a self-reporting tax with, it seems, no actual means to determine how much revenue those companies suck out of the pockets of Queenslanders and with no obligation for the companies to even make any real effort to find out. Because of the self-reporting, we do not even know if those companies will bother to pay this extra tax.

In fact, there is definitely one gambling giant that will not be paying any more under this bill and that, of course, is Tabcorp—a regular customer for political favours and handouts from the LNP and Labor. The government has a specialised agreement with Tabcorp which, in this legislation, requires Tabcorp to pay fees on their UBET products, which is effectively a tax to Racing Queensland. In 2019, when Tabcorp refused to pay the full amount of their taxes, Racing Queensland took them to court. The litigation continued until this year when the government, which hates to see its good friends in the gambling industry argue with its own governing bodies, decided to step in and cut Tabcorp a nice, juicy deal. Under this new agreement, this government has agreed to give Tabcorp a \$30 million tax break under this bill. The ever appreciative Tabcorp has returned the favour, giving Queensland Labor \$14,000 in donations since the government brokered this deal.

To reiterate, the way this government wants to hold billion dollar multinational gambling conglomerates accountable is to increase their revenue taxes a measly five per cent, with no guarantee that they will actually pay, and give their corporate donor Tabcorp a \$30 million tax break. Let us pretend for a minute that the gambling giants will actually pay this extra tax and that the extra revenue would be more than a ridiculous tax break this government wants to give its friends at Tabcorp. What exactly does the government want to do with this extra revenue? Will it put it towards fully funding public education and meeting the government's obligations under the Schooling Resources Standard? Will it improve wages for nurses to keep them from departing the profession? What about building public homes in a state with some of Australia's worst housing crisis? No, the government plans to give all of the additional revenue—and more—to Queensland racing.

Under this bill, Queensland racing will receive 80 per cent of the betting revenue compared to 35 per cent currently. This represents an estimated \$50 million extra in public money. What is even the point? The government wants to take money from the gambling corporations only to give it back to Racing Queensland to promote gambling and to run the races for it. We know where this money is coming from: straight out of the pockets of Queenslanders.

The evidence shows that the hardest hit by the predatory gambling industry are those who are already vulnerable. Queenslanders suffering from generational and acute poverty, trauma, addiction, mental health and other illnesses are more likely to be victims of exploitative gambling corporations. We also know that the insidious reach of the gambling industry touches all parts of society, with thousands of childhoods ruined, family houses sold off and small businesses sunk as loved ones fall prey to the predatory gambling industry which promotes addictive gambling, all of which is supported by this by government and by Racing Queensland.

If the government wanted to help Queenslanders, it would not be gifting Racing Queensland \$80 million a year to promote racing and gambling. If it were worried about mega gambling corporations walking away with Queenslanders' money, it would not just tax them a smidge more; it would increase it further and look at tackling their predatory behaviour.

If the government really cared about Queenslanders losing out to gambling conglomerates, it would ban these billion dollar companies from using professional and community supporting clubs to push gambling onto the community. The government would use this \$80 million to support our community sports clubs—from the small clubs like the Kangaroo Point Rovers in my electorate to the Brisbane Broncos—so that Queenslanders would not have to rely on the rotten money of gambling corporations like Tabcorp in order to play and enjoy sports.

We know what the scourge of government backed gambling looks like. Children's sporting heroes have become walking billboards for gambling, with Ladbrokes and Sportsbet advertisements paid for by those multimillion dollar corporations making a billion dollars a year in revenue. They line the local footy fields, and families are bombarded by pro-gambling propaganda in their homes.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr MacMAHON:** I am sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker, I can barely hear myself over the gambling racket.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order, members! I will wait for silence. I ask that the member for South Brisbane be heard in silence. She is not taking interjections.

**Dr MacMAHON:** Instead of supporting this predatory industry we could be giving \$80 million to support sport in this state—actual sport—so that clubs do not have to rely on gambling money. Instead, this government wants to put \$80 million a year towards organised horse flogging and dog killing, which will only see more money sucked out of Queensland communities by gambling companies. It is not like they need any more money. A brief glance at Racing Queensland's board will give members a pretty good indication of what they are and who they represent. Racing Queensland's chair is the founder of a billion dollar investment firm, and its board members include a property tycoon as well as former LNP mayor Graham Quirk, who now breeds horses for blood sport—just delightful.


While it is working people who are disproportionately harmed by the predatory gambling industry, Racing Queensland includes some of the richest in the state. Racing is run by elites for elites. Labor wants to give its powerful friends \$80 million a year for this rich man's hobby. We know what the government's arguments are for propping up this business of its mates in these big businesses: it creates jobs. It may be the case that pouring millions of dollars into anything creates jobs, but I am not sure that jobs knocking down a koala habitat in Ipswich, for example, for a greyhound track or slaughtering injured racehorses for pet food are the kinds of jobs that we should be prioritising—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! Pause the clock. The level of discussion amongst members has got too high. I cannot hear the member for South Brisbane. I will wait for silence.

**Dr MacMAHON:** As I was saying, I am not sure that jobs knocking down koala habitat for a greyhound track or slaughtering injured racehorses for pet food are the kinds of jobs that we should be prioritising when there are so many better opportunities and when we are crying out for support in our housing sector and our healthcare sector.

I have already mentioned it, but \$80 million is enough to give every child under the age of 14 a \$140 voucher to pay for a local sporting club membership. This would be transformative for hundreds of thousands of Queensland families. In terms of music, arts and culture, this \$80 million a year to the gambling and racing industry is almost twice the core funding the government gives to arts and cultural organisations in the state. I guarantee members that there will be many more Queenslanders who will be having a beer and listening to local music at the pub, visiting a public museum or participating in street festivals than there are people sipping champagne at the racecourse or, by comparison, the wonderful creatives, organisers and other workers in the arts sector who get an absolute pittance in support from this government.

If it were not embarrassing enough for this government to pander to the racing industry, it has decided to tie these changes to the betting and racing acts to totally unrelated changes to payroll tax administration which is needed to implement the mental health levy. The mental health levy, as we all know, will not even provide half of the funding required to meet the mental health needs of Queenslanders. How this government can announce a record mental health budget, underfund the system by hundreds of millions of dollars a year and then turn around and ban the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture from visiting our mental health facilities with no clear legislative basis makes even less sense. Tying administrative changes needed to fund this small boost to mental health funding in a bill which is largely about handouts to Tabcorp and the racing industry is shameful. The Queensland Greens fully support this boost to mental health funding. We support making Labor Party donors and the rest of the gambling industry pay their fair share, but this bill is an insult to Queenslanders.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (8.18 pm): I support the bills as they support Queensland's strong fiscal position. My electorate has gone from strength to strength under the Labor Palaszczuk government. In 2015, there was high unemployment, empty shops, empty cafes and about 2,000 empty homes. It has taken a Labor government to rebuild the Mackay region to a robust economy, bursting with lots of opportunities for the future. There are a lot of businesses moving to Queensland because they have confidence in this Treasurer and what this government is doing, with an eye on the future.

My region is going to lead the state when it comes to green energy. I know that the member for Condamine had a lot to say about it earlier, but green energy is what industries want. They want a guarantee that they can access green energy before they put their roots down and set up business in our great state. It is only this side of the House that has a vision for the future and is attracting big businesses to our state. Brand new businesses want to set up here. We need green energy.

My area will have the largest pumped hydro scheme in the world. The member for Condamine needs to get on board and back this in, unlike those on the other side of the House and One Nation that are dead against it. Some \$35 million will be spent on the studies that need to be done to make sure we have everything right before we get started. This is great for my region. The naysayers opposite should come to my region, talk to the kids in my schools and tell them that they want to take away their future and take away the 2,000 jobs that will come from this from our community. They need to tell them what they are going to put there instead. Do they want to put nuclear in my region? We do not want it. There is a lot of support—

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member for Mackay is talking about an initiative that was announced after the end of the 2022 financial year. This is a supplementary appropriation bill and there is no relevance.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I am responding to the member for Condamine.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin):** I understand, member for Mackay. I will get some advice and respond to the point of order. Member, if you can relate what you are saying back to the appropriation bills it will be completely fine.

**Mrs GILBERT:** In the forward estimates there is \$35 million allocated for the studies, as I mentioned, so it is very relevant. This is relevant to the industries that are relying on this green power. GW3, the Resource Industry Network, the engineering sector and the business sector in my region are applauding this project.

The sugar industry has a bright future in my area as well. It has the support of this government. At the QUT laboratory on the grounds of Racecourse Mill there is a company called Mercurius that has a state government grant—in case the member for Scenic Rim is worried about it—and they are developing aviation fuel. They are also developing biodiesel. Carl Seck and his team are there running the trial projects. With this project we could see planes flying across Queensland, across Australia and across the world fuelled by Queensland sugar. We need green energy to keep these businesses in our region.

In Mackay we also have a trial of two bioethanol buses. That bioethanol is being produced at Plane Creek Mill in Sarina—a local mill. The buses are driving around town wrapped in murals of sugar cane to show that they are lean and green. The buses were made on the Gold Coast. We are bringing manufacturing back to Queensland. Those opposite have no idea about where to go in the future.

We are also developing another trial that we will need green energy for. That is producing protein from sugar so we can replicate egg whites. This is going to be a great boon for the food industry. Work was started on this back in the days of then minister Jones and is continuing. Great things are going to happen in my region because of this Labor government and the great Treasurer who supports it.

The budget allocated a lot of money to health. In my region, like most other regions across Queensland, we have seen an increase in the budget for health. In Mackay funding has increased to \$562 million—an increase of 9.2 per cent. This will fund new infrastructure at Mackay Base Hospital and two brand new wings to fit in the 128 new beds. This will provide 610 construction jobs. The tenders for the Moranbah Hospital should go out in the near future. I know that everybody in Moranbah will be excited to see shovels in the ground. They have been excited about this for some time. Sarina Hospital has started. It is on a site that is near an aged-care home. This will be a fantastic health precinct. It will add to the little community down in Sarina.

We do so many things in Queensland. Sport and tourism is also getting a boost in the area with the Great Barrier Reef Arena. I visited the arena recently with Minister Hinchliffe. It is fantastic. Large numbers of people have been coming into Mackay already because we have been able to attract AFLW games, Big Bash games and international cricket matches. Wildcat catamarans was allocated funding of \$1 million. They won an award at the recent tourism awards. They are out there developing our tourism industry which took a hit under the Newman government.


All roads to lead to Mackay. That is why the spend on our roads is absolutely fantastic. Minister Bailey was in Mackay on Melbourne Cup Day looking at the six-lane upgrade of the Bruce Highway northern access. It is a fantastic road that makes access to Mackay-Bucasia Road a lot smoother. We

have a huge network of shared pathways for cycling and walking. People can go east, west, north or south. The paths connect our city to our beaches. Mackay is a flat place so it is a great place in which to get moving.

The Walkerston bypass is on the way to being completed. There is a lot of work happening out there. That is something that the township of Walkerston has been asking for for many years. Congratulations to the road action group that lobbied for this. This road will take all of the heavy vehicles—the fertiliser, explosives and oversized vehicles—out of the township of Walkerston, making it so much safer.

There are so many opportunities coming from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in my area. Broken Ballerina, which is a domestic violence service, bought a car so that they can pick up women and children and take women safely to their court appearances. Our sports clubs have been recipients. The BMX club got sensors for their wheels so that they can electronically give people their best times. The BMX track has been resurfaced. Meals on Wheels has been able to buy new equipment. Sinkers swimming club is going to hold the masters swimming championships next year. I expect to see all members in their Speedos racing up and down the lanes in Mackay.


Under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program we have a lot of people gaining skills so that they get into work. We have young dads with babies getting their first jobs so they can be role models for their children with ongoing work. We have had women do pharmacy assistant courses. It is a fantastic program.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (8.29 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will start with the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As a member of the committee, I thank my fellow members of the committee for the work we have done on the bill. I also give a shout-out to all of the individuals who participated in and made submissions to the inquiry: Mr Ken O'Dowd, BetGold Racing & Sports, Redcliffe Peninsula Harness Racing and Sporting Club, Gold Coast Turf Club, Racing Queensland Board, Harness Racing Australia, Australian Trainers' Association, Tabcorp and the Queensland Hotels Association. It is very important to ensure that the racing industry in Queensland flourishes. It is critically important for regional areas. It is the lifeblood for regional areas as it brings tourists to those towns.

Debate, on motion of Mr Boothman, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Northern Gold Coast, Infrastructure

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (8.30 pm): In my contribution tonight I want to talk about infrastructure and the need for it on the northern Gold Coast and, indeed, in my electorate of Broadwater. We are increasingly seeing the pressures that come with a growing community where there has not been good planning and infrastructure delivery.

Earlier today I spoke about the need for better schools and for better policing facilities. Tonight I want to talk about hard infrastructure. I want to start with the bridge over to Jabiru Island. I have spoken about this in this place before. I again want to place on record the fact that there is still no detailed planning or costing for a major duplication of that bridge. Lorraine Gray, a long-term resident, posted on the Hope Island community page and summed it up perfectly. She said—

I wish they would just build the second bridge. Hope Island Road is now a main arterial road, yet we have to squeeze down to one lane at the bridges. Not only accidents but an awful lot of road rage at these points. I have lived on Hope Island for 35 years and have seen a phenomenal amount of change.

Residents want to know there is a plan in place to deliver that vital connection between Paradise Point and Hope Island. It must occur.


Whilst talking about infrastructure and Hope Island I want to talk about the new train station. I thank the minister for changing the name. It was going to be called the Helensvale station but the Hope Island station is far more appropriate. There are much bigger challenges that need to be addressed. One is having safe access to it. I am particularly concerned about that, and we have to work with council on that.

The big one is car parking. The member for Theodore has raised this on countless occasions. At Coomera there are over 500 parking spaces. At Helensvale there are over 800. The new Pimpama station is going to be nearly 600. It defies belief that the plan for the Hope Island station is for 179 car spaces. That is ridiculous. It simply will not function as a good performing station if there are not sufficient bays—and 179 is not sufficient.

Finally, I want to talk about the Coomera Connector, a project that is way over budget and way behind schedule but is a vital project for the northern Gold Coast. We are particularly concerned about the lack of consultation when it comes to the on and off access to that road. There has been some very strong feedback from residents particularly regarding Helensvale Road. The local councillor William Owen-Jones has made some detailed pushes about what that extra traffic would mean for council in terms of serious costings and disruption to residents. We just want to know that the government is prepared to listen to those residents and to look at every option to ameliorate any concerns.

I come back to where I started: infrastructure matters. People love their lifestyle. They want to see growth but it has to be on their terms. It cannot compromise their lifestyle.

### **Rowland, Mr K; Remembrance Day**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (8.33 pm): Sometimes I have to pinch myself as I cannot believe some of the wonderful people I get to meet as a result of my job. Ken Rowland is one of those people and is also one of our last surviving World War II vets. He is in good nick for a bloke who has just notched up 100 laps around the sun.

For me it was a huge honour to be invited along to Ken's 100th birthday at the Gracemere RSL a couple of weeks back. He is a fantastic character and proudly served our country, with more than 1,400 days of active service during World War II—more than 400 of those were served overseas, mostly on Morotai Island. Tragically, his brother George, a flying officer with the 22nd Squadron, did not make it home after being killed in action in 1944.


There were at least 80 people at the RSL to celebrate Ken's birthday. There were a few speeches. One of Ken's mates spoke about the time that Ken went to the doctors at the age of 99. When asked what medication he was on, Ken responded, 'None.' The doctor was quite amazed and asked him what his secret was to his long and healthy life. He responded, 'I never married.' He was a true character!

Ken's birthday was a wonderful celebration. He was having such a good time that when his ride arrived to take him home in the afternoon he told them that he was not quite ready yet—he was not done partying! Who wouldn't like to have that enthusiasm for life at 100 years old? Happy birthday, Ken, and thank you for including me in your celebration.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the great work of Tony and Ruth Harris for their work and commitment to the Gracemere RSL. Both are wonderful people who give so much to assist the RSL and the broader community.

Also, Remembrance Day is held this Friday—the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 am—when we will observe a minute's silence dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the more than 100,000 Australian lives that were lost from all wars and conflicts and pay my respects and thanks for their ultimate sacrifice. May they rest in peace.

### **Burnett Electorate, Health Services**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.36 pm): A serious health crisis is looming in Bundaberg due to a lack of heart doctors. Immediate action needs to be taken to prevent a disaster. It is acknowledged that there are a lot of reasons we do not have enough cardiologists. I am calling on all levels of government to do everything in its power to resolve this issue before more lives are put at risk.

A number of doctors and hospital staff have contacted me fearing people will be harmed or, worse, die unnecessarily if something is not done. Our local cardiology service has been reduced to two, with one cardiologist looking towards retirement. How can one person look after 204,000 people? I am hearing reports of overseas trained cardiologists being turned away due to bureaucracy. In the meantime our two remaining cardiologists are working flat out.

The lack of heart doctors will have a detrimental effect across all health sectors. With the Wide Bay's ageing population increasing, cardio support is needed and several surgical specialists in the pre-operative care and in-hospital stages are needed. There is no way one cardiologist can cope.

I acknowledge that these are hard issues and getting trained doctors is tough, but last year over 1,700 patients in the Wide Bay received cardiology care. With all of these issues we had three cardiologists and now it looks like we will only have one. I do not think it is fair that everyone has to be airlifted to Brisbane for heart issues. We can and we have done it before, but the cost alone will be astronomical, not to mention the lives put at risk, so we are looking for solutions.


This brings me to another looming health issue in the region. When it is already hard enough to get GPs, this week we have been hearing about potentially abandoning bulk-billing when there has been no increase for six years in the \$30 Medicare rebate subsidy. They face the prospect of going broke if they keep their bulk-billing patients and have to increasingly charge patients for a portion of their consultation.

For people on fixed incomes, this is a disaster. People on low incomes simply will not go to a doctor if they have to pay. In the Burnett the ageing population is hugely over-represented compared to the rest of Queensland—25 per cent of the population is over 65. As people age, their need for affordable, quality health care increases. We know that older people in the region with more complex health issues will suffer.

The shortage of GPs in the Bundaberg and Burnett region is on the record. We simply cannot attract GPs to locate to our region permanently. My fear is that if the doctors do get caught up in this issue of losing their bulk-billing capacity they will simply pack up and leave and head to the south-east corner.

Without having a relationship with your GP, we know how detrimental that can be and we will see more people presenting to the emergency departments at our hospitals. That is the main reason our EDs are inundated with people who should not be there. We need these services. We need more GPs appointed. More importantly, we need the Medicare subsidy for GP consultations to continue for people in the region who need so much more to be done for their declining health.

### Mansfield Electorate

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (8.39 pm): I rise to speak about the many events and significant milestone activities in our diverse Mansfield electorate community. End-of-school presentation and graduation functions have commenced for many members in this House. It has been an honour to attend the year 12 graduation ceremonies at Rochedale State High School and Clairvaux Mackillop College and Mansfield State High School's Evening of Excellence. I look forward to attending many more end-of-year functions at the 19 schools across my electorate.


I hosted a fantastic afternoon tea at the Mount Gravatt Bowls Club with the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Over seventy of our very young at heart enjoyed afternoon tea while hearing from a wonderful range of speakers regarding home safety, wills, Queensland government seniors' rebates and the Mount Gravatt Community Centre's Ways to Wellness Program. I would like to thank the following speakers who made the event such a success: Tiona Evans from the Department of Communities; Loretta Stumer and Jane Webster from the Mount Gravatt Community Centre; Samay Zhouand from the Public Trustee; and Senior Constable Pete Campbell and Senior Constable Cara Tormey from Queensland Police. It was also a pleasure to have Acting Inspector Kylie Doyle from the Mount Gravatt Patrol Group of Holland Park Police Station attend the function.

I also congratulate the following community groups who received funds in round 114 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund: Easts Mount Gravatt Junior Rugby League Football Club received \$42,354 to renovate their playing fields after the most recent devastating flood event; Mount Gravatt District Horse and Pony Club received \$49,500 to purchase a new tractor; and Knights of the Southern Cross (Qld) received \$6,823.72 to purchase a photocopier. I also congratulate the mighty Mount Gravatt Hawks Football Club Under 14 Division 1 South, which took out this year's championship against Springfield Union in a hard fought 2-1 victory at Compass Grounds in Cleveland. What a great way to end the season, and we look forward to an even bigger 2023 season.

Halloween celebrations were alive and well across the Mansfield electorate, with St Catherine's Catholic Primary School holding a Halloween disco; the Kind Club hosting an inclusive Halloween event at the Wishart-Chester Scout Group Den; and Rochedale Estates having many young trick or treaters with their parents and carers walking around the local neighbourhood.

I look forward to joining our many diverse community groups over the coming weeks to enjoy much needed end-of-year Christmas or holiday celebrations. It is a great position to be in and to be leading our Mansfield community.

### Chinchilla Melon Festival


 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.42 pm): I rise to talk about something a little closer to home: my hometown of Chinchilla. Chinchilla is the melon capital of Australia. We grow nearly a quarter of Australia's melons, and next year from 16-19 February we have the Chinchilla Melon Festival. Put it in your calendar! Come to the Darling Downs and come to the Chinchilla Melon Festival.



If you have not seen anyone split open 47 watermelons in 60 seconds using nothing but their melon, then you should probably come to the Chinchilla Melon Festival for one heck of a good time. Do not let the fact that they are more than 90 per cent water fool you. It takes one hell of a noggin to knock off that many melons in under a minute. Watermelon is in fact a desert plant and part of the cucurbit family alongside squash, cucumber and pumpkins. There is some debate as to whether watermelon is a fruit or a vegetable, but botanically speaking it is in fact a fruit. But maybe if I am a little more melodramatic it might spur more interest in the Chinchilla Melon Festival.

If watermelons alone do not excite you, how about a few novelty events instead. Try watermelon skiing. Yes, that's right, we have watermelon skiing. That is where you carve out an old watermelon, put your feet in it and ski along its half. It is a hell of a lot of fun. A lot of football teams in Chinchilla have been worn out at the end of a Saturday, having been the ones pulling those skiers along. There is the melon dash for cash, the pip spitting competition, melon bungee, melon bullseye, melon ironman and melon tug of war. There is even a chariot race if that takes your fancy. Yes, at the Chinchilla Melon Festival in February 2023 you can even attend a beach party. We might be a long way from the ocean, but the local pub trucks in a load of sand, puts it on the road and holds a beach party on a street in Chinchilla which is a very good time. There is also the melon eating contest. So roll up, put your hands behind your back, hoe into a watermelon and try to beat everyone at the table. There is also a free family concert. Come along to the Chinchilla Melon Festival from 16-19 February 2023 and do not forget to Slip, Slop, Slap because we do not want to anyone to end up with melon-oma. I will see you all there at the Chinchilla Melon Festival in February 2023.

### Jordan Electorate

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (8.45 pm): Our Jordan business community is kicking some significant goals, and I am so pleased to see this recognised with a range of recent small business awards. We know that it has been a really challenging few years for our local businesses, so it has been wonderful to see our local business owners recognised by the community and their peers.

The 2022 Logan Business Distinction Awards saw two fantastic local businesses from Flagstone in the Jordan electorate recognised, and it is just great to see this new and growing area of Logan City starting to really represent in business. Bee All Natural took out the sustainability award, and for good reason. Jason and Natasha practice ethical, sustainable and organic principles, as they say happy bees make the best honey. DMH Realty won the community contribution award. Donna Marie and Chyerl are two incredible local businesswomen running a dynamic agency but also making a significant contribution to our local community through their volunteer work on the Flagstone Community Association, the Logan Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Flagstone Crafters Hub and the Logan Village Community Centre, just to name a few. These women are everywhere!


The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Marquee Business Awards are always a huge night for our Greater Springfield business community, and this year was no different. A massive congratulations to all of the wonderful businesses who took out these awards, including some fantastic new entrants like the terrific Cafe Kalina, which won the community engagement award. Che and Chloe run a very popular cafe in our Springfield community, but they have also made a significant contribution to the community. The very day of the awards I was with them at the cafe supporting a fundraiser for our Springfield Mo Men, raising funds for men's mental health support. This is a truly well-deserved award. Congratulations also to the Skin Sanctuary at Brookwater, which won the outstanding small business award. I am really pleased to see Sarah Hall recognised with this award, as her attention to detail with her business and the care she shows her clients is clearly evident.

The City of Ipswich Business Excellence Awards were also held this past weekend, and again it was wonderful to see a Jordan electorate business recognised, with Orion Family Physiotherapy winning the West Moreton health and wellness business of the year award. Adam and Emma Atherton are just terrific locals, and they make a significant contribution to our Greater Springfield community whilst expanding an incredible health empire under the mantra 'healthcare that cares'. I was recently so privileged to be invited to help them open their fourth physiotherapy clinic in our community.

Finally, not to brag, not one but three Jordan local businesses took out honours in the 2022 Australian Small Business Champion Awards in Sydney recently. Huge congratulations to Aquashield Bathrooms for best bathroom and kitchen improvement business. It is terrific for owners Chris and Angela, who not only have a thriving business but I know are excellent employers who look after their team. Business Wellness Hub won for best accounting bookkeeping services. Lynn, who I think is just

amazing, recognised early that the mental health and wellbeing of her clients was equally important to their bookkeeping needs. Bee All Natural—again—won for best environmental business. Yes, we certainly punch above our weight.

### Electricity Prices

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (8.48 pm): A lot of Queenslanders have been relieved to see the \$175 rebate on their recent power bill, but alongside that relief is a sense of dread about what happens next when the rebate runs out. The federal budget projects that energy bills will increase by 56 per cent over the next two years. The Australian Greens have proposed a two-year freeze on electricity bills at pre-crisis levels funded by a windfall gains tax on coal and tax corporations. That plan would save Queensland households \$567 over the next two years, paid for by the obscene profits of these wartime energy profiteers. We need this urgent response to address the current crisis but we also need long-term action to cut energy bills, which is why today the Greens are calling on the state government to re-nationalise electricity retail.


Since Queensland Labor privatised electricity retail in 2006, prices have skyrocketed. While Queenslanders struggled, retail corporations like Origin and Energy Australia have made billions of dollars in profit by ripping us all off. Each year thousands of households and small businesses have their electricity cut off because they cannot pay their bills. I understand that Queensland has the highest rate of disconnections in the country. Instead of a complex series of private and public retailers, generators and networks, we need a single, democratic public authority to run our energy system. We should cancel private retailers' licences to operate, transfer their customers to a public retailer, and direct it to deliver electricity at or below cost.

One of the most laughable arguments put forward by proponents of privatisation is the idea that the free market is more efficient. Right now there are three major separate national organisations that exist just to make the private electricity market function. Public entities, including our state owned generators and networks, are forced to pay special fees just so they do not outcompete private corporations. We have over 12 separate private retailers spending millions of dollars on administration.

The logic of privatisation is particularly absurd when it comes to essential services. No-one cares how their energy is branded to compete in the so-called free market. We do not want to have to trawl through confusing comparison websites just to keep the fridge running. Privatisation has not delivered special, innovative or hyper-optimised energy. Electricity is electricity. Privatisation has simply allowed private corporations to profit from this thing we all need as a basic necessity.

This government can end the price gouging, the unnecessary marketing expenses and the bonuses for energy execs. They can do what they are supposed to do as a government—that is, deliver essential services cheaply and reliably to the people of Queensland. Alongside my federal colleagues' plan to tax fossil fuel companies and freeze energy bills, 100 per cent publicly owned energy is a long-term solution to keep energy costs low and loosen the grip of private corporations on all of our lives.

### Tourism, Destination IQ and DestinationQ

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (8.51 pm): I rise to make the House aware that Destination IQ and DestinationQ were held at the Gold Coast convention centre last week, with more than 900 industry stakeholders present. Destination IQ, or Indigenous Q, is the premier annual event for Indigenous tourism in Queensland hosted by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council Indigenous Champions Network. Each year the forum continues to grow, inform and bring together all sectors of the community and industry to discuss and showcase the year that was and, more importantly, what we can do moving forward for First Nations tourism.


A diverse range of speakers brought with them a wealth of experience and knowledge on a broad range of topics. Participants heard from a range of informative speakers and iconic leaders, including David Hudson, who was a fine MC, Rhonda Appo, Cameron Costello, Kirsty Burchill and Matt Cameron-Smith. I make special mention of Cameron Costello for his absolutely outstanding contribution. This was all underpinned by Queensland's First Nations Tourism Plan and the six pillars: recognition and respect; engagement and respect; strategic coordination and structure; training, skills development and jobs; marketing and awareness; and authentic product development.

Destination IQ brings together business leaders, employers, government representatives, tourism organisations, native title holders, community organisations and thought leaders to discuss opportunities, issues and strategies that are influencing and shaping the operating environment for First Nations tourism in Queensland. It was an absolutely fantastic event. Over \$10 million has been invested

in over 40 initiatives designed to grow the Indigenous tourism sector in Queensland and develop new Indigenous tourism experiences and jobs for Indigenous Queenslanders, thereby positioning the state as the nation's leader in Indigenous tourism. We have some world-class products and these are very important in a wealth creation position.

The DestinationQ conference involved over 900 people. The theme was Journey to 2032: Building on our strengths. The Premier set the scene in her welcoming address, highlighting the billions of dollars in tourism investment in the state and the strong rebound this has given Queensland. The new initiative Towards Tourism 2032 was well accepted, as was the declaration that next year will be the Year of Accessible Tourism. This will provide significant opportunities and it will be well funded, with a \$12 million program behind it to make sure organisations are aware of it and can capitalise on those opportunities. In closing, I had the great pleasure of highlighting the fact that we will be having this fantastic event, including the Queensland Tourism Awards, at the recently upgraded \$176 million Cairns Convention Centre. You are all welcome.

### Knife Crime

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (8.54 pm): Three years ago next month, Jack Beasley was murdered in the middle of Surfers Paradise at just 17 years of age. It was an unprovoked, unspeakable act of violence that devastated his mum Belinda, his dad Brett and his best mate and big brother Mitch. It traumatised his friends, young people who saw their mate brutally attacked, who saw him dying on the footpath in front of them. This is a story and an issue I have raised in this place and outside of it more than any other because Jack's death devastated my part of the Gold Coast—whether it was his schoolmates from Pacific Pines State High School to everyone he played footy with since juniors at the Helensvale Hornets, to his neighbours in Parkwood and to so many others, to people Jack's age and to many other parents. Their story and their passion for change resonated.


Brett reached out to me a couple of weeks after laying his son to rest, and ever since I have been proud to stand behind him and all the supporters of the Jack Beasley Foundation we have built in the memory of this young man. Our advocacy started with a simple message: 'Detect knives, save lives'. After almost two years, the campaign led to the police knife wand trial in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach—a first step towards making our city safer. Now Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler was outstanding, being there from the start and championing these laws within the Queensland Police Service. His successor, Chief Superintendent Rhys Wildman, has been equally commendable in the warmth he has shown towards the Beasleys and everyone involved with the foundation.

Today's news that these powers will be expanded to every safe night precinct across Queensland and every tram, train and bus and all public transport vehicles and infrastructure is what we have been calling for. In fact, metal detection at Helensvale station, where Jack's murderer got off the train and onto a tram to get into Surfers Paradise on that tragic night, was where our first petition was about. We have been wanting to see this expansion for some time, from as soon as it was clear that the trial on the Gold Coast was pulling so many weapons off our streets, which was over 200 on the latest figures.

We have wanted this since we saw it was doing something to stop this happening to another family, but it is still just a trial. There are some good recommendations in the Griffith University review of the trial's first year which the minister tabled today. They can improve how these powers are used. They are important measures to get the balance right. If these are put in place, there will be nothing to stop making these powers permanent. I welcome the firm commitment of the Premier and the police minister to have this introduced to parliament as 'Jack's Law'.

Finally, congratulations to Brett and Belinda for being announced today as finalists for the Queensland Australian of the Year Local Hero. I was very proud to nominate them for that. No matter whether they win or not, they are heroes to me and so many others.

### Wynnum Fringe Festival; Scams Awareness Week

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.57 pm): The Wynnum Fringe Festival is on from 16 November to 4 December. It is a packed program of star studded performances, special events, spectacular artists and family firsts in the beautiful bayside. It is kicking off on the 16th with the Yana Marumba, or Walk Good, which is being led by our Quandamooka elders. There is entertainment for everyone—from Aussie rock royalty Diesel to the Wynnum Fringe Comedy Gala featuring some of the biggest names in stand-up comedy, including Dave Hughes. There is family friendly entertainment: Cabaret queen Dolly Diamond featuring our very own author Dannika Patterson and her best-selling book *Beach Kindy*; the kids comedy circus Chores; and *PreHysterical* the play at the Vault.

Headlining at the Spiegeltent will be Marcia Hines and her show *Velvet Rewired*, which is a glittering, high-energy fusion of burlesque circus dance and my favourite—disco. You might even see me representing Wynnum in the common people dance-off competition against Manly, which is on 3 December. Come on down to the bayside. Get your tickets. There are free events. It is all on at the Wynnum Fringe Garden, the Bayside Music Hall or the Raine and Horne Spiegeltent from 16 November to 4 December. I hope you all make it down there. I am really proud to have supported the Wynnum Fringe Festival from its inception, and I am proud of the government for supporting them in the program.

On a more serious note, it is Scams Awareness Week. It is really important that people take care of their identity online. For those of you who do not know, I was a victim of identity fraud last year so it can happen to anyone. It had a huge impact on me and my life. I had to get a new identity. I had money stolen from my bank account. I had loans taken out in my name. They set up direct debit payments on my credit cards. I ended up having to get a new driver's licence and a new CRN, and I had to get another new one this year because of Optus so I was a victim a second time.

The important thing is that these scammers are out to get you. Do not be caught out. Be smarter than them. Do not give out your passwords. Do not let people onto your commuter. If someone says they are from the ATO and they need to get onto your computer—no, they do not. The important thing is to report these activities because the more data that we have, the more work that we can do to stop these scammers in their tracks. I encourage everyone. Do not be ashamed or embarrassed. It happens to anyone; it happened to me. They rang up my provider and pretended to be me and got a brand new mobile phone number. I had two-factor authentication on my phone and they used that to get the two-factor authentication that was going to allow them to get into all of my accounts. Take care of your online identity. I cannot stress it enough. Take care.

The House adjourned at 9.00 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

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