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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 10 November 2022

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THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2022



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 5: 2022-23—Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 5: 2022-23—Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence [[1875](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

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 Churchill State School in the electorate of Ipswich, Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School from New South Wales, and Carinity Education Southside in the electorate of Toohey.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

[1876](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 154

[1877](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 154, explanatory notes

[1878](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Amendment Notice 2022, No. 154, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.32 am): Queensland can be proud of its response to COVID. We confronted this once-in-a-century threat, and we did it together. The vast majority of the people of this state were vaccinated before the virus arrived. This is a world-leading achievement. As a result, Queensland was spared the loss and devastation seen in many countries. However, the pandemic is not over. This past week has seen a 15 per cent increase in active cases, an increase in hospitalisations, and an increase in COVID-related ambulance call-outs. Last Thursday there was a total of 105 COVID patients in our hospitals; today there are 203. The fourth wave that we have been expecting now we believe has arrived.

No-one should be alarmed. We have been living with this virus for a long time and Queenslanders know what to do. The Chief Health Officer has advised that our COVID traffic light system shall switch from green to amber. It means that it is recommended—and I say recommended—that we should wear a mask in healthcare settings, on public transport and rideshares, indoors where you cannot socially

distance, and if you are around people who are vulnerable to COVID. This applies especially to the seniors in our community and those who are at risk. As always, stay at home if you are sick and take a RAT test. The Minister for Health will detail these measures shortly. They are effective as of tomorrow.

I strongly encourage all Queenslanders to ensure that they and their families are fully vaccinated. For most people under 30, it means having three shots. If you are over 50, you need four. Your vaccination record is online at the myGov website. You can find information about your vaccination needs at the Queensland Health website. This is a time to be alert, not alarmed. If the pandemic has taught us anything it is that Queenslanders can count on each other to do whatever we have to.

Screen Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): Queensland's screen industry continues to shine, with the production of major movies and television series continuing around the state. Three international projects are currently in production—Disney+ series *Nautilus*, *Godzilla vs Kong* feature film sequel, and *Land of Bad*, starring Russell Crowe alongside Australian brothers Liam and Luke Hemsworth. Russell Crowe took to Twitter last week saying, 'It has been a long time since I made a movie in Queensland. Loving working here again. Everywhere you look this place is a movie in itself.' All are filming on the Gold Coast and a host of other locations in the South-East and Far North Queensland, which I know you are very passionate about, Mr Speaker. All three combined are worth \$182 million to the local economy and created 860 jobs and 1,250 opportunities for extras.


I recently had the privilege of visiting the set of *Nautilus*, which is a 10-part Disney+ series based on Jules Verne's classic novel *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. It is remarkable! I met some of the cast and crew there and saw the craftsmanship of Queensland workers who had finished the time-consuming job of building sets and who now have permanent jobs moving from one movie to the next. There is a pipeline of jobs connected with the industry. Once again, Queensland is an attractive destination for filming.

The Screen Australia Drama Report 2021-22 released this morning confirms that Queensland's screen industry contributed \$465 million to the local economy in the last financial year. This result continued momentum from last year's record expenditure in the state, largely due to Queensland's pandemic measures, and was the second highest result over a five-year period. As the Sunshine State opened up from the pandemic, its reputation as an ideal filming destination, backed by a winning combination of incentives, crews, locations and facilities, contributed to this pipeline of films. These included *Ticket to Paradise*, *Wizards!* and *Nautilus* flocking to Queensland, as did homegrown series including *Upright* and *Darby and Joan*.

Queensland also rode the wave of record-breaking investment in Australian drama by streaming services, with Screen Queensland supporting projects from Netflix, Stan, Disney+, Paramount+, Amazon and many more. Netflix alone produced five titles in Queensland, four backed by Screen Queensland including *Boy Swallows Universe*, which is currently in production, *Irreverent*, *A Perfect Pairing* and *True Spirit*.

In 2021-2022, the Queensland government, through Screen Queensland, supported a total of 45 productions and digital games made in the Sunshine State, and our competitive Post-Production, Digital and Visual Effects incentive ensures Queensland is well positioned to capitalise on the unparalleled growth in post-production opportunities.


Queensland Veterans' Council

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.37 am): Tomorrow, at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, Queensland will pause to remember all those who lost their lives in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. It is a significant moment for all Australians each year, as important now as it was more than a century ago at the first commemoration of the Armistice. Tomorrow Queenslanders will observe a minute's silence, and the House will pay its respects to veterans who have died or suffered, serving and defending our country.

Our government is committed to supporting veterans during and after their service. That is why I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Queensland Veterans' Council and the Veterans' Reference Group. The council will help raise the profile of our veterans community. It includes six members appointed by the Governor, two nominated by veterans organisations. The Governor has appointed Quentin Masson DSM as the chair, along with members Lorraine Hatton OAM and Chris Hamilton. The veterans nominations are Robert Skoda, CEO of RSL Queensland, and Nicole Hayes, CEO of Northern Queensland Legacy. It also includes ex officio members from the Department of the

Premier and Cabinet and the Brisbane City Council. The council will be supported by the Veterans' Reference Group. I would like to congratulate each member, and I look forward to working closely with them. On behalf of the House, I wish them well in their important new positions.

Premier's Anzac Prize


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): On the eve of Remembrance Day, I am delighted to announce the latest recipients of the Premier's Anzac Prize, and what a prize it is. Eight students and two teachers will travel to Europe to tour Australia's war memorial sites, the first to go since the COVID pandemic in 2020. They will visit places that remain, and will always be, at the centre of our history and identity: the Churchill War Rooms in London, the Versailles Hall of Mirrors where the treaty to end World War I was signed, the battlefields of Fromelles in Belgium, and to attend the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.

I am delighted to announce they will be accompanied by my Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bart Mellish, a tireless advocate for the RSL and our veterans. He has done a remarkable job in that role and attends many functions throughout our state. The visit will allow them to see, hear and learn all about the Anzac tradition, heroics and spirit, to become ambassadors for the Anzac legacy. Previous winners have told me they came home with a richer, much deeper understanding and appreciation of what the Anzacs did and what they endured, what being an Anzac means and what the Anzacs mean to our country.

The winners are chosen from 40 high-quality applicants from years 9 to 12. I am sure it will be a life-enriching, life-changing experience for all concerned. The 10 applicants are among 128 to take part in the program since 2013. This is in partnership with the RSL Queensland—a platinum sponsor for the next three years. The winners are: Anastasia Maher from Emerald State High School; Claire Gattera from St Monica's College in Cairns; Dashiell Soloman from Ambrose Treacy College in Indooroopilly; Hilman Pranowo from Pimlico State High School, and Nooria Ahmadi from Forest Lake State High School in my electorate who, along with her family, are refugees from Afghanistan who have found a new life here. Nooria wanted me to pass these comments on to the House: the Anzac spirit aids not only people born in Australia but also those from elsewhere who have sought a home here. She is with us in the gallery today.

Other winners are: Sarah Ellie from St Joseph's College in Toowoomba; Thomas Eccleston, also from Ambrose Treacy College; and Tom Filipich from Pimlico State High School. The teachers who will accompany them are: Alison Marsh from Marsden State High School and Alexandra Cashin from St Mary's Catholic College in Kingaroy. Alison is also present in the gallery. A huge congratulations to all. I am sure that all members of the House join me in wishing them well for safe travels and an amazing learning experience.


Renewable Energy

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.41 am): Queensland's SuperGrid is leading the world in energy system transformation, and the world is taking notice. It has been just over a month since the Queensland government launched the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and the *Energy manufacturing opportunity prospectus*. Already, more than 230 companies have responded to the prospectus and registered their interest. These companies want to work with the Queensland government on local, renewable energy supply chain manufacturing opportunities. They are from Queensland, from interstate and from overseas. Offshore interest has come from Japan, South Korea, China, Germany, the United States and India. More than 100 of the 230 are manufacturers. These are companies that are now considering how they can establish, expand or accelerate Queensland-based facilities. They are interested in the possibilities for local manufacturing of wind turbines, solar panels, batteries, green hydrogen system components, transmission lines and pumped hydro systems for the SuperGrid.

Apart from manufacturing, companies have expressed interest in providing the many goods and services that are needed for renewable energy supply chains. It includes the supply of raw materials and components as well as the goods and services required to assemble, install, operate and maintain energy assets. Investment in new renewable energy projects over the next 15 years is expected to exceed \$62 billion. This transformation of Queensland's energy system will employ local workers on many energy projects right across the state. It is an incredible economic opportunity. Because so much of this investment will be procured by Queensland government owned corporations, we will have the chance to direct our purchasing power into local manufacturing and local jobs.

The companies that have responded to the prospectus are now part of the Queensland Treasury Corporation's market-sounding process. This process identifies existing Queensland-based capability and participation readiness as well as future manufacturing opportunities. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and the *Energy manufacturing opportunity prospectus* set out a significant opportunity for our state, which both the public and private sectors are ready to deliver.

Food and Beverage Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.43 am): From the Atherton Tablelands to the fertile plains of the Darling Downs, Queensland produces some of the finest food and beverages in the world. It sounds like we have a call coming in at the moment to recognise that. Apologies, Speaker. The world knows it and the world wants our products. In the 2021-22 financial year, Queensland's food and beverage exports were valued at \$11 billion—a 23.9 per cent increase from the previous financial year.

Last week, Queensland's world-leading food and beverage companies had the opportunity to promote their products through the Taste of Queensland Showcase. This smorgasbord of Queensland quality was organised by Trade and Investment Queensland and it gave global buyers the chance to sample the best of Queensland firsthand. Some 62 buyers representing China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Middle East, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the United States and Europe flew to Brisbane for the first in-person Taste of Queensland event since 2019.

Ms Palaszczuk: Well done!

Mr DICK: Thank you, Premier. They came to meet over 80 Queensland food and beverage exhibitors from across the state. The three-day program included showcases on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Minister Furner hosted a beef networking function in Toowoomba—there is no better host than the farmers' friend—where delegates met with Queensland beef exporters, while the Assistant Member for Treasury and member for Jordan, Charis Mullen, hosted a Taste of Queensland event on the Sunshine Coast.


One of the great selling points of Queensland produce is, of course, its state of origin. Events like Taste of Queensland give buyers the opportunity to savour the tastes and hear the stories of outstanding Queenslanders that cannot be experienced in any other way—stories like the Wolf Lane Distillery from Cairns that is now exporting its gin seltzers. They are very spritzzy, Premier! Our state is renowned for its innovation—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr DICK: Putting the fizz into gin. Our state is increasingly renowned for innovation and forward thinking, and the food and beverage sector is no different. Queensland is at the cutting edge of producing what is known as functional food. This includes plant-based and wellness products which have a rapidly growing profile around the world. Also present at the Taste of Queensland was Fable Food from the Sunshine Coast, which has just launched its plant-based products at Marks & Spencer in London.

We hope that in the next fortnight one of the greatest tastes of Queensland will become an official taste of Australia. Bundaberg Brewed Drinks was named Queensland Exporter of the Year last month and on 24 November they will represent Queensland in the Australian Export Awards in Canberra. It is a great opportunity for another great Queensland company to shine.

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.46 am): The Chief Health Officer has advised that we are in a new wave; it will be our fourth wave. The number of COVID inpatients in our hospitals has ticked up significantly in the last week, but we have been here before. We know how to do this; we have done it many times before. Under our new COVID management framework, the Chief Health Officer will be making recommendations to Queenslanders on how to best protect themselves from this next wave.


We will be moving our COVID risk alert on the Chief Health Officer's traffic light system from green to amber. As we have identified before, this does not mean that any enforceable directions are being issued by the Chief Health Officer. Instead, it means that the Chief Health Officer is indicating to the public that we need to raise our level of alertness, and be prepared to take measures to protect ourselves from a high rate of community transmission.

The Chief Health Officer has advised that when the traffic light is amber, Queenslanders should wear a mask in healthcare settings, indoors if they cannot socially distance, on public transport, if they are older or medically at risk or if they are around people who are vulnerable to COVID-19. The Chief Health Officer has further advised that people who are experiencing symptoms should take a rapid antigen test, and any person living in the same household as a positive case should do a rapid antigen test every two days.

I encourage all Queenslanders to take this advice but, as I say, Queenslanders have been here before. We know that some of the best protection against this virus comes from ensuring we are fully up to date with our booster doses. For most people under 30, it means having three shots. If you are 50 and over, you need four. For any person who has not had their third or fourth dose and is eligible to do so, I implore them to head to their local GP or pharmacy and protect themselves in anticipation of this fourth wave.


I also remind vulnerable Queenslanders that they may be eligible to receive COVID-19 antivirals. Coupled with vaccination, this provides significant protection against the virus and it provides the best chance of preventing serious illness. Queenslanders have been put to the test time and time again and each and every time we have prevailed. I am sure that this time will be no different and, in order to ensure that is so, we need to work together. We know what to do, Queenslanders—let's get on and do it.

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.49 am): This government is committed to providing Queensland police with the best, most up-to-date tools and technology that they need to do their jobs and keep Queenslanders safe. From integrated load-bearing ballistic vests, high-tech body worn cameras with livestream capabilities and the new model tasers, this government has a strong track record when it comes to providing the very best operational tools and technologies to our dedicated police. Yet again we are delivering for the Queensland Police Service. Today I announce that over the next two years it is expected that 100 per cent of the Queensland Police Service's operational SUV and sedan fleet will be high-tech hybrid vehicles. Not only are we committed to giving our police the best technology on the market but so too are we committed to taking action to protect our environment to reduce the carbon footprint and lower emissions.

As everyone in this House knows, this government is powering towards green, clean renewable energy, with the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan outlining a clear path forward, and I have two copies of the plan in my desk, Mr Speaker, in case you want to read it again. As a government we have committed to a new renewable energy target of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. The Queensland Police Service is leading the way when it comes to hybrid vehicles. I am proud to announce that we are almost three-quarters of the way there, with a remarkable 71 per cent of police sedans and SUVs now low-emission hybrid vehicles. The Queensland Police Service collectively travels an astonishing 77 million kilometres per year by road. That is the equivalent of travelling around the world over 1,900 times. While it is extremely important that these cars do what any traditional police car has previously done, I am very proud that the Queensland Police Service is also doing its part to offset emissions and reduce the carbon footprint for the Queensland government.

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council


 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.51 am): The Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council provides a voice for multicultural communities across Queensland and performs a deeply valued advisory role to government. Last week I was honoured to announce the members who will form the third council, following a record number of nominations. The council was established in 2016 through the passing of the Multicultural Recognition Act by my predecessor Minister Grace. The council is constituted of 11 members for a period of three years and advises on opportunities and barriers facing people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds from across Queensland and how to promote the Multicultural Queensland charter values.

I want to thank all members of the second council for their service over the past three years and the wise and sage advice they have provided. In the last term the council met in both Brisbane and regional Queensland. The council has met with young people from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to hear their perspectives. It has led discussions on belonging and being welcome across Queensland, including in our regions. Members have lent their voices and experiences to important

conversations, including the parliamentary inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes, and they have provided an important conduit between Queensland multicultural communities and frontline service delivery agencies and a deeper understanding of the needs and wishes of these communities. The current council's term ended on 31 July and I want to once again thank all 11 members for their service over the past three years. They were appointed by my predecessor Minister Hinchliffe and they were incredibly well chosen.

I am now pleased to welcome the third Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council including continuing members Dr Ignacio Correa-Velez, Dr Faiza El-Higzi and Mr Giri Sivaraman and I want to warmly welcome our new members: Mr Beny Bol, Mr Ameya Bhagwant Deshmukh, Mrs Kenny Duke, Ms Anna Jones, Mr Timothy Lo Surdo, Miss Madina Mohmood, Mr Andrew Taukolo and Miss Fardowsa Mohamed Yussuf. These new members come from a range of backgrounds including legal, health, teaching and academia. They have experience working in the fields of domestic and family violence prevention, youth settlement and human rights. They bring valuable lived experience, including from a refugee, migrant and international student background. I am particularly excited to have two emerging young leaders, Madina and Fardowsa. They will bring an understanding of the experiences of young Queenslanders from refugee and migrant backgrounds. I am thrilled to see so many people of cultural backgrounds, faiths and languages working together to create a more inclusive and harmonious Queensland and I look forward to the contributions of these new members in the years ahead.


Cybersecurity

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.54 am): All organisations, whether public or private, are at increasing risk of cybersecurity threats. Every year the speed, scale and impact of cybersecurity attacks are increasing. The sources of these cyberthreats are varied and include nation states, foreign actors and financially motivated criminal groups. The latest academic estimate of the financial impact on the Australian economy of cybercrime is \$42 billion. As reported by the Australian Signals Directorate, cybercrime is surging and, whilst federal government agencies continue to be a favoured target for cyber attacks, local and state entities are not immune. The Palaszczuk government understands this and is responding to the real and escalating threat to the data we hold and for the services we provide to Queenslanders.

Since 2016 the Palaszczuk government has invested over \$41 million in a specialised whole-of-government Cyber Security Unit within the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy to provide policy and technical expertise support to enhance the resilience to cyberthreats across Queensland government agencies. Whilst each agency is responsible for the management of its ICT programs and its resilience to cyber attacks and services, the Cyber Security Unit within my department can support these efforts. The Palaszczuk government is working hard to help protect Queenslanders' data. For example, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has announced that Queensland driver's licences will now have a two-factor verification system. We have fast-tracked this work to give Queenslanders extra protection.

Whilst government agencies are working hard in this space, personal responsibility is also critical. Unfortunately, data breaches like the ones we have seen at Optus and Medibank have far-reaching implications, and all organisations must strive to better protect the data they hold on behalf of the community. The Australian information and privacy commissioner has advised that people should be wary of scammers who are impersonating Optus, Medibank or other government organisations. The developments over the last few days with Medibank customers' data being released by criminal hackers means that everyone needs to be extra vigilant for scammers. Everyone should be taking steps to protect themselves online, so secure your devices and accounts and monitor for unusual activity. Update your devices to protect important information and enable multifactor authentication for all accounts. Phishing emails, texts and phone calls are on the rise, so do not open emails or click on links in text messages if it just does not look right. Everyone needs to be cyberaware.

NRL Magic Round; NRL, Regional Queensland


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (9.57 am): I have news from the NRL headquarters, and this is good news for Queensland Rugby League fans, accommodation, transport and hospitality providers and tourism operators. The full 2023 NRL premiership draw has been announced this morning. I can confirm that the NRL is bringing more magic

to Queensland's great lifestyle in 2023. Magic Round has been locked in for Friday, 5 May to Sunday, 7 May at Suncorp Stadium. For those people who are taking note, that is a week earlier than it has been traditionally, so lock that into your diaries.

In 2023 it will be our fourth Magic Round for the world's best rectangular stadium. Magic Round will be a blockbuster weekend of league for Queenslanders, with four Queensland teams at Suncorp Stadium, including next season's NRL debutantes, the Dolphins. We have worked closely with the NRL to keep Queensland's Magic Round in Queensland because it delivers more than \$20 million for the visitor economy and supports good Queensland jobs. Game 2 of State of Origin will also be fought at Suncorp Stadium on 21 June in another Rugby League win for the visitor economy.

I have some more good news for Rugby League's heartland that I know you will be especially interested in, Mr Speaker. Next year the NRL will play two games in regional Queensland for premiership points that count, and I know that the member for Bundaberg is excited about a Dolphins v Bulldogs clash at Salter Oval on Sunday, 30 July. On Saturday, 12 August, Park in Cairns will host the Dragons and the Rabbitohs. The member for Cairns and I in particular are relishing this match. Enjoying Rugby League is part of the great Queensland lifestyle that we all love so much. The two regional blockbusters are predicted to generate \$5 million for those economies and are part of the legacy of the NRL grand final Queensland always deserved—a legacy secured by the Palaszczuk government with the NRL. With Queensland's strong health response we were able to step up and save the 2021 NRL season from the pandemic. We have also secured world-class Rugby League content for regional Queensland as a legacy of the state's first NRL grand final—but certainly not the last.

Carers Advisory Council


 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.00 am): I am pleased to advise the House that the Queensland Carers Advisory Council met on Tuesday, 1 November this year. This was their third meeting this year. The council advises me on carers' priorities and issues. It provides a direct voice to government for carers to raise their concerns. The council consists of carers, carer organisations and government agencies that intersect with carers.

Over half a million Queenslanders are unpaid carers. They make an extraordinary contribution to the lives of the people they care for and their communities. Their work provides social and economic benefits for the state. I value the council's expert advice on how policy, programs, services and strategies can best meet the needs of carers.

To date the council has considered areas of the Queensland Carers Recognition Act 2008 that would benefit from review: the difficulties faced by young carers, particularly relating to education or training; research gaps for carer cohorts, including young carers and grandparent carers; the need to raise awareness of the economic and social value of carers; and the need for all workplaces to support carers through flexible work arrangements and recognising the principles of the Queensland Carers Charter in HR policy and practice. Being a carer is not an easy job. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring carers are recognised, valued and supported.

All Queenslanders deserve good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. For example, the Queensland government provides the Carers Business Discount Card, which currently helps over 17,000 people by easing cost-of-living pressures through discounts on goods and services at more than 4,300 participating businesses. The Companion Card supports over 34,000 Queenslanders with disability who have a lifelong need for attendant care to participate in community activities. Companion Card holders receive a second companion ticket at no charge at more than 840 participating venues and on public transport. We are investing just short of \$1 million—\$988,000 in fact—in 2022-23 in the Time for Grandparents program to provide advice and support to unpaid grandparent carers who have primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren. I look forward to working with the council to advance their priorities and in supporting Queensland carers.

Universities, Centres of Excellence

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.03 am): Our scientists are among the best in the world across a range of disciplines including the environment, health, Indigenous knowledge and biotechnology. I am proud to announce that our excellence has been once again recognised, with Queensland universities being extremely successful in receiving significant funding from the federal government's latest Australian Research Council grants. In fact, UQ was awarded three projects—more than any other university in the country.


Universities from the Sunshine State have attracted \$140 million to establish four new centres of excellence in Queensland to deliver important research and training. These hubs will support Queensland scientists as they dive into diverse subject areas from the use of Indigenous knowledge in research to quantum technology and innovations in the use of carbon dioxide. We have been able to do that because of this government's ongoing support for the science sector, making our universities attractive to vital research funding. In fact, the Palaszczuk government will support these Queensland centres of excellence with \$1.65 million in funding and over \$350,000 of in-kind contributions.

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Green Electrochemical Transformation for Carbon Dioxide, led by the University of Queensland, will develop new manufacturing businesses for Australia, aligning with our net zero emissions target and goal for a stronger circular and sustainable economy and the creation of future jobs. The ARC Centre of Excellence in Quantum Biotechnology will develop new quantum technologies like portable brain images and superfast single protein sensors. This technology will help unravel key problems including how enzymes catalyse reactions and how higher brain function emerges from networks of neurons.

The James Cook University-led Indigenous ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Environmental Histories and Futures will produce and generate knowledge based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led approaches and outcomes focused on sustainable Indigenous land and sea management planning for future decades. The ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures, led by UQ, will examine and improve the life chances of Indigenous Australians by utilising Indigenous knowledge.

Queensland's huge Energy and Jobs Plan, coupled with significant investment in science and innovation in our latest budget, has put the Sunshine State in a leading place when it comes to scientific research, major breakthroughs in fields like health, and the benefits of good jobs and better services that come with it. These centres of excellence are exactly what the Palaszczuk government wants to support, with \$17 million in our budget to commercialise scientific research and attract even more Commonwealth research and development funding. The Palaszczuk government will continue to fund and support science throughout the state and work with the new federal government to get more funding into the sector after the coalition cut university funding by 10 per cent. Only Labor governments back and believe in science.

Business Basics

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.05 am): Queensland's small businesses are a driving force for our communities and our economy. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring these economic engines are tuned up and firing on all cylinders. It is why, since the beginning of COVID, we have supported small business in Queensland with an over \$2.5 billion investment aimed at directly supporting small businesses to deal with the effects of COVID but also supporting them to thrive and grow.


Our very popular Business Basics grants are in that category—one of a suite of small business grants made permanent in this year's budget. Delivering another Business Basics round is part of the \$39.1 million we have committed over the next four years to support more small businesses. I flagged earlier in the year that an additional round would open before the end of the year, and I am pleased to announce today that the fourth funding round will open this month—on 24 November—with the guidelines up on our website from 11.30 am today.

Providing better services to our small businesses, this program offers \$5,000 grants to help businesses develop and enhance the core skills they need for their businesses to grow. This next round has a \$5 million funding pool, including \$1.5 million set aside for regional businesses outside the south-east corner. Grants are paid up-front and do not require any co-contribution. Through strong consultation with our small business stakeholders, who were keen to see the program streamlined and easier to access, we have implemented a new application and assessment process. I want to thank my mighty Small Business Advisory Council for the work they did to help fashion this new approach.

This round will allow a set window for anyone interested to enter their details, with a random ballot process to select the businesses that will be invited to complete their applications. Through the past three completed Business Basics rounds, 4,195 grants totalling more than \$20.9 million have been awarded so far. It has been fantastic to hear the stories from small businesses right across Queensland of the impact of those grants. While \$5,000 might not sound like much to a lot of people, it makes the world of difference to a small business owner. We have heard from the first two rounds that over 94 per cent of businesses reported the projects they used their grants on were successful, with more than 90 per cent reporting they expected to grow their turnover or profits as a result.

A priority activity at the moment, in light of the workforce challenges many small businesses face, is human resource training and coaching. The opportunity provided by the grants will help our small businesses attract and retain good people into good jobs. However, it is interesting to note that more than half the successful applicants in past rounds have aimed to increase their online capacity and/or digital presence and/or cybersecurity capacity. Given the recent Optus and Medibank data breaches, which the minister referred to earlier, I imagine this will again be a strong trend. Registrations of interest for this fourth round will be open from 9 am on 24 November until 11.59 pm on 5 December 2022. I am excited to lead this government's ongoing support for Queensland's vital and growing small business sector and reporting to this House more good news delivering good jobs and better services for Queensland.

Mining Industry

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.09 am): I need to advise that this morning my ministerial statement comes with a dad-joke warning. Queensland has a long history of small-scale mining, particularly in Central and Western Queensland, and the mining communities are real gems. Small-scale mining activities benefit communities throughout the state and help support great regional jobs. In Queensland we have a storied history of mining high-quality opals, sapphires and other gemstones. In the earth around towns such as Quilpie and Winton you can find boulder opals, which are unique to Queensland and, in my opinion, are a cut above the rest.


Today I can advise the House that the government is taking action to back genuine small-scale miners and the communities they operate in as they continue to contribute to Queensland's great lifestyle. The existing moratorium on new mining claims will end as scheduled on 24 November. I can assure small-scale miners that mining claims will remain in the state's mining laws. Additionally, my department is seeking input on a range of proposals. Those proposals aim to back genuine miners as well as deliver for regional tourism and other stakeholders with an interest in small-scale mining, including landholders, local communities and local businesses.

The 12-month moratorium has served its purpose. It allowed government to talk to communities, landholders and small-scale miners about the best way forward. I take this opportunity to acknowledge particularly the valuable contribution throughout this process of Mayor Kerry Hayes from the Central Highlands Regional Council.


The proposed changes that are now on the table seek to achieve two clear goals: to ensure that our framework is effective and efficient. What we want to address for local communities issues such as claimholders building permanent structures and living on claims rather than mining them. We also want to address issues for the taxpayers of Queensland as a whole including claimholders abandoning their sites and leaving the clean-up to government and, ultimately, the taxpayer. We have also put on the table some options for new fossicking areas for everyone who has a fossicking licence to enjoy. I highly recommend that families looking for regional adventure this summer holidays try fossicking. You never know what you might find and I am sure the kids will dig it.

The proposed changes are outlined in a discussion paper that is now available online at the government's Get Involved consultation website. I encourage the holders of Queensland's 2,000 or so mining claims and community members in those areas to have their say by 24 February when consultation closes.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 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. Therefore, I advise the House that the Deputy Premier will take questions on behalf of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads during question time today.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 29 November 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.13 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, dated October 2022.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, October 2022 [1879].

The report concludes that, during the period covered by this inspection, the CCC and law enforcement officers of the CCC complied with the provisions of chapter 13 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in all respects. It is noted in the report that the CCC chairperson must ensure that any record or report obtained by use of a surveillance device under a surveillance device warrant is destroyed if the chairperson is satisfied that the record of the report is not likely to be required in connection with prescribed purposes. This would ensure the CCC is not holding surveillance device material that is not required for any ongoing purpose.


It is further noted that no surveillance device, record or report has been destroyed by the CCC since October 2018, when the CCC disposed of product in connection with operations Tesco and Warrior, operations that date back to 2011 and 2014. While it has been four years since any such records were destroyed, it is acknowledged that amendments to procedures regarding the destruction of such records have been required. The senior property officer has advised that, once these amendments are made, approval will be sought for the destruction of further material.

The committee received the report on 18 October 2022 and is tabling a report within 14 sitting days of receipt, as required.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today question time will conclude at 11.15 am.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.15 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. What assurances can the Minister for Health provide to staff in her department that she continues to enjoy the confidence of the Premier, given that the Premier did not speak in last night's no-confidence motion?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: On the basis that the question contains inferences and imputations, is potentially not within the minister's portfolio responsibilities and also is potentially seeking an opinion, I rule the question out of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is Thursday, people!

Gold Coast, Hospitals

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. On 22 June the Premier said the Coomera hospital is going to be built within six years, but the development application shows it may not be finished until 2040, which is 18 years away. Will the government admit their long-term plan does not even meet the short-term demand?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I am aware that the Gold Coast City council put some information on their social media yesterday in relation to a designation. This actually goes to State Development and not to my portfolio—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I am still answering it. I am aware that that designation was put in prior to our budget being handed down and the announcement of our Health and Hospitals Plan. What is in our Health and Hospitals Plan is exactly what we will be delivering within the time frame that we said it would be delivered. We are investing \$1.3 billion to build a new 404-bed hospital and it will be completed and operational in the second half of 2027, as our plan states.

I know that those opposite do not understand the concept of a plan because they do not have any plans, policies, genuine thoughts on anything or original ideas. They might have ideas but they are not original ones. The master plan for the site has always envisaged that there will be future stages. The designation talks about additional beds—

Mr Crisafulli: The beds are needed now.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection. We have announced that we will build that over-400-bed facility by 2027. The Leader of the Opposition seems to think that we can build a hospital overnight yet they could not build a hospital in an entire term.

Dr Miles: And they didn't even promise this one.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier: they did not even promise to build this one. It is a Labor government that is building three new hospitals and expanding other hospitals, plus building new regional and remote health facilities. This capital investment of \$9.75 billion is the biggest this state has ever seen to ensure that we have the bed capacity we need. Of course, we know that, in addition, construction is happening now to open up more beds and other short- to medium-term measures are being put in place by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I have to say that, as much as the Leader of the Opposition likes to bang on about it, his four-point plan does not deliver any beds.

Communities

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the importance of investing in Queensland communities, and is the Premier aware of any alternative views?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Just last week the minister and I were in the member's wonderful electorate opening the brand new Nirimba State Primary School, a \$75 million investment.

Mr Stewart: We build them; they close them.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. We build schools; they close schools. That has been an absolute trend of those opposite. We enjoy spending our time on the Sunshine Coast. We have two great local members up there working hard. Hopefully after the next election there will be more. We want to make sure we have even more members on the Sunshine Coast. What have the members on the Sunshine Coast delivered? Nothing.

Mr Mickelberg: Build a rail line.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim—

Mr Mickelberg: You promised it in 2006 and you still haven't put a shovel in the ground.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude!

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders. You talked over me warning you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We on this side of the House are delivering good services, better jobs and infrastructure across this state. I have a little reminder for those opposite: the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, a plan including Coomera. Those opposite cannot deliver anything. Sorry, they delivered 1 William Street—sorry about that—because they were looking after themselves. They wanted a tunnel underneath. The public servants talk about that meeting. They do not forget that.

Mr Bleijie: The Premier gets driven from 1 William St to Parliament House—across the road.

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

Mr Dick: He gets driven past his electorate because he doesn't live there.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. The Treasurer will cease his interjections. The member for Nanango will cease her interjections, as will the member for Kawana.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition has put out there that they want to do a big debt reduction plan at the next election. That means cutting, sacking and selling. What hospitals are they going to cut? The Coomera hospital? The cancer centre? The Townsville expansion? What is the Leader of the Opposition going to cut? Every single day we will be asking, 'What is your plan?' because those opposite have no plans.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast, Hospitals

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Gold Coast population is set to surge from 600,000 to 900,000 by 2040. Medical experts say that our city is already 600 beds short today. Will the government admit that it is not acceptable for an under-pressure health system to wait 18 years for beds it needs today?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. Once again we can show that members of the opposition are not able to be agile on their feet. Once they have an answer, they cannot adjust their questions. It is like, 'Here we go again. Own goal. We'll have to keep asking the same question even though we have the answer.' Let me explain it again for the member for Mudgeeraba. I will do this slowly for the member for Mudgeeraba.

The designation was done before the budget and before we committed \$1.3 billion to deliver a Coomera hospital of 404 beds by 2027. We know that those opposite do not like looking at beds because it reminds them each and every day that we are making the largest capital investment Health has ever seen and that they have no plan. Sorry, they have four points that have zero money, zero beds and zero staff, which is not really a plan. It is a plan to do nothing, actually; maybe it is a plan. Taking up the point of the member for Mudgeeraba that our Health and Hospitals Plan—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt you, Minister. Members for Bundaberg and Callide, you are warned for quarrelling across the chamber. Take your conversation outside.

Mrs D'ATH: In addition, we have committed, as part of our Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program, to 70 additional beds at an investment of \$72 million for the Gold Coast University Hospital modular expansion, due in the second half of 2023. It shows that we have short- to medium-term initiatives to put in beds as well as the long-term expansion—of course as well as the satellite hospital. Again, I remind those opposite when they talk about the Gold Coast that they did not put in extra beds. They did not announce anything. They did not go to the 2020 election—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs D'ATH: Not only did they do nothing when they were in government, but in wanting to come to government they could not commit to anything either. They could not commit to any of these beds. They were not going to the next election saying, 'This is how many beds.'

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: In fact, they went to the election saying, 'Vote for us and we'll give you half the additional health workers that Labor would, but trust us; we are better at managing health.' What a joke! They committed to 4,440 staff; we committed to 9,475 and we are already delivering on that commitment. We are halfway there halfway through the term. We are putting on doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health workers. We are building infrastructure for now and into the future. Those opposite have zero plan to do anything other than to cut funding out of health.

(Time expired)

Manufacturing

Mr TANTARI: My question is to 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 plan to bring back manufacturing to Queensland, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. I know that he is eager to see his region benefit from the jobs that will come with the energy transformation that Queensland is undertaking. We are already making batteries nearby in Maryborough, and no doubt there will be manufacturing opportunities in Hervey Bay as well. Creating jobs is at the heart of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan: first of all, guaranteeing the jobs of all of the workers in the current energy sector; and, secondly, securing the jobs of all of those Queensland workers in energy-intensive heavy industry,

allowing them to continue operating with clean, green renewable energy, and then attracting new heavy industry to Queensland off the back of cheap, firm renewable energy in the same way as previous generations attracted those industries here off the back of the cheap fossil fuel industry, and then creating jobs in the manufacturing supply chain for that renewable energy. In fact, the independent modelling behind the plan says it will create 100,000 Queensland jobs, most of them in regional Queensland.

Since we issued our *Energy manufacturing opportunity prospectus*, looking for companies here and around the world to indicate their interest in manufacturing in Queensland, we have been overwhelmed with the response. Companies from here and right around the world have said they want to help build the SuperGrid. They want to help build the components that will make up the new Queensland energy system. We have had 230 companies express interest from as far afield as Japan, South Korea, Germany, India and the United States—all of them inspired by our world-leading Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Once we have that manufacturing capability here for us, we will be able to manufacture for the world, creating jobs here and exporting to the world.

All of this is only possible because we kept our energy assets in state owned hands. It is only possible because Queenslanders stopped the LNP's plan to sell them all off. By owning them we can manage our energy transition and we can direct local procurement—neither of which other states can do because they no longer own those assets. Because of the ideology of those opposite, they would have stopped all of these opportunities for Queensland. Thankfully they failed and we are able to implement our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

Gold Coast, Hospitals

Mr CRANDON: My question is to the Minister for Health. The child of pregnant mum Elly from Coomera will be finished school by the time the promised new hospital on the northern Gold Coast is complete. With just one per cent of the money for new hospitals spent this financial year, why must my residents wait nearly two decades for a finished hospital that they need now?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. Unless that child is seriously accelerated through grades, they will not be finishing school before 2027 when the Coomera hospital is built.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms King: Can't you count?

Mr SPEAKER: I can count. Member for Coomera, I appreciate your passion but you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: As we have indicated, we are not only building the Coomera Hospital, which will deliver 404 beds by the second half of 2027, but also putting in modular beds—70 extra beds—by the end of 2023 at the Gold Coast Hospital. We have expanded the Gold Coast secure mental health unit—that is 40 beds—as well. The member is fully aware of this. He was at the announcement which means that he is raising it here seeking to mislead the public.

Those opposite might not understand that when you build hospitals you build the original hospitals and then over time you expand those hospitals, just like we did with the RBWH, as we are doing with Caboolture right now, as we are doing with Logan, as we have committed to doing with Redcliffe. There is every intention as part of the master plan that Coomera will be expanded over future years as well. We have committed \$1.3 billion. How much is \$1.3 billion more than what the LNP committed to? Well, \$1.3 billion. They committed zero.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has made at least six or seven interjections. The minister is responding to the member's question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is impossible to hear the health minister give her answer because the Leader of the Opposition is being so rude interjecting on the health minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to resume.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: That was not an invitation, Leader of the Opposition or shadow Treasurer. Premier, I take your point of order. I am also having difficulty hearing the minister. The Leader of the Opposition is very aware that I have cautioned him on multiple occasions. He does get some latitude given the role that he holds. However, the level of interjections is too high generally. I ask members to cease their interjections or we will start having members removed from the chamber.

Mrs D'ATH: I want to reinforce how proud we are not only to be investing in three new hospitals—in Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg—and expanding 11 other hospitals but also I want to draw attention to the Building Rural and Remote Health Program, where we are investing \$943.5 million over the next seven years to build new health facilities or replace health facilities right across the state in our most remote communities. That shows that the Palaszczuk government is here to deliver health services for all Queenslanders—in our largest cities as well as our smallest towns and remote communities.

Dr Miles: They're not duds.

Mrs D'ATH: They are not dud facilities and they are not dud health workers. We are proud of each and every one of them and the work they do.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering what matters to Queenslanders and is he aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. The member for Ipswich knows well that our government recognises the importance of delivering better services and infrastructure for Queenslanders. That is why we are making a record investment in health care and housing. We are delivering on our \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee to the people of Queensland. It is why we are committed to our \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan to deliver reliable, affordable, low-emission power for Queenslanders, supporting more jobs in more industries.

That is what matters to Queenslanders, not the kind of fear mongering and feigned outrage and fake indignation we hear day in and day out from the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP. Day in and day out they make false claims and launch new smear campaigns. Why? Because fear and anger are the Leader of the Opposition's stock-in-trade. They have no vision, no plan. They certainly have no health plan; we know that. Day in and day out the Leader of the Opposition comes in here to wreck and not build. We know that because of his fear campaign against the laptops—his month-long smear campaign with fake claims about raids and laptops echoing the worst conspiracy theories of far-right politics in the United States.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr DICK: 'Misinformation' is how the CCC described it. 'Entirely ordinary', 'no evidence of improper disclosure', 'wholly unremarkable' is what the CCC said and not one apology from the Leader of the Opposition. You would think someone who has become so spectacularly undone would have cause to reconsider, but no.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Toowoomba South will cease his interjections.

Mr DICK: There he was in the parliament last night standing up for Broadwater. He lives 60 kilometres away from his electorate.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DICK: The electorate of Broadwater is just a tool of convenience for the Leader of the Opposition. Then he demanded a bigger car park.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders. The member for Theodore is warned under the standing orders. I give strong caution, Leader of the Opposition. I appreciate there is provocation, but I am listening to the Treasurer's contribution.

Mr DICK: I will tell you what matters, Mr Speaker: the Leader of the Opposition demanding a bigger rail station car park—this from the party that made an art form of rorting public money to build car parks at train stations! There he was in the parliament standing up for Broadwater. He does not live

there. He does not care about them. He lives 60 kilometres away. It is just a tool of convenience for his political ambitions. We will not be lectured to by the Leader of the Opposition on Coomera Hospital or on the health system or on youth justice or on crime or on any of those things that matter to Queensland because only the Labor government will deliver on those things—not the fake indignation and the made-up claims of the Leader of the Opposition.

Gold Coast, Hospitals

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. The government spent more than a million dollars of taxpayer money on an advertising campaign spruiking their hospital plan. Why didn't the Premier spend any time telling Queenslanders the full Coomera Hospital needed for the expected population growth now would not be completed for another 18 years?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Kawana was part of the cabinet that spent \$70 million. Do you remember that?

Mr Dick: On the wait time guarantee.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There was the wait time guarantee, then they were selling assets worth tens of millions of dollars.

Mr Dick: Wasted!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Waste, waste, waste on that side.

Mr Dick: The boot camps.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; the boot camps, constant waste.

Mr Fumer: The pink jumpsuits.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; the pink jumpsuits, the stuffed rat brought into the chamber.

A government member: The helicopters.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, the helicopters.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Mudgeeraba dares to interrupt. The member for Mudgeeraba calls health workers duds. That is what the member—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my right!

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Mudgeeraba has never apologised in this House for calling regional health workers duds. Shame, shame! Shame on you!

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are not directing your comments anywhere near the chair. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, you are also warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our government has committed \$1.3 billion for the 400-bed Coomera Hospital. On that side of the House they have committed nothing.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, \$3 million. This is the most comprehensive health and hospital plan that a government has ever released at \$9.7 billion. That is what we will deliver because we understand there are growing parts of our state and that is why we are building new schools. That is why we are building new hospitals. That is why we are making sure that our regional and remote communities also have the facilities they need such as the brand new expansion to the health centre when we were up in the Torres Strait for some of the most remote parts of the state.

I will not be lectured to by an opposition that cut over 4,000 health workers. I will not be lectured to by an opposition that does not plan for this state's future. I will not be lectured to by an opposition that called for our border to be open 64 times. The member for Nanango was part of it. The member for Broadwater was part of it as well. The people of Queensland understand who is on their side, and that is us.

(Time expired)

School Infrastructure

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Education. As I represent one of the growing areas of Queensland, can the minister inform the House how the Palaszczuk government is investing in new schools, especially in the fastest growing areas of the state, and whether there are any alternative approaches.

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Logan, who can ask a question in order. Well done! I know how excited he is about the new South Rock State School in his electorate as well as the other schools we have invested in in Yarrabilba. They are excellent. I know he will join me in congratulating Indiana on being the first student to enrol in South Rock State School. Her dad Denahm said, 'I'm really excited for my daughter Indi to be starting prep at South Rock State School. It will be great for Indi to build friendships with other children in our local neighbourhood and for us to be part of the school community.' It was wonderful.

Another beautiful school that the Premier and I opened just last week was Nirimba in the beautiful electorate of Caloundra. What a school it is! It is absolutely gorgeous, a \$75 million investment fully air-conditioned with state-of-the-art design and one of the best multipurpose hall designs that are in the new schools. I want to see more of them. I know how proud the member for Caloundra is. We have opened the Baringa State Primary School, Baringa State Secondary College, Palmview State Primary School—even the member for Buderim would be proud of that one—the Palmview State Special School—even the member for Buderim would be proud of that one—and of course Nirimba State Primary School—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you are on a warning. You are interjecting. You know the rules. You are out under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 10.44 am.

Ms GRACE: They cannot handle—

Mr SPEAKER: No, Minister.

Ms GRACE: We are going to open our sixth new school on the Sunshine Coast: Palmview State Secondary College. I know the member for Buderim is bursting at the seams with excitement. We have opened six new schools on the Sunshine Coast, which is exactly the number of schools they closed when they were in government. And that was just on the Sunshine Coast! They had 50 on the list.

I know the member for Coomera was a little bit concerned about a young child going to a hospital. He got all of the numbers wrong, but can I assure him that all of the children in his area are going to air-conditioned classrooms, and they are going there six years ahead of any plan they had. That pregnant woman will have her child in an air-conditioned school much earlier than under them. All of the students in the gallery are enjoying their air-conditioned classrooms six years and two months ahead of any alternative plan. They have the audacity to come into this House and talk about delays! My goodness me! Thank God for a Labor government, that is all I can say.

Electricity Prices

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Premier. The government's energy plan says 26 times that Queenslanders will get cheaper power. The federal government says the cost of electricity will rise by over 50 per cent in the next two years. Who should Queenslanders believe: the Palaszczuk government or the federal government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have launched the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Another plan! Perhaps those opposite might like to read it at some stage.

Dr Miles: And support it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And support it. We still have heard crickets from those opposite about whether or not they support it.

Mr Dick: We heard nuclear.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will come back to that in a moment, Treasurer. It is the largest investment in pumped hydro in the nation, and it is going to be built in Mackay.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: On this side of the House we back the regions; unlike those opposite, who have no plans to build anything. Do you support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, or not? We still do not know. What is the alternative? Oh, I know the alternative.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Treasurer. We know the alternative because they are looking at debt reduction, and that means selling off the assets. I am enjoying myself today. That is why, thanks to us keeping our assets in public hands, Queenslanders are getting a \$175 rebate on their electricity bill. Let me say that again: a \$175 rebate on their electricity bills. That is good news for Queenslanders because we understand the cost-of-living pressures—

Mr WEIR: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. It was quite simple: are power prices going to go up—

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need you to repeat your question, member. What I am hearing from the Premier is a reference to an energy plan, which has been referenced in the question, as I understand it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our energy plan will also create 100,000 jobs. We have some young students in the gallery up there. Do they believe in climate change? Yes, and we believe in climate change. That is why we are building the SuperGrid. We know the opposition hates that word so I will say it again: SuperGrid. In the future we will need a lot of young people training to get these jobs.

Finally, I will come back to the Treasurer's point. The opposition has a plan; it is called a nuclear plan.

Ms King interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pumicestone.

Dr Miles: The most expensive.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is the most expensive, and where do they want it built? On the Sunshine Coast.

Ms King interjected.

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

Mr Hinchliffe: In Ted O'Brien's electorate.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Ted O'Brien is on the Sunshine Coast. Ted O'Brien supports nuclear power. The member for Kawana should come out and say whether or not he supports a nuclear power station on the Sunshine Coast. It is a very simple question. Guess what. We will be putting that in letterboxes. Yes, we will.

(Time expired)

Wildcat Mackay

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. I note that Mackay's new Wildcat catamaran was recognised in the Queensland Tourism Awards on Friday night. Can the minister inform the House about the Palaszczuk government's support for Wildcat and is the minister aware of alternative approaches?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I want to thank the member for the question. I note the member for Mackay's advocacy for the growing tourism industry in Mackay. Up to the year ending June 2022, the Mackay region achieved a record visitation of 1.2 million visitors. One of the contributors to that great result was Wildcat. The 17-metre Wildcat catamaran, run by Asher and Julie Telford, pounced on gold at the 2022 Queensland Tourism Awards for the best new tourism business. Wildcat Mackay is opening up the natural attractions of the Cumberland Islands to visitors to Mackay. Our Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund backed the Telfords to deliver a tourism opportunity that had been missing from Mackay and a \$2 million bonus to the visitor economy as a consequence.

I wish the Telfords and Wildcat all the best for success at the national awards next year, as I know the member for Mackay does as well. I congratulate all of this year's Queensland Tourism Awards winners and finalists. It was a great night. While a couple of the Gold Coast MPs from the LNP did attend, the Leader of the Opposition and shadow tourism spokesperson was a no-show at Queensland tourism's night of nights.

Ms Palaszczuk: And he wasn't there at the opening of the Langham either.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I take that interjection from the Premier. He was not there for the opening of the Langham, a great new piece of infrastructure for Gold Coast tourism. The Tourism Awards were held just 27 kilometres from the member for Broadwater's electorate office.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Had the opposition leader turned up—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, I have just given you a direction. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: In speaking about the tourism awards, I note that the Leader of the Opposition could have turned up there to support the tourism operators and he could have explained his so-called golden 20-year plan for tourism. The member for Broadwater talks a lot about it but there is never any detail. It is the plan to have a plan, I hope, but we are yet to see it.

At the Tourism Awards, or indeed at DestinationQ, the Leader of the Opposition could have explained what his comments about cutting wasteful spending in the *Australian* newspaper actually mean for tourism operators. Does everyone remember how Campbell Newman said the same thing before ripping millions out of the tourism budget and as a consequence trashing our market share? None of those opposite went to DestinationQ, the whole industry conversation, where the LNP's alternative plan for tourism could have been explained to the 900 delegates present. We know the LNP did enough damage to Queensland tourism when they were in office for just three years—let alone what the carnage of 20 years might be.

Hells Gates Dam

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Minister for Water. I refer to media reports that the minister recommended to the federal government to cut funding for Hells Gates Dam, and I ask: why did the minister make this recommendation?

Mr BUTCHER: As those opposite know, we will always support good projects here in Queensland, particularly water projects. The state government has spent over \$3.5 billion on water infrastructure so far since we have been in government. As I said the other day when the question was asked by the opposition, this was a pork-barrelling exercise by a desperate federal LNP government going into the last election. They announced \$5.4 billion to this project going forward without, as I said before, a detailed business case or a plan going forward with an EIS.

I will correct the record for the member. I did talk to Minister Pliibersek and she asked me what I thought of the project. I said that the business case that was being developed at an interim term said the Hells Gate Dam project was not ready for significant funding at this point in time. That is exactly what I said to her. Her letter that came to me was incorrect in the statement that she made in that letter. I will stand up for projects that fit into our criteria here in Queensland for good dams, safe dams and reliable dams that deliver for our community. I will not be lectured to by the LNP. When they were in government, the track record of the LNP and the member for Nanango was to cut a dam, not invest in a dam, not come up with a plan for water security for Queensland, nothing.

What I did read in the WaterQ document that was put out by the LNP was that the only way that dams in Queensland will go forward is by private investment—in other words, setting up for private and not owned by the states. We will make sure that our water security and our water projects here in Queensland continue to be supported because they stack up, because they have business cases and because they are the right thing to do for the taxpayers of Queensland—not like those opposite. We will continue to support projects.

Going forward, the announcements in the federal budget were about pork-barrelling projects that were not supported by this current federal government at this point. That does not mean that the projects that are still sitting there cannot be supported by the national water infrastructure fund which

sits there. We as a government have continued to support these projects, including Urannah Dam. I know the member for Nanango has an interest in that because of some things that have gone on around her area which she knows about—particularly relatives who maybe had some interest in that project in the past.

(Time expired)

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are already warned under the standing orders. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 10.57 am.

Mr Butcher interjected.

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

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You can leave quietly, member.

Beef Industry

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Will the minister outline the importance of the Queensland beef industry and its export potential and any threats to its potential that the minister is aware of?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his excellent question and I note his interest and advocacy for Beef Week 2024, along with the member for Keppel.

Ms Palaszczuk: I can't wait.

Mr FURNER: I can't wait either, Premier, because on this side of the chamber we know the excitement and enjoyment of going to Beef Week. We never see anyone opposite at Beef Week, however. They are missing in action. When it comes to Beef Week—

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gympie, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language, and you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr PERRETT: I withdraw.

Mr FURNER: We know that when it comes to beef the only interest the opposition has in beef is the gravy train. I was extremely excited last week to be down at the Brisbane Airport with the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment—

Mr Millar: This is the minister who likes foodlots.

Mr FURNER: Mr Speaker, I take personal offence to that comment and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member, the minister has asked you to withdraw; he has taken personal offence.

Mr MILLAR: I withdraw.

Mr FURNER: I absolutely love Queensland produce and I love Queensland farmers, unlike those opposite. That is why I was with the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment at the airport, seeing 15,000 kilograms of Queensland beef going over to San Francisco—great beef, great beef supporting good jobs in rural and regional Queensland, and also supporting the opportunities for US tourists to come to Queensland. Most importantly, it is supporting the produce that goes overseas. I acknowledge our American friends for their Thanksgiving coming up very shortly this month. That will also be an opportunity for some of them to tuck into that good Queensland beef.

It was a United Airlines flight. One thing Queensland has noticed is that the LNP is not united. The National Party rump must be fed up by the dominance of the spare Libs over there, but certainly after nine years of an overcooked federal LNP government, the LNP has nothing good to point to. It was the LNP, in fact, that neglected the biosecurity area, cutting the service by 25 per cent on federal numbers. The LNP has ignored, antagonised and aggravated our farmers, in fact.

Conversely, this Palaszczuk Labor government has been investing in protecting our farmers, protecting our shores from biosecurity threats. \$22 million was announced at the Ekka this year to make sure we are prepared for foot-and-mouth disease and for lumpy skin disease. It is only a Labor

government which understands the importance of biosecurity, understands the importance of Queensland produce, and will be there backing our Queensland farmers day in, day out. Whatever they need or require, it is this Labor government backing them 100 per cent.

Telestroke Services

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Over 5,000 Queenslanders will suffer a stroke for the first time this year and 25 per cent will experience a stroke in their lifetime. Rural and regional Queenslanders have less access to specialist services. Considering early intervention saves lives and reduces disabilities, will the minister commit to funding a telestroke service in Queensland?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. Before I address that question, I wish to correct a statement I made earlier about the LNP not committing any funding on the Gold Coast at the last election. They committed \$4 million for the northern Gold Coast hospital precinct master plan. They did not commit one cent to a business case for Coomera Hospital, which we did, and we are delivering on.

Mr Crandon: You committed \$3 million!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you can leave the chamber for one hour. You are already on a warning. That was very disorderly, member.

Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 11.02 am.

Mrs D'ATH: In relation to the member's question, I am advised that Queensland Health currently provides high-quality acute stroke support to our regional and remote hospitals through our established hub-and-spoke models of care. This is provided by way of telephone support already to the regional site by a stroke specialist, including reviewing brain imaging in acute cases where assistance has been requested by the regional site to guide decision-making regarding patient eligibility for appropriate therapy. Accessibility to specialist stroke services in our state's north has been increased by the recent establishment of the endovascular thrombectomy service at Townsville University Hospital. This specialised service provides time-critical interventions to remove clots and save lives, preventing the need for patients to travel further for treatment.

I acknowledge the views of stakeholders—and I attended the telestroke event recently here at parliament—that Queensland should deploy a statewide telestroke service. This is currently under consideration as part of the development of a Queensland virtual stroke service. I am happy to keep the member informed of those considerations.

Ensuring that we provide Queenslanders access to high-quality health care no matter where they live is a priority for the Palaszczuk government. That is why we continue to deliver record budgets for our HHSs year on year.

I want to note that earlier this year I was in Townsville, launching the hospital specialist Paediatric Cardiac Service that will benefit more than 1,000 North Queensland children. Our Connected Communities Pathways investments is also providing additional capacity to our regional HHSs to provide innovative models of care to regional Queenslanders. The only way that these clinical services can be facilitated is by having the staff there to provide them. We are very proud of the fact that despite international shortages of clinical staff, this government has been able to employ an additional 15,000 frontline staff since coming into government and have committed to 9,475 extra staff this year. We will continue to invest in the regions. We will continue to invest in these services. I also want to acknowledge the announcement today of an expansion with Queensland Health delivering on the clinical trials Australia-wide and I am very proud of that.

(Time expired)

Culture Ministers' Meeting

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on the minister's attendance at the Culture Ministers' Meeting and the importance of authenticity and original work?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Cooper for her question and for her commitment to the arts in her electorate. Last week, I had the great opportunity to meet with other Australian arts and culture ministers in Adelaide. It was the first time we have been able to meet in person since 2019, and we were able to discuss issues of national significance for the arts and cultural sector. Our meeting coincided with Purrumpa, a national, week-long celebration of First Nations arts and culture. Again, this was the first time that that has happened in some 50 years, so it was very much welcomed. At that

meeting, I had the opportunity to lead a discussion around First Nations funding models and the framework established by our Queensland First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel to address fake art distribution and cultural appropriation. Queensland led this discussion because, on this side of the House, we value authenticity. The Palaszczuk government also contributes to support investment in the Indigenous art code—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Ms ENOCH: Sorry, I am speaking about First Nations art and the fact that what we have seen across the world are copycat artists who have been flogging off that work as though it were authentic Aboriginal art. We are trying to work against that. Those comments from those opposite—what do we expect when it comes to questions of authenticity and to putting down and getting rid of fakeness? Seriously, what we have seen from them from the—

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms ENOCH: Honestly, from previous opposition leaders to the opposition leader now to the member for Everton, all we have seen is all kinds of fake comments, from the fake Bradfield Scheme, to the fake raided laptop story that went on for weeks and weeks only to be declared absolute nonsense—totally made up—and also, of course, the fake tax stories that we are hearing from those opposite about misleading Queenslanders. All of that, all of those fake stories and fake nonsense that we see from them, is really plagiarised from the playbook of the far right. Who is their champion of plagiarism? The champion of plagiarism, of course, is the member for Mudgeeraba. When she was the arts minister, thankfully for a very short period of time, she gave a speech that was almost word for word that of a former Labor minister. Did she take responsibility for her plagiarism and apologise for this bungle? No! Instead, what she did was sack the public servant who wrote the speech—somebody who had dedicated 10 years to the Public Service—even though she had only been in there for five minutes. This side of the House is authentic; those opposite are not.

Sugar Mills, Cogeneration

Mr ANDREW: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister advise if the government will be taking full advantage of Queensland's string of 20-plus sugar mills and their maximum potential for cogeneration to offset the need to implement large footprints of solar, wind and pumped hydro generation here in Queensland?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Mirani for the question. I thank him for his deep interest in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. I note it appears that, unlike the opposition, he has taken the time to read it.

I can inform the House that just last night I met with the Queensland Farmers' Federation and I met with the sugar industry earlier in the week. I also travelled to Mackay and met with the member for Mackay and we visited these communities that have a long tradition of growing sugarcane. We know that they are seeking to play a role in helping our state and our nation decarbonise. We know that those local communities also want to play a role in taking advantage of their own land to help develop and deliver their own energy resources. That is why in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan we have outlined our \$62 billion investment to drive down the cost of energy. As I mentioned earlier this week, with the additional wind, the additional solar, the largest pumped hydro energy storage scheme in the world in Mackay, along with the growth of things like bioenergy and cogeneration, we will put downward pressure on electricity prices.

Independent modelling shows that when comparing the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan to the Liberal National Party's plan—or the literally no plan—household electricity prices under our plan will be \$150 lower. For the small businesses like those farmers around Queensland and those involved in the sugar industry, independent modelling shows that our plan will deliver \$1,500 lower electricity costs by 2032. Those opposite with no plan for cogeneration, no plan for working with the sugar industry and no plan for working with the milling industry will consign those farmers, those constituents of the member's rural community, to higher electricity bills. The only alternative that they have put forward is their lazy nuclear plan. I am informed that under the lazy nuclear plan, the cost of nuclear exceeds

\$300 a megawatt compared to this government's investment in solar and wind at \$50 a megawatt. It is those opposite who will consign this state, as their previous federal counterparts in the Morrison government did, to higher electricity prices, exposing us to volatile global markets.

We will work with the sugar industry, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and their members on their cogeneration plans. We want to make sure that more Queenslanders have access to cleaner, cheaper, more affordable electricity.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, member for Burleigh and member for Logan, you were quarrelling across the chamber. You are warned under the standing orders.

Queensland Workforce Strategy

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister please update the House on the Queensland Workforce Strategy and how this plan delivers good jobs across Queensland, and whether there are any other approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question. I know how much she loves our Workforce Strategy. I acknowledge her great advocacy in all the areas of my portfolio.

In Queensland our economy is going absolute gangbusters. Our unemployment is at an all-time low of 3.75 per cent. We have created 211,000 jobs since before COVID and we are projected to create another 280,000 within the next three years. In fact, every time we turn around the Premier or some minister is talking about an initiative that involves job creation. In a way, it is a bit of a wicked problem; we have created so many jobs that we actually need to find the people to fill them. It is why we took the bull by the horns and we developed the Queensland Workforce Strategy. It is a plan—this is what a plan looks like. That is a plan. It is a plan to address workforce shortages in Queensland. One of the key features of the plan—and this is what you do in a plan—is about creating good partnerships. We know workforce shortages is not something the government can work on alone, so we are partnering with local government, peak bodies, industry, the community and small businesses. In fact, there is a sense of excitement about how we are going to tackle these opportunities together.

In the same spirit of partnership, I thought we should look across the political divide. Are there some things we can do together given this is such a pressing issue? So I looked for the LNP plan on jobs. I looked for the LNP plan on workforce. Is there an LNP plan on something similar? Quick as a flash nothing happened, because there actually are no plans. It feels like we are in a bit of a parallel universe. Workforce shortages? What workforce shortages? Jobs? Say what? Skills and training? No! TAFE? TAFE is like the Voldemort of Queensland politics: it which shall not be named.

I was really puzzled and I thought, 'Am I looking in the wrong place?' In fact, I was because they do not talk about actually creating jobs; they talk about getting rid of jobs. Of course that interview the opposition leader did a little while back really explained it all. We know from his debt reduction and service delivery strategies that he is going to sack public servants again; he is just going to do it more slowly. He is going to close TAFE campuses again. They have never been to a TAFE campus they did not want to close. They are going to take the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, one of the most successful in the country, and cut it again; they are just going to cut it slowly.

They have no plans for anything. They are just going to cut, sack and sell.

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired. Members, if you are leaving the chamber I ask you to please do so quietly.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, with respect to the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022:


1. standing order 87 be suspended to enable clauses 18, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 45 of the bill to be considered; and
2. standing order 150 be suspended to allow any amendments circulated by the Treasurer to be moved and considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

REVOCATION AND DEDICATION OF PROTECTED AREAS AND STATE FOREST AREAS

Cognate Debate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, government business, notices of motion Nos 1, 2 and 3 standing in the name of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs be debated cognately with separate questions to be put for each motion.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas and State Forest Areas (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (11.17 am): I move the following motions—

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

Description of areas to be revoked

Oakview State Forest	An area of about 92.13 hectares described as part of lot 220 on FTY1774 (to be described as lots 216 and 217 on AP23760), to be dedicated as additions to Oakview National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Mount Etna Caves National Park	An area of 0.1187 hectares described as part of lot 117 on NPW821 (to be described as lots 5 to 7 on SP325486), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Tuchekoi National Park	An area of 1.223 hectares described as part of lot 1 on AP19201 (to be described as lot 3 on SP325683), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Description of area to be dedicated

Oakview National Park	An area of about 92.13 hectares described as part of lot 220 on FTY1774 (to be described as lots 216 and 217 on AP23760), to be dedicated as additions to Oakview National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
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2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 33 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of part of a national park, to change the class of the protected area,
 as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of area to be revoked

Conondale National Park	An area of about 41 hectares described as part of proposed lots 2 and 7 on AP23628 (to be described as lots 3, 5 and 6 on AP23765), to be dedicated as additions to Conondale Resources Reserve, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
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Description of area to be dedicated

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| Conondale Resources Reserve | An area of about 41 hectares described as part of proposed lots 2 and 7 on AP23628 (to be described as lots 3, 5 and 6 on AP23765) to be dedicated as additions to Conondale Resources Reserve, as illustrated on the attached sketch |
|-----------------------------|---|
2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

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1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 the setting apart and declaration as State Forest of the areas as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of areas to be revoked

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Beerburum East State Forest | Area described as part of lot 1 on AP23631 (to be described as lots 102 and 103 and part of lot 100 on SP328637) and containing an area of about 10.055 hectares as illustrated on the attached sketch. |
| Beerburum West State Forest | Area described as part of lot 589 on FTY1876 (to be described as parts of lots 101 and 102 on SP329108) and containing an area of about 19.5918 hectares as illustrated on the attached sketch. |
| Watalgan State Forest | Area described as part of lot 898 on FTY1919 (to be described as lots 1 to 3 on SP327961) and containing an area of 18.2619 hectares as illustrated on the attached sketch. |
2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting our unique natural environments here in Queensland. We know that our national parks and protected areas draw millions of visitors each year and contribute substantially to local economies. They are the home of threatened species and diverse ecosystems. That is exactly why we have committed \$262 million towards expanding this estate, the largest ever investment in our state's history. We have also recently announced Ardgour Station, Mount Gibson and Oakey Scrub nature refuges, adding over 42,000 hectares to Queensland's private protected area network. Today's motion addresses a number of changes to national park and state forest tenure.

One of today's proposals, to upgrade sections of Oakview State Forest, will see an additional 92.13 hectares upgraded to national park. This will provide increased protection to the area's vine forest and endangered semi-evergreen vine thicket and threatened species habitat. This dedication recognises the significant conservation value of these parcels of the state forest.

Notwithstanding this dedication, there is also an understanding that sometimes there is a need to balance conservation with broader outcomes, such as essential public infrastructure that provides benefit for our community. For each proposal to revoke part of the protected area estate, careful consideration is given to ensure potential negative impacts to the estate are minimal and that compensation is satisfied by the proponent in accordance with departmental policy. When compensation is provided to the department for revocation proposals, it is invested back into the estate to improve management or for expansion to enhance the preservation and protection of Queensland's natural and cultural assets for the future. This adds on the over \$368 million that the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service allocates towards management funding.

Two of the proposals being debated in the House today relate to the Beerburum to Nambour Rail Upgrade project stage 1. This will affect the Beerburum East and Beerburum West state forests, totalling just under 30 hectares. The project will deliver a track duplication between Beerburum and Landsborough, significantly improving the line's capacity and reliability, saving commuters travel time and allowing for increased passenger and freight services to the growing Sunshine Coast region.

In addition to the duplication of the track, the works will upgrade the Landsborough station car park—currently limited in capacity—with 300 parking spaces and will expand the Nambour park-and-ride. I know that the members for Nicklin and Caloundra are excited about what this improved public transport will bring to their communities—

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms SCANLON:—and the member for Glass House. The revocation is not considered to present significant impacts upon the conservation values of the forestry estate, as most of the land within the revocation footprint is cleared or ecologically disturbed, and much of the revocation area is surrounded by plantation forestry areas or land tenures that allow for land uses that present limited ecological connectivity.

Another proposal relates to the proposed dam that would impact part of Watalgan State Forest and, as such, 18 hectares will need to be revoked. Tom and Robert Gorton first proposed the dam project and the associated revocation of the state forest over 20 years ago and in principle ministerial approval was initially provided in 2002 for the dam project. Since 2002, the proposal has seen several revisions and was approved in principle by the former minister for national parks, sport and racing in 2014 and by the former minister for the environment and heritage protection and the minister for national parks and the Great Barrier Reef in 2015.

The dam will provide much needed water security for the Gorton's business, Sunny Bluff Produce, which currently consists of fruit tree orchards. Currently, Sunny Bluff Produce have six full-time employees and 150 employees at peak harvest. Construction of the dam will allow for an additional 12 full-time staff, and up to 250 casuals during the harvest seasons. Construction of the dam would entail some loss of regulated vegetation and habitat and an appropriate environmental offset package is to be tailored to suit the project—if it were to be approved.

In order to ensure impacts to fish and associated waterway barriers are minimised, the proponent has commissioned a fisheries biologist to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated into the design. Specific species management plans will be developed, as well as an environmental management plan, to ensure environmentally responsible construction methods. The landholder will seek to acquire appropriate development approvals following the revocation process.

Next, there is a proposal to revoke parts of the Mount Etna Caves National Park to rectify an existing road encroachment and to formalise its public use and maintenance by Livingstone Shire Council. This revocation is only for a small area—less than one hectare—and during consultation, no objections were received. As part of the closure, council is assisting with the closure of a suitable vegetated portion of road reserve for dedication as part of the national park, resulting in net conservation gain to the estate.


On this side of the House we love the work of community groups, which is why we are announcing a proposal to revoke just over one hectare from a national park and convert it to a freehold tenure to allow the Men's Shed Pomona to continue using the site. I acknowledge the member for Noosa for her advocacy for this group. I am hopeful this solution provides long-term security for the Men's Shed.

Finally, I turn to the revocation for parts of Conondale National Park. The threat of climate change is real, and the Palaszczuk government is committed to reducing emissions and providing clean and affordable energy that stays in public hands. This plan outlines a pathway for Queensland to reach an 80 per cent renewables target by 2035 and it will reduce energy emissions by up to 90 per cent by 2035. To put this in scale, this is the biggest emitting sector in the state so this is a significant environmental outcome. Not only will it drastically benefit our environment, but this plan will also support 100,000 new jobs.

One of the initial steps in achieving this is to investigate the feasibility of constructing two large-scale pumped hydro scheme projects—the first proposal being the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project, our own battery of the north, and the second being the Borumba Dam pumped hydro project south of Gympie. In order for engineers to conduct onsite investigations at the Borumba site, some of the areas of national park will need to be revoked. The proposal is to change the class of about 41 hectares of Conondale National Park and dedicate it as part of the Conondale Resources Reserve. This is a necessary step for the Department of Environment and Science to then assess and authorise the proposed geotechnical activities associated with the project. The geotechnical works are temporary, and they are not expected to cause permanent or irreversible impacts to the protected area estate. The intention is that these areas would be rededicated as national park when the investigation is complete and these areas are rehabilitated.

I make it clear that this revocation does not grant an authority for these works to commence. Environmental and cultural heritage assessments and, if relevant, environmental management plans would be required as part of the application to the Department of Environment and Science for approval of an authority. Any actions to mitigate impacts would need to be addressed prior to the works being undertaken. I am excited to see our energy and jobs plan transform the state. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I remind the House of those members who are on a warning. They are the members for Buderim, Bundaberg, Callide, Nanango, Coomera, Theodore, Southern Downs, Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Toowoomba South, Pumicestone, Broadwater, Gladstone, Gympie, Everton, Logan and Burleigh.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (11.24 am): That is most of the House, I think!

The opposition will not be opposing this cognate motion. Conservation is something we value highly. Proper management and biodiversity protection are important practical ways for us to mitigate the impacts of climate change. As shadow environment minister, I welcome the opportunity to again speak about Queensland's protected area estate.

The proposed revocation of around 18 hectares from Watalgan State Forest will open up substantial opportunity to Sunny Bluff Produce and the surrounding region. The Gorton family have farmed Mullett Creek since 1901, supplying Coles, Woolies, ALDI, Australia-wide markets, as well as in Asia and the Middle East. For the last two decades they have been trying to secure access to more water supply so that they can increase their production. This revocation does not grant them full approval to do this, but it is a necessary step and I am sure it will be a relief to finally be moving forward.

Their proposal would allow for the construction of a 12,000 megalitre dam to provide water security for the existing business and enable the growth of their cropping areas from 250 hectares to 520 hectares. It is expected to result in a trebling of their business and it will mean that their staff of six full-time and 150 harvest workers will increase to 12 full-time and 250 harvest employees—a massive boost for the region. This process will, of course, need to be managed appropriately for the habitat it will impact and this should be monitored accordingly. However, the trebling of the current farm crop production is a significant opportunity. Given that the Gortons have farmed at Mullett Creek for over a century, we know that they will be seeking to do the best they can by the land and to create a new sanctuary for the wildlife in the area. I acknowledge the member for Burnett's strong advocacy in support of this proposal since he was elected to this House.

The revocation of Tuchekoi National Park is also very small, only 1.2 hectares, but it will give certainty to the locals, including, importantly, Men's Shed Pomona. Over a year ago on 11 October 2021, the minister gave in principle support for this move and this was expected to be confirmed months ago. Once again, this is slow progress by the government and for the sake of this group, it is good that we have finally arrived at this point today. I understand that this revocation will not mean any change to the vegetation in the area, but it will give certainty to the Men's Shed to continue their important community work by giving them a clear tenure for where they call home. I have the Labrador Men's Shed in my electorate and I have seen the impact they have. Mental health issues too often silently plague men in this age group, with social isolation being a major factor and men's sheds provide an essential place for men to talk shoulder to shoulder about what they are going through. I acknowledge the member for Noosa's advocacy for her own Men's Shed and all members for their support of sheds in their areas.

On the Nambour duplication, to see any progress on another one of the transport minister's many, many delayed programs is welcome. This is a necessary revocation to get the rail duplication under way. It will increase transport options for this region. We support actions to make that a reality.

The dedication of 41 hectares of national park to the Conondale Resources Reserve is needed to undertake the proposed geotechnical investigations for the Borumba Dam pumped hydro. We support this work, and the huge opportunities that pumped hydro brings to future energy needs. Apart from that, there is the very small revocation for the Mount Etna Caves National Park for the rectification of road encroachments on the park and the remaining changes dedicating more state forests with conservation value into national parks.

Given that Queensland still has the lowest proportion of area protected of any jurisdiction in Australia, we need to start seeing more progress that matters. What I mean by this is that there is no point protecting parts of our state in name only; it must be backed up by adequate management. Just this week there was an article in *Queensland Country Life* titled 'Neighbouring landholders have concerns over nature refuge', which I will table and read an excerpt from. It states—


Another Wyandra district landholder, Bill Tomlinson, who has owned Elmina Station since 1988, said he had not seen any nature refuges managed properly, and has cause for concern with this latest government acquisition.

'The whole idea is to have refuges that represent what Australia was originally like and this property has had mulga growing there since the 1960s,' Mr Tomlinson said.

He fears it will be left unmanaged and the wild vermin will be out of control.

Tabled paper: Article from *Queensland Country Life*, dated 8 November 2022, titled 'Neighbouring landholders have concerns over nature refuge' [[1880](#)].

As we continue to have motions covering revocations and dedications, it is important to keep ensuring that we are getting genuine conservation outcomes. We support the government's increased funding for our protected area estate, but after nearly eight years in power over half of what it has finally committed to is not due to be spent for at least another three years. We will back sensible and practical revocations—and I acknowledge the protections outlined by the minister for these areas—but any moves more broadly must be matched by better management outcomes for our environment and for our local communities.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (11.30 am): I rise to make my contribution to this revocation motion. The proposed revocation of about 10 hectares from Beerburrum East State Forest and about 19 hectares from Beerburrum West State Forest is to allow for the construction and delivery of the Nambour rail upgrade project stage 1. The project is planned to improve the freight and passenger connection between Brisbane and Cairns to help alleviate pressure on the Bruce Highway, the backbone of our transport infrastructure for Queensland. Stage 1 will include the realignment of Steve Irwin Way for approximately one kilometre to allow for duplication and straightening of the rail corridor, upgrades to the Landsborough station car park facility and expansion of the Nambour park-and-ride facility. The project will have benefits for Queenslanders by indirectly reducing congestion, reducing travel times and allowing safer passage for travellers.

The revocation is not considered to present significant impacts upon conservation values of the forestry estate as most of the land within the revocation footprint is cleared or ecologically disturbed and much of the revocation area is surrounded by plantation forestry areas or land tenures that allow for land uses that present limited ecological connectivity. The Department of Environment and Science has also negotiated with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to determine an appropriate compensation package for the loss of state forest area in accordance with departmental policy.


With regard to the Watalgan State Forest, the proposed revocation of around 18 hectares is to allow for the construction of a dam on the adjoining freehold land that will inundate part of the state forest due to the land's topography. The dam will provide much needed water security for the businesses of Tom and Robert Gorton, whom we have heard about, from Sunny Bluff Produce which consists of fruit tree orchards. The proposed dam will contribute to further investment into the agricultural economy of the Bundaberg region and will provide further employment opportunities during harvest seasons. The department has negotiated suitable environmental offset and compensation packages.

In relation to Oakview State Forest, the proposed revocation of about 92 hectares from Oakview State Forest for dedication as additions to the existing Oakview National Park is in recognition of the conservation value of these lands. The upgrade area contains a hoop pine plantation that forms part of the natural forest structure for the area and provides crucial habitat for threatened fauna and flora species.

In relation to Mount Etna Caves National Park, the proposed revocation of 0.1187 hectares from Mount Etna Caves National Park will allow for the rectification of road encroachments on the national park. The issues were revealed when Livingstone Shire Council commissioned a road corridor identification survey in 2017 which raised possible liability and safety issues for the department and council. The revocation is expected to have minimal impacts on Mount Etna Caves National Park. As part of the proposal, the council is assisting with the closure of an undeveloped suitably vegetated portion of the road reserve for dedication as part of the national park, resulting in a net conservation gain to the protected area estate.

Finally, in relation to Conondale National Park, the proposed revocation of about 41 hectares from Conondale National Park to be dedicated as Conondale Resources Reserve is to facilitate the assessment of proposed geotechnical investigations on these areas that are associated with the Borumba pumped hydro project. The Palaszczuk government recently released the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan—a visionary plan to set up Queensland for the next century with green energy. Included in the plan is our new Queensland SuperGrid that will connect solar, wind, battery and hydrogen generators across the state and transform Queensland into a world-leading renewable energy capital. Pumped hydro energy storage schemes are recognised as a reliable and lucrative method for generating renewable energy. The Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver a 50 per cent reduction in electricity sector emissions on 2005 levels by 2030 and a 90 per cent reduction on 2005 levels by 2035-36 and support the creation of 100,000 new jobs, as the Premier said. The proposed Borumba Dam location was selected as the first site for a detailed design and cost analysis due to its close proximity to the high-voltage transmission network and existing dam infrastructure.


The proposal to temporarily downgrade part of Conondale National Park to resources reserve will allow the chief executive of the department to formally assess the application for this activity under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The preliminary works are not expected to cause permanent or irreversible impacts to the protected area estate. The intention of these areas would be rededicated as national park when the investigation is complete and the areas rehabilitated. Queensland Hydro has been undertaking detailed design, cost analysis and consultation with the local community and is in pre-lodgement discussions for the project to be assessed as a coordinated project requiring an environmental impact statement. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.36 am): I rise to speak in support of the revocation of national park that was previously forestry land known as lot 1 on AP19201. As the minister outlined, these revocations are not done lightly nor without very good reasons. In this situation, it is land that has been cleared for many years, hosting buildings including the previous workshop for QPWS as well as an old rangers hut. Over the last decade these buildings have been made available for the benefit of the Pomona community. The existing workshop has hosted the Pomona Men's Shed since 2014. These guys are a fabulous group and organisation that deliver really great outcomes on multiple fronts, including in mental wellbeing, and the group continues to outgrow its confines through popularity. The rangers hut formerly housed the Noosa Integrated Socio-Economic and Environmental Research group, NISER, and when the permit to occupy ran out it was not renewed by the organisation. This has left this building hotly contested by various groups as their needs are tangible.

Since the former forestry lot became national park it had caused considerable concern and frustration for members due to the lack of tenure and inability to secure a lease due to legislation regarding national parks. This uncertainty had impacted their capacity to meet the demand to provide dedicated support to our community. As QPWS outlined at the time, it is in the business of conservation, not managing community organisations. This journey of four years to give the Men's Shed security of tenure and the capacity to expand has now been realised and I thank Minister Scanlon and previously Minister Enoch for their work on this but also QPWS and the Department of Environment and Science for their support. It is greatly appreciated by the Pomona community.

Turning to the rangers hut, which is still in limbo, I ask on the community's behalf that the demolition order remain inactivated and a decision be made as to which entity the lease is to go to. This building has both historical as well as tangible relevance to Pomona and a number of organisations, including the Pomona Men's Shed, which had submitted for tenure when NISER relinquished its lease some three years ago, yet it still sits idle. When there is such a great need, this increases the community's frustration.

The preservation and expansion of our national parks is important for our electorate. The process of the transition from forestry to national parks in order to achieve the best outcomes for both the increase and protection of our national parks is vital. I continue to seek funding for maintenance of our peri-urban parks. This is really important because as the risk assessments are done on fire and weeds within those peri-urban areas, it is much greater than a remote national park. I want to again thank the minister and officers from the departments, as well as the men of the Pomona Men's Shed and their wives and partners who have worked so diligently—as well as patiently—for so many years for this to be finally resolved. I look forward to celebrating with them.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (11.40 am): I rise to speak to the revocation motion. The world around us—both, here and abroad—is changing and it is changing fast. We all know that climate change is having a cataclysmic impact around the globe. So that the next generation can enjoy our rainforest, our rivers and our reefs, it is vital that we reduce our emissions. I seek to explain why this revocation is necessary in that particular context.

Everyone from households to supply chains and on to global companies in our most significant industries want to decarbonise and they want cheaper and cleaner energy. Boardrooms and consumers across the nation and around the world are demanding lower emissions products too. We are at great risk of losing out to our neighbours domestically and internationally if we do not act. The experts agree that high international energy pricing is driving record prices here at home in our own energy system. At the same time, demand for energy is growing. Whilst confronting our future is clearly a significant challenge, our energy transformation is the greatest opportunity our state and our nation has seen in generations.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is all about a future for clean, reliable and affordable energy for Queenslanders, powering good jobs in new regional industries. As I said, it is important that our plan makes sure that Queensland is not left behind as the world changes to clean energy. We are

planning to ensure that Queensland is at the forefront of that global energy transformation. That means we will ensure that we have secure energy for generations to come. We have heard today, and many times from members and commentators, that the plan will create 100,000 new jobs by 2040, with 70 per cent slated to be in regional Queensland. These jobs will come from direct construction of new renewable energy assets. They will come, as we heard from the Deputy Premier this morning, from those new manufacturing industries that will be part of the supply chain. They will come from economic growth in regional towns, places like Mackay and Gympie and, of course, here in our cities too. By working together across the state we will build more renewable energy, which is, according to the CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, the cheapest form of new energy generation. In an uncertain and unpredictable world, our plan locks in Queensland's energy security for the future, powered by 70 per cent locally made renewable energy by 2032. Because we kept energy assets in public hands, we have the control to ensure the transformation is delivered in an orderly way. We will invest in our publicly owned power stations, modernising them to clean energy hubs, keeping our energy system secure and reliable.

The Queensland SuperGrid will be Queensland's modern electricity system. It will consist of new backbone transmission, more renewables in our renewable energy zones, more batteries and low- to zero-emissions fuels. The infrastructure will allow us to reliably generate, store and transport cleaner electricity across the state with greater energy independence. Critically, and this is important for the purposes of this debate, we cannot use batteries alone to meet our long-term duration energy storage needs. While batteries will continue to be deployed, whilst we look forward to the development of a Queensland battery manufacturing industry and whilst batteries will provide many valuable services to the electricity system, it is pumped hydro energy storage that will be the cornerstone of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

To provide 24/7 reliable power Queensland's SuperGrid will require a mix of energy storage. Excess renewable energy can be stored until it is needed so that Queensland industry, businesses and households always have secure and reliable electricity. Pumped hydro-electric schemes as long duration storage are critical because they mean Queenslanders can be confident in having reliable, secure energy supplies, even during times when renewable energy generation from wind and solar is low. Pumped hydro is a proven technology. It is a foundational investment for Queensland's SuperGrid. We are not alone in making decisions to proceed with these significant nation-building infrastructure assets, including the one that is enabled by this revocation.

I want to point the House to some of the commentary that has been articulated in relation to the Borumba pumped hydro scheme. WWF Australia welcomed our pumped hydro proposal. Their CEO, Dermot O'Gorman, said—

Queensland can help Australia become a renewable energy exports superpower. But to provide 24/7 renewable power, and attract clean manufacturing, it's going to take large scale batteries and pumped hydro projects such as this one.

Kelly O'Shanassy, the Australian Conservation Foundation CEO, said—

Big renewable storage projects like this can speed the transition away from coal and gas and help make Queensland a renewable energy superpower.


Meanwhile, Solar Citizens energy strategist, Stephanie Gray, said—

Queenslanders are world leaders in the uptake of rooftop solar. Now we need to get serious about adding more storage, like batteries and pumped hydro, so we can utilise this abundant and cheap solar energy around the clock.

Meanwhile, those opposite prefer to be left in the dark. It is incredible that we have had to remind them in this House and in the public domain that, in fact, pumped hydro-electricity does work at night because gravity keeps working at night. The Palaszczuk government is investigating two sites. On the studies Queensland Hydro have done, Borumba rated well across all categories. The configuration of the proposed scheme differs to past proposals, particularly regarding the need to increase the volume of water held in the lower reservoir to reduce water fluctuations from operations. The key findings of our studies were these: that the capital costs in this project were neutral, driven by a suitable site head, a relatively short distance between reservoirs and the high cost of dam infrastructure; the state government holds most of the land associated with the project through our publicly owned energy company, our transmission provider, Powerlink; the large catchment area of the lower reservoir contributes to favourable hydrological conditions at the site; it has proximity to South-East Queensland, the load centre, and transmission connections; and early surveys indicated relatively favourable geological conditions. Our other pumped hydro site is at Pioneer-Burdekin, and at five gigawatts it could be even more important than Borumba. Without our pumped hydro schemes Queensland cannot transition away from regular reliance on coal-fired power and our nation cannot meet its emissions reduction objectives. That is how critical this infrastructure is. That is why this revocation is important.

Queensland's future—our nation's future—quite literally relies on these new pumped hydro assets. When one considers how monumental the challenge is—the significance of the infrastructure we need to build; the creation of jobs; a new green hydrogen industry to decarbonise the world; the billions of dollars of investment that will flow into regional Queensland; new industries in batteries, manufacturing and critical minerals; and, of course, the climate risk if we do not take action—these pumped hydro projects are the single most critical element of the state's energy transformation.

The revocation will allow our engineering teams to drill small holes that will be not much bigger than a mango but may be the most important holes in the nation's history. To deliver the pumped hydro project on time, we need to complete these critical geotechnical, hydrological and environmental assessments. They will support us to make a final investment decision on the project early next year. To go ahead, we need this temporary measure to support these temporary investigations. This means temporary tracks to bring a small drill rig to site to drill 14 bore holes that will allow us to see what is underground to support the construction of an underground power station. Crucially, no permanent vehicle access is required, there will be no aboveground infrastructure and no footprint will be left behind. Under the act, an environmental management plan will detail how the site will be conserved. I can inform the House that we have made it very clear that we expect that nothing will be left behind, not even a footprint.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.50 am): It is a great day when we can stand in this House and talk about a legacy project. Of course, I am referring to the Mullett Creek Dam at Waterloo. I acknowledge Tom Gorton and his family for their 22-year endeavour and for reaching at least one more stepping stone towards the success of their enterprise in my electorate. I pay my respects to the family and acknowledge their frustrations with the bureaucratic stepping stones that they have had to negotiate. While it has been said that this is not a foregone conclusion, we acknowledge their work and we very much thank the minister for bringing this motion to the House today. It is great when we can make a speech in this place about something so important for that family and, more importantly, the district and the electorate.

The 12,000-megalitre dam will be significant. It has been acknowledged in previous contributions that it is about trebling production. We often talk about the mangoes, avocados and other produce that come from this particular part of the world so we really are quite excited about this step. The freehold tenure that needs to be enacted to accommodate the dam is part of this revocation and, of course, as has been said we are very excited to talk about it today.

This is about water security for tree crops. We know that water is the lifeblood of agricultural enterprises and is vital for mangoes, macadamias and avocados. We want to see the flow-on economic, social, corporate and commercial benefits. The traditional owners and local, state and federal stakeholders also have a buy-in. I acknowledge the Gortons' work with the First Nations people in fire mitigation practices, particularly in the state forests that surround them and the Littabella National Park, which face significant fire issues. The family have been farming at Mullett Creek since 1901. In the foyer on level 3, near the door, is a carved owl named Charlie. The wood from which the owl is carved came from the Gorton farm. Tom's father cut the log and Tom snigged it out with a bullock team.

Mr Stevens: What sort of timber is it?


Mr BENNETT: That is a good question from the member for Mermaid Beach, but I am not sure of the answer. It is a nice bit of timber that has been carved into something important and there is nothing more important than having an owl on the parliamentary precinct. The family's connection to the parliament should not be understated and we welcome that contribution

Tom, Rob and their families have been involved on the farm for a long time. Between them, they have 90 years experience in farming at that location. They have a strong existing track record of growing their business and producing superior quality fresh fruit for domestic and international markets. I note that some five or six years ago we trialled the irradiation of mangoes to be sent to California. Those mangoes came off Tom's and Rob's farm. Their own packing shed was built in 2008. They supply produce to Coles, Woolworths and Aldi Australia-wide and export to Asia and Middle Eastern countries as well. Additional growth of the enterprise has been limited by the water supply issue. Given the series of droughts, floods and other issues, we do need to make sure that water supply is secure not only in this case but also across the nation as we look at what food production will look like into the future.

I know from experience that the Gorton family takes real pride in their custodianship of native bushland, as I mentioned earlier. They put a lot of their own resources into maintaining the national parks and state forests around their enterprise. We know that they consciously employ environmental practices and that farming sustainably is part of their core mission and values.

We know that without sufficient water businesses, communities and economies will collapse and that is why this motion is really important. The Gortons have six full-time employees but their staff numbers expand to 150 employees during peak harvesting times. That is a significant part of the economy for my electorate. They know from the modelling that they have done on the dam, which has been given to the department, they will be able to employ an extra 12 full-time staff and 250 casuals will come on board during harvesting, which is a significant increase as all members would agree. The expected increases for their Sunny Bluff Produce business are really important and I am talking about things such as transport and logistics; technology and computers; banking and accounting; fertilizers and chemicals; protocols, consultants and industry bodies; parts and repairs; and on it goes. As any farming family knows, a lot of investment is made in those things.

I acknowledge the minister and the department for the briefings we have received over the many years that this has been going on. Their forthrightness and ability to communicate have been welcomed. However, in closing, I say again that the bureaucracy that the Gorton family has had to negotiate has been horrendous. It is not the state government issue; there are a lot of independent inquiries and stakeholders involved. However, we are now another step closer to a great enterprise and a great outcome for my electorate. I commend the revocation motion to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.55 am): I rise to speak in support of the revocation motion before the House today. As we know, we are in unprecedented times. Climate change is causing real impact and now is the time for action. The action we take today supports the state's effort to build a greener and brighter future for Queensland. The Queensland Labor government has just announced the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which is a \$62 billion investment into the state's energy system through to 2035. I was really thrilled to hear the member for Bonney speak in support of the opportunities that the plan brings to Queensland and also to hear of great support from other conservation organisations such as the World Wildlife Fund and similar.

The Energy and Jobs Plan puts new technologies and public interest at the forefront of decision-making, setting targets for Queensland to reach 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. Queensland is on the way to developing the SuperGrid, a contemporary energy system consisting of new foundational pumped hydro energy storage assets, new backbone transmission, more renewables within the Queensland renewable energy zone regions, more batteries and low emission to zero emission gas.

The infrastructure associated with the SuperGrid will enable us to reliably generate, store and transport cleaner electricity across the state with more energy independence. We are introducing a range of measures to put downward pressure on power prices for communities, drive savings on electricity bills and help businesses decarbonise with access to clean energy technologies. I have seen this across my own electorate as many people have told me that they are thrilled that we have kept our energy assets in government hands and many local community groups and clubs are putting solar panels on their roofs.


The Energy and Jobs Plan is a plan for the environment and will reduce the state's energy emissions by 2035. The proposal before the House today is one step among the broader action that is being led by this Labor government towards addressing climate change. It is really great to be part of a government that is ahead of the game. We are nation leaders.

The site at Borumba Dam has been identified as one of the best potential sites in Queensland for long-duration pumped hydro, as set out in the Queensland hydro study conducted in 2017. The study used a multicriteria analysis decision-making tool to determine the best possible size for pumped hydro across the state. In its simplest form, a pumped hydro scheme needs a source of water and two reservoirs separated by a change in elevation, known as the head. A larger head will generally provide for lower cost electricity generation and storage on a per unit basis as the volume of water required per megawatt hour is lower. Another important requirement is for the tunnel or pipeline connecting the upper and lower reservoirs to be short and steep for a given head difference. Geotechnical investigations in the preliminary work phases of large infrastructure projects are paramount to obtaining critical information on the physical properties of soils for earthworks and foundations, especially large reservoirs and tunnel structures associated with pumped hydro schemes.

The proposed revocation would facilitate investigations into the best way forward to deliver the Borumba pumped hydro project—a project that promises to generate up to two gigawatts of power, with enough storage to provide electricity for up to 24 hours at this output, capable of supporting up to two million homes, which is really amazing. The footprint associated with geotechnical drilling and

exploration is very small and localised, so the proposal is expected to have negligible impact upon the values of the Conondale National Park. The areas are proposed to be returned to national park status following an outcome from the investigations. As outlined by my colleague the member for Springwood, once the investigations are done the areas will be returned with no indication that anything has taken place—not even a footprint. The proponent would be required to conduct detailed environmental and cultural heritage assessments for the works prior to making an application for authority to get onto the site, minimising impacts to the conservation and cultural values of the area.

Pumped hydro projects are large, complex projects with long construction and operational time frames, typically following a staged assessment process that informs project parameters to achieve good decision-making and functionality. Each program of this nature is site-specific and requires a systematic approach to demonstrating rigour and to consider all of the options on the table. I am really thrilled that we are able to provide an opportunity to do some investigative work to make sure that the pumped hydro goes ahead, that we can deliver cleaner, greener power to Queensland. I know that people in the bayside are particularly enthusiastic about the Energy and Jobs Plan. I have spoken with many of them. They are really excited that we as a government have begun this project. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.01 pm): As a former shadow environment minister and as a former environment minister, I take it very seriously when we come to this chamber and debate the potential revocation of conservation areas around the state. As I have said before, sometimes it is required and sometimes it is necessary. As we have heard today, sometimes it is only temporary.

Quite rightly, it takes a little while to work through this process. What has been interesting and fairly consistent from all of the contributions today concerns the length of time we have been working on some of these projects. I think I heard the member for Noosa talk about the fact that the Pomona men's shed has been at least half a decade in the making. The member for Burnett said that the Mullett Creek aspect has been 22 years in the making. I can add to that. What we are seeing with the revocations in the Beerburrum state forest area, both east and west, are at least 13 years in the making, because they are connected to the duplication of the Beerburrum to Nambour rail corridor. That was meant to have commenced in 2009, before the then Bligh Labor government, in which the now Premier was transport minister, pulled the funding and put it towards the Springfield line in her own electorate. Finally, after our federal colleagues—the member for Fisher, Andrew Wallace, and the member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien—put in 50 per cent of the funding to a project that previously was 100 per cent state owned, we now have action occurring on the Beerburrum to Nambour rail corridor.

I take this moment to explain to my constituents what they are seeing and what they will be seeing as part of this revocation and as part of that work. Already my constituents, if they are driving up Steve Irwin Way to Beerburrum Road and keep going a little further north to Nursery Road, will see significant construction occurring on the right-hand side, the eastern side of Steve Irwin Way. That is in fact the realignment of Steve Irwin Way. We are shifting Steve Irwin Way to the east so that we can subsequently come through and straighten the Nambour line on the western side of Steve Irwin Way. That is where these revocations come into play.


Already there has been some preliminary vegetation clearing—not in these protected areas, obviously, but further north—up near Moffatt Road. What this allows, through the revocation of that woodland that people will see just to the north of Beerburrum Road, on the western side of Steve Irwin Way and a little further north again on the western side of both Steve Irwin Way and the Nambour rail corridor, is a straightening and duplication of the line through that section.

It is well and truly overdue. It is going to be a fantastic outcome. It is disappointing that we have had to impact upon some of the native vegetation in that area, but the outcome will be beneficial to the environment in that we will be increasing the capacity of the Nambour rail corridor and hopefully getting more people and more freight onto that route. As I think another member mentioned, it is the route that goes all the way from Brisbane to Cairns. Any passengers or freight that we can put on rail hopefully will see a reduction in the number of people and trucks on the Bruce Highway. We have seen billions of dollars invested by particularly the federal Morrison government on the Bruce Highway. In my part of the world, all that tends to do is create a bigger car park. We need to be getting both people and freight off that and onto the rail; therefore, these small revocations are necessary.

The people of Glass House will continue to see a lot of activity in that area between Beerburrum Road and Bowen Road at Glass House Mountains. I do encourage any of them who have any concerns or questions to please contact me and my office—glass.house @ parliament.qld.gov.au is the best way to get in touch with us. I am happy to explain what people are seeing.

I also want to briefly touch on the Conondale revocation. Conondale itself, much of the Conondale Ranges and much of the Conondale National Park sit within the electorate of Glass House. It is actually the border of Glass House and Nanango. Further to the north, it goes into the electorates of Nicklin and Gympie. The aspect that is being considered today is actually, I understand, in the electorate of Gympie and is connected with the Borumba Dam project that the government has proposed. I want to relay again—people will hear ‘Conondale’ and suspect it is occurring in our part of the world: it is very clearly further north and very clearly temporary. I have heard from those opposite that we will be seeing a temporary revocation in that area to allow some testing to be done to determine whether the Borumba Dam hydro project is feasible and is going to work. The government has backed this one in. It will be a concern if, after doing this testing, we find that it is not possible.

As others have said, people will be seeing some drilling. The proponent will be required to remove all equipment and rehabilitate any drilling holes, and at the end of the day you will not know they have even been there. I understand from the minister that eventually the area will be again declared part of the protected area estate, once that work is done. I just want the good voters of the electorate of Glass House to understand why these two revocations are necessary—why they are required in the first instance for the Nambour rail corridor project and, in the second, for work to be potentially done on Borumba Dam. These are not decisions that anyone in this chamber makes lightly, but they are necessary and will produce better environmental outcomes in the long run.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (12.07 pm): I rise to speak in support of the state forest revocation proposals before the House today. Queenslanders love public transport. They hate road congestion. In particular, the proposals relating to the Beerburrum East State Forest and Beerburrum West State Forest go to back in public transport and, as the member for Glass House mentioned, rail freight and ultimately help alleviate at least some of the road congestion that we see day after day on the Bruce Highway. I know that those measures together are something the people of the Pumicestone electorate will support wholeheartedly.

As a former environment adviser once upon a time, in a previous life, I know that we spend a lot of time in this House considering revocations. I know that for people in our electorates the idea of revoking national parks can be a bit alarming. What we see over and over again is that this government—and no doubt previous governments—takes revocations of national parks really seriously. They are carefully considered and carefully worked through. Compensation and/or offsets are provided. Certainly, compensation is part of the package that goes to the Beerburrum West and Beerburrum East state forest revocations.

We see everything from small revocations to allow for holes the size of a mango to be drilled to small revocations to allow for additional drainage, to revocations to allow for access roads. They are always done to the most limited extent possible and are carefully considered and are a part of necessary works to achieve bigger and more important outcomes in the scheme of things.

Specifically I wish to speak to the Beerburrum East and Beerburrum West State Forest revocations that we are looking at today. They are beautiful state forest areas that contain exotic pine plantations and some open eucalypt forest. I had reason to head into the area last weekend when I was returning from our Labor Party state conference to avoid very significant congestion on the Bruce Highway. We all welcome additional public transport resourcing that will help alleviate the traffic congestion that people in our Moreton Bay communities deal with day after day. They are very scenic and beautiful areas—I congratulate the member for Glass House on just how attractive they are—at the foothills of the Glass House Mountains.

As I said our government does not take revocations lightly. They are necessary as part of stage 1 of the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade—a major rail project that will deliver on our government's commitment to providing a sustainable transport system with all of the associated environmental benefits that come from getting people off our highways and getting freight off semitrailers and on to rail. Just over 10 hectares of Beerburrum East State Forest will need to be revoked for rail purposes and just under 20 hectares of Beerburrum West State Forest will be revoked for those same rail purposes.

This project is transformational. It is a \$550.8 million upgrade. It will improve the reliability, safety and capacity of the rail line and associated infrastructure. It will have far-reaching benefits for communities from the Sunshine Coast all the way up to Cairns and communities in northern Moreton Bay, including my area of Pumicestone. Ultimately, the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade will significantly improve commuter and freight transport connectivity between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. As I noted, it will help relieve congestion pressures on the Bruce Highway.

Currently, the Beerburrum to Nambour section of the north coast rail line is a 39-kilometre single track rail line that has passing loops. That part of the north coast line is one of only a few remaining sections of single track in Australia that carry commuter, long-distance and freight trains. This upgrade is much needed. The project will deliver a track duplication between Beerburrum and Landsborough. It will reduce commuter travel times and allow for increased passenger and freight services to the growing Sunshine Coast region and support the remainder of the track to Far North Queensland.


Stage 1, as the member for Glass House noted, will also include a one-kilometre realignment of Steve Irwin Way. That work is underway now in sections that have not required revocation. Nobody likes to see our protected area estates require revocation, but I am confident that these revocations are going to serve a really important community and commuter purpose into the future. It will duplicate and strengthen the rail corridor. That is something that is very welcome to all of our communities north of Brisbane.

As we know and as recognised in our Connecting SEQ 2031 integrated transport strategy, rail is the most efficient people mover. It is also a very efficient freight mover, particularly in light of the infrastructure pathway toward the 2032 Olympic Games. These kinds of major investments and major infrastructure upgrades are more important than ever. Our government is working and will keep working to deliver public transport upgrades that guarantee Queensland's economic prosperity, sustainability and quality of life for all of us into the future.

There are some other benefits that this project will deliver for communities in the northern Moreton Bay. In particular, upgrades to the Landsborough station car park facility will see an extra 300 car-parking spaces and expansion of the Nambour park-and-ride facility by around 50 parking spaces. Given the extent to which many residents of northern Moreton Bay and the southern Sunshine Coast are regular work commuters to Brisbane or the northern suburbs of Brisbane, we know that these infrastructure upgrades to support public transport infrastructure will make a really big difference to people's lives.

Additionally, the project is going to unlock at least 330 jobs. Our government has a laser sharp focus on delivering more and better jobs for Queenslanders. This important project will certainly help to deliver that, as well as being important to our local economy. In the northern Moreton Bay traditionally we have had higher unemployment than in some other parts of Queensland. It is wonderful to see this nation-building, state-building infrastructure on track to go ahead with all of the job benefits that that will bring.

I am confident that the modest revocations that are proposed will not negatively impact the economic, social and cultural values that are offered by the two state forests. They will not impact their recreational use which is very significant. They are very popular destinations for horse riders, walkers, trail bike riders and four-wheel drivers. I note that HQPlantations' interests in these state forests have been satisfied. The revocation proposals before the Legislative Assembly are practical, are sensible and will result in significant community benefits for the entirety of the northern Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast regions and beyond as well as significant environmental benefits. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.15 pm): I too rise to contribute to the revocation motion that is before the House. Like other members have said, this is a really important part of the process. We as members of parliament get notifications of the proposed revocations so we can communicate with our local communities and then make the decision in this House. This is the exact spot where these revocations need to be discussed and debated.

As the shadow minister, the member for Bonney, has said, we will be supporting these revocations. There are very important reasons for the three revocations I wish to talk about to go ahead. The first one is in relation to Oakview, which sits in the great electorate of Nanango.

I heard the previous speaker talk about revocations going towards infrastructure projects, and that is correct. This revocation is going towards extending the conservation of lands. It is literally taking a small bit of the Oakview State Forest and transferring it into the Oakview National Park. For any members who are interested—and I know the whole House will be riveted by this—it is a very small parcel of land. It looks like it will align with the national park more sensibly. I fully support that on behalf of the people of the Nanango electorate. The brief explanation of the proposal says 'to be dedicated as additions to the existing Oakview National Park in recognition of the conservation value of these lands'. That is why I will be supporting that.

There are many great tracts of national parks through the electorate of Nanango. I was at the Bunya Mountains on the weekend—and what a beautiful part of the world that is. I will be approaching the minister about the issue we have there where our rural fires need a toilet. They have put in for a toilet and they cannot get one because their fire shed backs on to land held by the Western Downs Regional Council. We just need a bit of realignment so we can put in toilet facilities for those hardworking fires. They definitely deserve it. Unfortunately we know there are some problems in national parks and state forest lands around making sure we are looking after them properly, so the fire season does come upon us very quickly. Those rural fires need somewhere safe to go to the bathroom. I will be continuing my advocacy in relation to that.

I want to talk about the two other revocations. One is the Conondale revocation. That is important. I know that the minister said something about a mango. I was not in the House.

Mr O'Connor: The size of a mango—the drilling.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is for drilling holes the size of a mango. It is important. It was not this minister; it was the Minister for Energy, I think—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No, that minister may not mention mangos! It is important because of the proposed pumped hydro. The shadow minister for agriculture and I have both been on Borumba Dam. I give a shout-out to Chris Mangold, who put us in his tinnie and took us quite extensively around Borumba Dam, right up into all the reaches of Borumba Dam.

It is very important that the project gets the approval it needs. It is interesting to note that a lot of the land to be resumed around there is already owned by the state government, and therefore the impacts on those landholders are quite negligible. There are two upper reservoirs that will need to be built, and Powerlink has been working extremely hard with my community for the last several years on where those big transmission lines will go should this project go ahead. It is deeply concerning when you hear that all of this work has been done. There is a proposal to raise the dam wall by 20 metres and two upper reservoirs need to be built. Powerlink has been doing all of the work in the community, and they have been doing that for several years and doing it well. Let's hope this works. They have to do this so they can do a test site. It is deeply concerning to both the member for Gympie and me as local members that this project may not get up. Let's hope that drilling works, because the member for Gympie and I have been overly supportive of the pumped hydro at Borumba for many years.

That is in contrast to the Pioneer Valley pumped hydro, where there is no business case and no test sites. There are two national parks either side of the proposed main dam site and two reservoirs are going to be up the top. People have had phone calls to say, 'Your house is going to get ripped down and bulldozed', but I have not seen any revocations come through this House in relation to that project. I have not seen any of the preworks that will be needed for that area. I note that the member for Mackay is in the House. I know that Netherdale locals spoke at length at a community meeting about their angst, distress and upset.

Mrs Gilbert interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member for Mackay, who just said, 'It's not distress, it's their homes.' I am sorry, member for Mackay, I have been on the ground and they are distressed.

Mrs GILBERT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence. She is misleading parliament. She is misrepresenting my words.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Mackay, there are procedures if you have that issue. Are you raising a point of order?

Mrs GILBERT: I take personal offence at what she said and I ask her to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. The offence the people of Netherdale take against the member for Mackay is huge. It is interesting to hear a member whose electorate sits in the centre of Brisbane, the member for Aspley, call out something that is so trivial and so ridiculous, because he knows there is no greater supporter of dams—

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He can laugh all he wants because the member who sits in that seat has no understanding of what people in regional Queensland go through so he can have what he wants.

Mr MELLISH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those comments and ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, it might assist the House if you withdraw that.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. It is important to note that the member for Aspley said—

Mrs Gilbert: You're a mean girl. You can get better.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection every day of the week, member for Mackay, and I hope Hansard got it. Let me tell you what the people of Netherdale and that area are saying about the member for Mackay. Please, member for Mackay, take the ministers and the Premier and go back and listen to the community. For two years the government has been working behind the scenes with Powerlink on the Borumba project. Powerlink has been talking to the community. Bringing the community along with you is exactly what you have to do for big projects. You do not just ring them up the night before an announcement is made and say, 'Your house is going to be flooded' and then say they are not distressed. Goodness me, how out of touch is that member!

Mrs GILBERT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence. The member is repeating what she said before when I took personal offence. I asked her to withdraw and I ask her to withdraw again.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Ms Scanlon: How many did you consult with about the Bradford scheme? How many people weren't consulted about that?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am more than happy to take that interjection because I did not go and say that we were going to flood people's homes without talking to them. We had dedicated—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister and member for Nanango, you will not exchange comments across the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is what planning is about, putting \$20 million towards a planning study so if your house is going to be flooded or if your backyard is going to be taken just so people in Aspley can turn on the lights every day—

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is exactly right, and those poor public servants who have had to communicate that. People have rung me and said, 'On behalf of the government this is what we had to do.' They are so disgusted with the process and the lack of communication, and that is coming from within your own government. Your people are telling us this—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member for Nanango.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is how upset they are about this. We do not take this lightly. That is why when we are talking about a revocation for pumped hydro—

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Absolutely. That is why we are completely supporting it, but what we are saying is that there is another project that is hurting people. I know the member for Lytton said 'isn't it going to be wonderful' because her community is talking about it, but her community is not going to be flooded! Her community gets to turn the lights on when this big project gets up, but her community does not have to be consulted about their homes being flooded. They do not have to worry about a road on either side of pristine national parks. There has been no community consultation on this project. Consultation with the local community is important. Bringing your community along with you is important. That is exactly why I am pleading with this government to open up your eyes, use your ears and listen.

(Time expired)

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.26 pm): I rise to make a very brief contribution to the debate before the parliament, particularly on the components that deal with the area in my electorate around Borumba Dam and the work that has been ongoing there for some time. I want to acknowledge the work that is going on. I want to acknowledge the process that has been put in place. When this was first announced by Minister de Brenni I had a brief chat with the minister and I said, 'Please keep me informed as the local member. Keep me briefed and make your departmental people and the people who are involved with this project available to keep me provided with a certain amount of knowledge with regard to this project.' I acknowledge that process.

It was important that that happened because a previous Labor government had a plan to build a dam in the Mary Valley. It was called the Traveston dam. That did not go particularly well. It impacted the residents of our region, particularly the residents of the Mary Valley. It was very poor when Peter Beattie arrived in the Mary Valley to announce that he was going to construct the Traveston dam and then set about acquiring properties. It created all sorts of issues. I know this Borumba pumped hydro project is different, but it was suggested back at that time as an alternative to the failed Traveston dam. There were a lot of reasons given by the Premier and others at the time as to why this project could not happen. I did indicate to the minister that there were a lot of reasons and obviously a lot of work that needed to be done to shore up this project if it were to proceed.

Last week I was briefed by proponents for the dam and the people who are involved with respect to this, and they alerted me to the fact that they need to get in and do the geotechnical work. I fully understand the reason why that needs to happen. It is a challenging area. I am sure the minister has been there. Certainly I know that Minister de Brenni has been there. It is a challenging area to get into. It is very inaccessible country and a lot of it is rangeland country. That does create challenges. They indicated to me last week that they needed to get in to do the geotechnical work to make certain that as they bring the business case forward—and hopefully that will be sooner rather than later—we can understand the geotechnical challenges there may be with this project.

There are other ongoing issues, and I am not sure whether the minister will have to consider these down the track. One issue is the transmission lines that will connect the generating component of this proposal to the various substations. One of them is right on the corner of my electorate, the Woolooga Substation. A lot of properties are going to be affected and a lot of work needs to be done to connect that transmission line and make certain it can deliver what the government needs while, more importantly, taking into account the concerns of the landholders.

Borumba is a beautiful place and this dam has been there for a long time. It was raised many decades ago and supplies water into that region. I am looking forward to the next briefing that has been promised around the hydrological component of this proposal and how that is going to work within the Mary Basin Water Plan. Obviously, there are some issues in and around that, and I have been assured that I will get this briefing, and no doubt I will, as I am quite keen to see that.

In closing, a lot more needs to be said about this down the track as the business case is presented to the parliament. In respect of the ongoing work, it makes sense for the minister to bring this motion before the parliament so the work can continue and we can get the answers we need in this parliament so the government can make an informed decision based on the recommendations that come forward.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr PERRETT: I take that interjection. It is a significant proposal. I think the lower reservoir will be raised 20 metres at a minimum. We know about the two gigawatt generating capacity of this proposal. It is going to inundate further land, including a lot of rainforest areas and the like, and there is ecological work that is going on in that region. A new upper reservoir needs to be built and that water feeds down, as we all know. We know the concept. Minister de Brenni somehow thinks we do not understand how these proposals work. They are pretty simple. We know how pumped hydro works and the power that is generated from solar panels. A lot of it is unused. We know that it will be utilised during the day when the sunlight hours are good and they can pump the water up when it is cheap and then feed it back down late in the afternoon and into the night when that peak capacity is needed. It has been done across the world and it continues to be done. It is something that has merit.

As I mentioned earlier, I have given my conditional approval to the process, based on the business case coming back, and I think that is sound and sensible. We have to see all of the information come before the government and this parliament. In this case, the motion that I am speaking to and dealing with makes sense. I hope the outcomes of that will be available sooner rather than later.

Question put—That motion No. 1 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That motion No. 2 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


Question put—That motion No. 3 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)**APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)****BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from 9 November (see p. 3500), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.33 pm), continuing: When I spoke last night, I was highlighting the submitters on the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. One of the concerns that was alluded to was the lack of consultation on this legislation with the broader community. The main aspect of the bill is to introduce a five per cent racing levy in addition to the current 15 per cent betting tax. It is designed to call out the bonus bets and how this is calculated into the tax. As the member for Hinchinbrook mentioned, and as the report states—

Neither the Bill, the Racing Act, nor the Racing Regulation provides a definition of 'country thoroughbred race meetings'. The explanatory notes imply that Racing Queensland will have the power to determine which events fall within this category—

That needs to be clarified and cleared up so people can have some certainty about where these events will happen in their area.

I will jump to the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) and speak about a few issues in my area, especially the \$2.8 billion unforeseen expense for Queensland Treasury. I would like to highlight some issues to do with the Queensland Police Service because there are some unforeseen expenses there. One thing that would be very handy for our police officers is having automatic numberplate recognition equipment in every police vehicle. This would be a great way of dealing with crime in the local areas and the people who are stealing vehicles or printing numberplates with 3D printers. This would be a great way of dealing with the issue.

In relation to unforeseen expenses in Main Roads, we are looking at a \$600 million blowout with the Coomera Connector. We need to concentrate on roads further west of the northern Darlington Range. There are residential estates out in those areas, like Yarrabilba in the member for Logan's electorate, Jimboomba and Flagstone. A lot of motorists from there who work on the Gold Coast drive from those areas down Beaudesert-Nerang Road and over Mount Tamborine through Tamborine Oxenford Road, which causes an enormous amount of congestion at my highway interchanges as they continue to the Gold Coast. Roads like the Tamborine Oxenford Road, Beaudesert-Nerang Road and Maudsland Road are literally becoming mini M1s. We need to start addressing this issue and find an alternative route for these people to come to the Gold Coast. Tamborine Oxenford Road is a mountain road. It is simply not designed to handle this additional traffic. Also, Beaudesert-Nerang Road goes through Canungra, and a lot of residents in Canungra are very upset with the massive increase in traffic through their quiet town. It is not so quiet anymore.


These issues need to be addressed. We would also love for a bit of money to be spent on finding a proper solution at exit 57. The current \$25 million solution they implemented a few years ago has done next to nothing to alleviate the congestion, especially for people coming from Hope Island Road. We need to spend some proper money here to build some flyovers to alleviate the congestion.

I notice that the education department did not have an overspend, so the Minister for Education lives within her budget, which is wonderful. I would like to add though that maintenance in our schools needs to be addressed. I got a reply from a question on notice which said that the Department of Education is proposing a review into the allocation model in 2022-23 to ensure the distribution of funding meets Queensland's needs. This is to do with school maintenance funding. I thank the minister for looking into this matter because it is a bugbear in my area. I have a lot of older schools which desperately need maintenance. Also, when it comes to schools, at Gaven State School—

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This debate is on the appropriation bills. The member has made it quite clear that there is no overspend in education but he proceeds to question maintenance in schools.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): There is no point of order. The bill is very wideranging. It covers most of the departments of government. I have been listening carefully to what the member for Theodore has said.

Mr BOOTHMAN: As I say, we do need to address the issue when it comes to maintenance shortfalls in these schools. Also, I would like to shout out to my schools to thank them for the hard work they do in working with the young minds of today and best preparing them for a future in the workforce. I know that the minister has been to Oxenford State School. There is one thing I would love her to do for Oxenford State School. We need a new administration building with a lot bigger staff area for professional development. It is something that they would really like and it will make a huge difference for the education outcomes for teachers in that school. Thank you.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.39 pm): I will take that on notice and we can have a meeting about it, member for Theodore. I rise to support the bills before the House, in particular the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The racing industry is stronger than ever, thanks to the Palaszczuk government. Our important reforms have delivered better integrity, animal welfare, financial stability and the infrastructure that racing needs to grow.

The results are clear: the economic contribution of the racing industry to Queensland has soared almost 60 per cent under our government, to a record nearly \$2 billion in 2020-21. This bill builds on the legacy by delivering a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry which replaces most of the government's current racing grants with a consolidated, ongoing revenue stream. It does this by introducing a five per cent racing levy, in addition to the 15 per cent betting tax rate; incorporating free bets in the calculation of the betting tax; and providing for the hypothecation of 80 per cent of annual betting tax revenue to Racing Queensland.

Broadening the betting tax and returning 80 per cent of the revenue collected to the industry gives the industry greater certainty and sustainability. It ensures that as and if the size of the pie generated through wagering on Queensland racing product grows, so too will the industry's share. The new arrangements will put all providers of online wagering services on a more level playing field.

Under the current exclusive wagering agreement, TAB Queensland does not pay the betting tax or race field fees, which are paid by corporate bookmakers and interstate TABs to Racing Queensland for providing race field information. Once these changes commence on 1 December, TAB Queensland will be required to pay the betting tax and racing field fees. While Tabcorp will still offer on-course betting services and retain retail exclusivity, its on-course sponsorship and advertising exclusivity will end. I inherited probably the worst deal I could ever imagine that the previous government negotiated. It was incredible! Thank goodness I have been able to unravel it. It means race clubs across Queensland will have new opportunities to enter into lucrative sponsorship agreements with other bookmakers.

As part of the settlement between Tabcorp and Racing Queensland, announced in June, Tabcorp will also be required to make a one-off \$100 million payment to RQ which will be put towards further investment in the long-term sustainability of the industry and provide \$50 million to the Racing Infrastructure Fund used for vital building projects that help grow racing right across Queensland in rural, regional and metropolitan areas.

This bill is further proof that country racing in Queensland has had no greater friend than the Palaszczuk government. In line with broader amendments to the Betting Tax Act, an alternative funding method is required to provide funding certainty to country racing participants into the future. To this end, the bill amends the Racing Act and Racing Regulation to hypothecate funding to country thoroughbred racing and allow for indexation, and to allow for details of the minimum dollar amount and indexation to be prescribed in the Racing Regulation. The amendments to the Racing Regulation prescribe the minimum amount to country racing to be \$20 million, to be indexed at two per cent per annum.

Queensland has had a minimum level of funding for non-TAB thoroughbred racing required under the Racing Act since 2005. In 2016-17, prior to the Palaszczuk government establishing the Country Racing Program, the legislated minimum amount of country racing funding was 5.32 per cent of the net product fee, which amounted to about \$5.65 million a year. Our Country Racing Program that we introduced the year after, 2017-18, has invested nearly \$106 million into country racing over the last six years. Each year the program has invested \$17.6 million into country racing—that is 3½ times the amount that we inherited from those opposite—providing \$15 million to support prize money, including the Queensland thoroughbred incentive scheme, clubs, jockey riding fees, superannuation and WorkCover expenses, and club meeting payments to support country race meetings; and \$2.6 million in grants for country racing club infrastructure repairs, maintenance and asset replenishment and replacement. You can go to any country racing club around Queensland and you will see this money being invested in those clubs—and aren't they loving it!

The new proposed minimum dollar amount of \$20 million will replace the Country Racing Program from 1 December—it will be in legislation—representing a real increase in the minimum funding for country racing. Should betting tax revenue grow at greater rates than we expected, the government is able to re-evaluate the prescribed amount. This model is all about providing certainty so that country thoroughbred racing is no longer dependent on grants but instead has a sustainable funding source. On this side of the House, we know how important racing is to the economic and social fabric of regional and rural communities across Queensland but, unlike those opposite, we put our money where our mouth is.

Since the point-of-consumption tax came in on 1 October 2018, it has really delivered in spades for the racing industry. It is worth remembering the LNP's scaremongering in 2018 when we brought it in. During the debate on the original bill, I remember the member for Surfers Paradise saying, 'Labor will rip \$366 million out of Queensland's wagering and racing industry.' Nothing could be further from the truth. What an hysterical statement to make! Not only has that not come about but the industry has gone from strength to strength. In fact, that prediction was laughable then, just as it is laughable today. What actually happened is we have grown wagering and betting in this state and it has gone from strength to strength.

We are really looking forward to delivering this. Racing Queensland used the funding boost to release a new investment growth plan, delivering \$29 million over two years in increased prize money. That is incredible—in two years, \$29 million being delivered. You can ask all of the clubs' CEOs. Lizzie King said this is a game changer. There is no-one in the industry, except those who have to pay the tax and the levy, of course, who does not back this; everyone is behind this. They cannot believe what we are doing in this state. It is a fantastic step forward.

I also acknowledge Racing Queensland CEO Brendan Parnell, who had this to say at the committee hearings: 'We will have the long-term certainty to be able to provide an investment program for our clubs for infrastructure and major events.' I take this opportunity to say that Brendan has indicated that he will be leaving next year, in around March. He has been an absolute delight to work with. He is absolutely first-class when it comes to his knowledge of racing. I know that we are going to greatly miss him, but he is going to take the opportunity to go overseas, to the UK. It is a wonderful opportunity for him. I wish him all the very best. He has been an absolute delight. A lot of this would not have happened if it were not for his expert advice. I wish him all the very best.


It is interesting: in her contribution the member for South Brisbane talked about the evils of betting. Honestly, this is rank hypocrisy from the member of South Brisbane; you have to draw breath when you hear it. I want to mention one person—Mr Duncan Turpie. He is reportedly part of the secretive punters club. That club turns over about \$2.4 billion a year in betting, in reported activity. He is a private individual, as all private individuals are who bet, including the member for Mermaid Beach and me. We absolutely love placing a bet—no doubt about it at all. They talked about us pandering to Tabcorp on a \$14,000 donation they made to the Labor Party and others—the LNP was mentioned and the Labor Party was mentioned. What they failed to mention is that Mr Duncan Turpie in 2021-22, in my understanding, provided \$201,000 to the Greens party. In June 2020 he provided \$100,000 to the—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Minister, take your seat. I remind all members who are on a warning that they should not be interjecting. The list is very long. You know who you are. I am not going to remind you. Even the members who have been sent out of the chamber are still on a warning for another 11 minutes. Let's keep it calm.

Ms GRACE: In June 2020 he provided \$100,000 just before the election, an example of rank hypocrisy that has come to categorise the Greens.

I thank the Gold Coast Turf Club, Australian Trainers Association, Redcliffe Harness Racing Club, Australian Harness Racing but, most of all, Ken O'Dowd, who said, 'These are some of the best laws in the country.' That was from the former federal member for Flynn. Good on him. That is fantastic. With those words, I commend the bill to the House. It is a fantastic piece of legislation.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.50 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I very much appreciate your previous guidance; I had failed to recall that. I rise to also contribute to the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. When this bill was put on our tables about a month ago I sat here and looked at the green. I actually said to the member sitting beside me, 'Have you seen this? Have you seen this? It is \$2.8 billion!' Someone said, 'No, no, Deb. It's million.' I said, 'No, No. billion—B, billion.' It is a \$2.85 billion overspend. What can you say? That shows the complete incompetence of the Queensland Treasurer. His job is actually to control the finances of the state government, and whose finances are

they? Whose money is this? We always hear the Palaszczuk government saying, 'I've done this,' or, 'I've done that,' or, 'We've given you this,' and, 'We've given you that.' The money is actually the Queensland people's money, so the Treasurer of Queensland has a responsibility to use it wisely and carefully. Instead, we come in here and we are debating this overspend. We know that he is Australia's most incompetent Treasurer; we have heard that.

We have also seen the debacle about the renters tax, and I will get to that in a minute. It is very important to note that demonstrates what is actually happening behind the scenes in the Palaszczuk government: one minister does not talk to the other minister. We have the health minister for whom no-one would stand up and show confidence in last night. I take that back, there were a couple who did, but the Premier certainly did not. The Treasurer spoke on that no-confidence motion last night. That was interesting because the Treasurer had no confidence in the Premier when he continued to say he was going to introduce the renters tax. Where are we at with that renters tax?

The shadow Treasurer has been talking about the devastating impacts of the Palaszczuk government's renters tax since December last year. We have been going on and on about it because we know the devastating impacts it would have on the property industry. That is why the stakeholders—the Property Council and all the people who want to ensure that Queenslanders have a roof over their head—were saying that this is another broken promise from the Palaszczuk government, and the Palaszczuk government was elected on a platform of no new taxes. Every single election campaign the Premier and whoever is the Treasurer at the time—this time it was this Treasurer—say, 'We will have no new taxes.' They stand up every election and say, 'No new taxes.' I say to Queenslanders we have had 15 new taxes under this Palaszczuk government; 15 times they have broken the tax commitment they gave Queenslanders and that has resulted in about \$10 billion.

The latest one was when the Treasurer said he was going to introduce a renters tax in Queensland. He was going to tax the mums and dads. That is exactly what this Treasurer thought. He dug in from December last year. He continued in press conference after press conference saying, 'I stand by my new tax. I stand by ripping off mums and dads of Queensland.' That is what the Treasurer was effectively saying. This tax was so bad that the Victorian Labor Premier, Dan Andrews—

Mr Janetzki: He didn't want it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He did not even want it. I take that interjection from the shadow Treasurer. He said, 'Are you kidding me? Why would we do your dirty work?' That is what every other premier said. Premier Palaszczuk was in Canberra with all the other Labor ministers and she was saying, 'Look at me. I'm better than all the other premiers because we're going to use all of you to tax our own citizens.' Come on! Even the Labor premiers—and I cannot believe I am saying anything about Dan Andrews because oh my goodness me, we did not think that a premier could get worse, but seriously! Even Labor's Dan Andrews said, 'You've got to be kidding me, Premier Palaszczuk!'

Mr Perrett: You're dreaming.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: 'You're dreaming. Your Treasurer needs to be reined in. This is ridiculous.' Then one of the premiers—and we do not know which one—said, 'Come over here, Premier Palaszczuk. Let's get a piece of paper and let's write it down for you to explain how ridiculous this tax is. You are now relying on every other state for it.' She has introduced 15 other taxes on Queenslanders whom she told would not be taxed. She and her Treasurer have sat around the cabinet table and every single minister agreed to tax mums and dads again and then she tried to rely on other state premiers to back her in. When she saw that bit of paper—without, I might add, telling the Treasurer, who had just held a press conference saying he still backed in his statements about the renters tax and, 'Yes, we are going to continue to have this tax'—she was asked a question in front of all the other premiers and she ruled it out. She did not even pick up the phone or send a text message to the Treasurer, and so there was the final humiliation.

It turns out that was not the final humiliation of the Treasurer of Queensland; it is actually today. Yesterday we came back from lunch and the shadow Treasurer said, 'What's this bit of paper on my desk?' It was almost the final humiliation of the Queensland Treasurer. It was the amendment to get rid of, we thought, the renters tax. But guess what? I know the Labor members only read the speaking notes and do not ever look into anything.

Mrs Mullen interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am holding the green, and I take that interjection from the shadow finance minister—the shadow finance minister who supports the renters tax, the shadow finance minister who did not have enough grunt to say, 'Treasurer, this is really bad. This is really bad.' It shows that even the shadow minister—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry, the assistant finance minister. It shows that the shadow minister is the only one listening. It shows that the assistant finance minister has no clue.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, resume your seat. Members, there is three minutes to go. Let's hang out for three more minutes and then we can all go to lunch and calm down.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am so excited that the Assistant Minister for Treasury—

Mrs Mullen interjected.

A government member: Correct titles.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They never used to use my correct title, but she would like to be called the 'assistant Treasurer'. Let's say the assistant Treasurer—

An opposition member: Assistant to the Treasurer.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The assistant to the Treasurer cannot even do the job she is paid to do, and that is to stand up for mums and dads who do not want to be taxed. It is this assistant minister who actually supports 15 new taxes—\$10 billion. Who is paying it? That is right, the mums and dads of Queensland.

I will tell the assistant to the Treasurer that it would be good if she got out those economics books and actually did a bit of research. When the Treasurer of Queensland invents another new tax she can then stand up to him. She can say, 'Oh Mr Treasurer, this is going to be too humiliating because you're going to have to come in and then you're going to have to deceive the people of Queensland.' They think they are going to amend—and this is what the green says—'the government's decision not to proceed'—and here is the *Yes Minister* statement—'at this time'.

What does that mean for the next budget? What does it mean for the 2024 election? It means that the Palaszczuk government are going to go to the next election in support of the Treasurer and the assistant to the Treasurer, who support a renters tax on each and every Queenslanders. This is at a time when Queenslanders cannot afford a roof over their head. The Palaszczuk government thinks the solution to the housing crisis in Queensland is to give us another tax. I can say we have had it up to here with taxes. We have had it up to here with the fact that 13 ministers cannot manage their budgets. They have the biggest budget overrun in living memory and it is ridiculous that these ministers think they can come in here and announce this and announce that to the benefit of their own electorates. However, it is the people of Queensland's money that they are using.


This government is not listening to Queensland. It is obvious that the Treasurer is not listening to the assistant and it is obvious that the Premier is not listening to the Treasurer.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Frecklington, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Buddina Urban Village

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I rise today to talk about a planning failure issue in my electorate with respect to the Buddina Urban Village just north of the Kawana Waters Life Saving Club. I refer to a letter dated 25 October 2022 from the Deputy Premier, Steven Miles, to Councillor Mark Jamieson, mayor of the Sunshine Coast. In the letter, the Deputy Premier says—

Thank you for the letter of 24 June from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council ... requesting a state interest review of the proposed major amendment—Site specific and editorial matters to the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014* ...

He goes on to say—

The enclosed condition requires the council to remove the proposed amendments that seek to change zoning and reduce the maximum building height in parts of the Buddina Urban Village.

He continues further—

The proposed amendments related to the Buddina Urban Village may not proceed at this time because I am not satisfied the state's interests relating to housing supply, affordability and diversity ...

This is a cop-out to my community in Buddina. We have a situation where council on two occasions has moved motions that the community, through a petition the community had, be consulted on a planning amendment that would reduce the height of a small portion of the north-east corner of Buddina Urban Village from 21 metres to 12 metres and change the density from high density to medium density. That is what the community want and on two occasions the Sunshine Coast Council voted for that. I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 25 October 2022, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Councillor Mark Jamieson, regarding an amendment to the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 [1881].

Now the Deputy Premier is now overruling two council motions because the mayor lost on both occasions. We know that the mayor wants these heights and densities in this area, but the Deputy Premier is now overruling our local community. This area is where the endangered loggerhead turtles nest. It is one of the largest stretches of coastline in Queensland where the endangered loggerhead turtles nest and lay their eggs. If this community has towers with heights of up to 21 metres and becomes high density, those turtles will stop nesting on that beach site because of the light generated.

There are also erosion issues. For the sake of the environment and for the sake of lifestyle in the Buddina community, I call on the state government to butt out of this issue. There is a lack of public transport in the area and the state has not provided adequate road infrastructure to the area. They just think that putting high-density dwellings in there will fix housing affordability issues. The Deputy Premier, as stated in his own letter, thinks housing affordability will be achieved by selling units that are beachside in Buddina. One of the high-rises has a penthouse for sale for about \$3.6 million at the moment. That is really affordable living! It may be to the Deputy Premier, but it is certainly not for most people.


I also table a letter from the Sunshine Coast Council showing that Councillor Peter Cox wanted to move a motion that he did not want councillors to see before the ordinary meeting. He writes to the mayor in that regard.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 17 June 2022, from Division 3, Sunshine Coast Council, to Councillor Peter Cox, titled 'Amendment—Changes to the proposed site specific and editorial matters Amendment—Buddina Urban village' [1882].

I say to the Deputy Premier: butt out of Buddina and let the community have their say on their housing stock.

(Time expired)

Housing

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.03 pm): There is no single definition of homelessness, but what is clear is that people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness are among Australia's most socially and economically disadvantaged. Research has shown that homelessness can be the result of many social, economic and health related factors. Homelessness in Australia was artificially hidden by COVID-19 measures, and data shows that it had even fallen slightly in April-June 2020. Many of those who were sleeping rough before the pandemic have returned to the streets, with only a minority transitioning from homelessness into housing.


Across Australia we are facing unprecedented rental stress, and here in Queensland there has been around a 30 per cent drop in the number of available properties, which have been taken out of the rental pool over the past two years. The costs associated with investments, including mortgage costs along with inadequate housing supply, have dramatically increased the rents being charged and many people on low incomes are being priced out of rental properties. The reality is that individuals and families are being left with nowhere to turn once they are pushed out of the mainstream housing market.

The member for Everton spoke on the Labor Party's processes last sitting week, and I want to take a moment to correct his misunderstandings. Unlike the LNP, the Labor Party is a broad church; we converse with and listen to branch members. Our strength is the grassroots connection we have to community. This was nothing to do with a lack of trust in our Premier and the amazing work she and her cabinet team have been doing; this was listening to people who have been speaking with communities about what needs to be done to fix this confronting situation. I can say this because I attended the action plan meeting. I was there, so I would say that I have a better understanding of what happened at that meeting than the member for Everton, who I did not see there.

Need I remind the member for Everton that under his stewardship as the minister for housing he announced a number of sweeping reforms he described as the 'biggest shake-up in decades', which has directly led us to the dire situation we now face. We should never forget the LNP's abolition and

defunding of the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service Queensland. This organisation managed critical homelessness prevention services across Queensland and had approximately 80,000 clients—80,000 clients who were abandoned by the LNP. Under the disastrous LNP government public housing implementation plan, tenants faced insecurity of tenure and they planned to outsource the management of the government's stock. History has shown that those properties being outsourced resulted in dire outcomes.

Gold Coast, Hospitals


 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): Here we go again: another day, another health crisis headline—another chapter in this sad and sorry saga. This one hits close to home for me because it affects my part of the world. A headline from today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* reads 'Coomera Hospital: Bombshell delay for \$1.3bn mega project'. Imagine being a resident of the northern Gold Coast and reading that headline. You would be absolutely devastated—and rightly so—because today we have learned that the entire hospital being promised will not be delivered until 2040. 'Way off in the never-never' is a term that gets thrown around from time to time in this place, but this takes the cake. The entire facility will not be completed until 2040—18 years away. It means 800 beds in 18 years, with only 400 of them in the public system. That is not one election away, not two elections away, not three elections away or even four away. The state government are telling Queenslanders that it could take five state elections before the Coomera hospital precinct is completely finished. That is a slap in the face to the residents of the northern Gold Coast.

I pay tribute to the member for Coomera, who has long advocated for this project. He has fought tooth and nail for it for years now. He will tell you how aggrieved his constituency will be with this news, and I tell you who else will be aggrieved: my colleagues on the front line at the Robina and Gold Coast university hospitals. Those hospitals are already bursting at the seams. When they learn there will be no respite for them for 18 years, they will be shattered. I have walked in their shoes. I have seen how tough they are doing it. We hear you, we respect you and we know that you deserve better.

The Palaszczuk government's failure to plan and properly resource hospitals created the Queensland health crisis—that is now a well-established fact—and now they are trying to sell a solution to a problem of their own making which is 18 years away. The beds we need today are 18 years away. I pose the question to Queenslanders: how old will you be in 2040? I pose the same question to members in this chamber: how old will they be? Should we be surprised? No. This follows the government's form, and it is a pretty pathetic form line.

Remember the hospitals that those opposite promised at the last election? Yes? Well, they are not hospitals—no beds, no ED, not even 24 hours, so not hospitals. Guess what! Those seven fake hospitals are running late and running over budget, so how on this good earth can we trust those opposite to build a real hospital on time? Maybe they can, but just give them 18 years to do it. However, you can guarantee that it will not be delivered on budget. Queenslanders are suffering through this health crisis. Enough is enough. Queenslanders deserve so much better than this.

Stretton Electorate, Schools

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise to commend some of the outstanding achievements of the schools and students in my local area. The parents of Stretton certainly value education and our students have achieved some great results in academics, sport, the arts and music. It is reflective of the fantastic work of our teachers, parents and students. Earlier this year Sunnybank Hills State School was recognised as one of the top-performing primary schools in the region with outstanding results. It shows the true quality of state school education in Queensland and I commend principal Geoff Mill for his leadership and focus on excellence.

Every year I am impressed with the academic achievements of our young people and I want to recognise a few: Neha Pauly, who has just gone off to study politics at Cambridge University; Snow Duan, who has gone to study linguistics at Oxford University and who volunteered in my office with some translation before she left, and she will be sorely missed; and young Joshua Dickman from St Thomas More College who is off to study public policy at ANU, and he was also the YMCA youth member for Stretton this year. These are all very bright young people and they are great examples of the success of my community and the value that we put on education.

Schooling life is not just about academic grades though and I am proud to say that students in the Stretton electorate have the opportunity to receive an all-round quality education. In the sporting arena, Stretton State College's senior Rugby League team were victors in the Gee Shield grand final

in a nailbiting 14-12 comeback win over Caloundra. Well done to head coach Jayden Best for building a successful Rugby League excellence program. I am sure that we will be seeing plenty of future Broncos down the track.


A government member: Dolphins or the Broncos?

Mr MARTIN: I will not take that interjection. Massive crowds were in attendance at the Runcorn State High Blues Cup touch football tournament recently. It is one of the biggest touch footy carnivals in Brisbane—a fantastic annual event that showcases the skills of local students. A special mention to the teachers and the student volunteers who put that together. Islamic College of Brisbane students are fantastic at futsal. They have won multiple championships all around Australia. A special mention to Danya Mustafa and Sanaa Yusuf, who competed for Australia in the World Futsal Championships in Spain.

In music news, Stretton State College's Instrumental Music Program has won awards all around Australia and internationally. It was also recognised in this year's Fanfare Festival. Well done to all of the students and teachers involved in the *Little Mermaid* musical which was put on in the Duncan Pegg Performing Arts Centre this year. I took my son along and he wanted to give a special mention to young Kelly Tregaea from year 6 who did a great job playing Sebastian. I want to recognise all of the achievements of the students and teachers in Stretton. Education is one of my priorities and this government's priorities and I am very proud to be part of a government that supports—

(Time expired)

Water Security


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.12 pm): Water security in Queensland continues to go down the gurgler under this incompetent Palaszczuk government. We know that this water minister's legacy will forever be the water minister who got rid of Emu Swamp Dam, who got rid of Urannah Dam, who got rid of Hells Gates Dam, the minister who got rid of the HIPCo project. This minister and the Premier actively campaigned against these projects. In fact, the water minister has written a letter to the new federal water minister and said, 'I don't support these projects so therefore we've got to rule them out in Queensland.' How does a water minister in Queensland not stand up for a project that will support rural and regional Queensland to provide water security, jobs and futures for people in those areas? What about some of the comments from Townsville Enterprise and Bowen Collinsville Enterprise? They both support these projects respectively. In fact, I was in Townsville just after the announcement and had a meeting with TEL and then Bowen Collinsville and they were outraged at the lack of support from the Palaszczuk government.

We know that the minister has no excuses. He has not talked about the fact that other projects do not have business cases. Emu Swamp Dam is almost shovel-ready. The Urannah project is providing safe, stable, clean, green energy as well as water supply for an area. What does the minister have against that project? I will tell members what the minister has against that project: he has nothing, so he gets personal. When you get personal in this House, you know that the minister has nothing. It is obvious that when the Albanese government is against water projects in Queensland the Palaszczuk government just trots on behind. What does this government have against water? What does this government have against dams? We know that the only people who are standing up for dams in this great state are those of us on this side of the House. I give a big shout-out to the member for Southern Downs: keep going, keep fighting, because Emu Swamp deserves to be built. Urannah deserves to be built. What about the HIPCo and the Hells Gates projects? This government has no clue—

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next member, member for Maryborough and member for Mount Ommaney: you will cease using your drinking vessels as props.

Renewable Energy

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.16 pm): On *Insiders* a fortnight ago Katharine Murphy from the *Guardian* said—

It is like the industrial revolution: if you are not in it, it will pass you by.


She was referring to renewable clean energy. A renewable clean energy revolution is taking place around the world and here in Queensland we are ready to embrace that renewable clean revolution. The Palaszczuk government is leading Australia's journey to cleaner, cheaper, renewable, sustainable energy with our Jobs and Energy Plan. Those opposite when in government dragged

Queensland back into the Dark Ages by winding back the state's climate change and renewable program plus shedding a third of jobs in renewable energy, at the time about 1,300 jobs. Last night the member for Condamine was very sceptical of the ambitious plans that Labor has for pumped hydro, and he is not the only one. The member for Mirani is having a field day rallying the troops and he is in competition with Michelle Landry to see who is the most scathing. On the list of naysayers—it goes on—there is Peter Dutton and Andrew Willcox. They were very quick out of the blocks knocking the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project. This is a project that will produce five gigawatts of electricity, enough to power half of Queensland. I saw a tweet this morning that reminded me of the collective outrage from those opposite: being wrong the loudest does not make you righter.

The current Leader of the Opposition has announced a debt reduction plan and Queenslanders should be afraid—very afraid—that he is going to cut these renewable energy plans. He has form in this area from the Newman days. It is time to be honest with regional Queenslanders: will you be scrapping our Jobs and Energy Plan that will create 100,000 new jobs by 2024, most of them in regional Queensland? These jobs will come from direct construction of renewable energy to supply chains and economic growth in regional cities and towns. Under the new Jobs and Energy Plan, the Buy Queensland umbrella preference will be given to businesses in regional Queensland like my area to get studies done so that we can move this project forward. In the coming months tenders for a range of services that local suppliers can provide will be released—everything from hydro modelling, shallow drilling, earthworks, ecological and biodiversity studies and cultural heritage assessments right through to the provision of catering, printing services, safety equipment and work wear. This really is a nation-building project.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I would like to acknowledge in the gallery a delegation of students, university staff and public servants from Bangladesh who are visiting as part of a delegation from the University of the Sunshine Coast. Welcome. I am sure members will demonstrate what an orderly chamber we can run here.

Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.19 pm): All week in parliament this government has talked about its plans—plans for energy, plans for hospitals, plans for training; you name it—but when it comes to plans for police stations those plans fall down a dark, stinking hole. There is no better example than the Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station, a police station that is home to in excess of 100 personnel including general duties, plainclothes, road policing command and district office support staff, all working out of that particular station—a station that has been neglected by this government and is now on the borderline of being condemned. Can members believe that a police station in this state is on the borderline of being condemned?

This week I have received information that two independent engineers who have inspected that particular station have found concrete cancer and the station sinking into the ground. A recommendation has been made to condemn it. It gets much worse than that, because there has also been a catastrophic failure of the sewerage system at that particular station. The sewerage system has failed and they have had to put portaloos at the back of the station.


Mr Stevens: That really stinks!

Mr LAST: I take that interjection. It does stink to think that in this day and age in Queensland we have a police station that is on the borderline of being condemned. Police officers and staff at that station cannot even go to the toilet. They go to work and cannot even go to the toilet. This is Upper Mount Gravatt we are talking about here, not some Third World country.

The police minister stood in this place today and waxed lyrical about the resources and the equipment that he is rolling out for the Police Service. I have no issue with that. While it is well and good to focus on the front-of-house, you also need to have a look at the back-of-house—or the outhouse—because that is where the problem is in this instance. How about giving our hardworking police officers and their support staff a decent working environment—something that is professional, that is modern and that meets their needs. Instead of worrying about how things look, let us get things sorted and fixed up so they have something that meets their needs.

Upper Mount Gravatt station is over 30 years old. It has been neglected. It is in need of replacement. Our hardworking police officers deserve better. They are out there rain, hail or sunshine, as we in this place all know, 365 days of the year, keeping our communities safe. They deserve better than having to go to a police station that does not even have a functioning toilet. I am calling on the minister to fix this mess immediately.

Domestic and Family Violence, Fundraiser

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.22 pm): Although for a couple of months last year I may have saved money on haircuts by having my head shaved supporting, along with my crew, domestic and family violence, the money raised—some \$48,000—went towards a south-western Queensland refuge and would have helped many women and children escape domestic and family violence. This year I am keeping my hair on. I am changing tack. We are conducting a raffle, with prizes donated by many of our primary producers. We are also seeking donations.


Some of the highlights of the raffle are three nights accommodation at Sea World for four plus four unlimited entries to four theme parks, valued at \$1,700; a wheelbarrow full of trade tools, valued at \$800; two meat vouchers valued at \$500 each—a big thanks to the Lee family from Australian Country Choice; one meat voucher valued at \$500 from Brad and the team at Rode Road Meats—thanks to Terry Nolan from Nolan Meats at Gympie; lunch at the Regatta Hotel, valued at \$300—a big thanks to Jim Banaghan for securing that; and a gift basket from the member for Mount Ommaney. That is just a selection of the 30 prizes, totalling nearly \$10,000, going towards supporting victims of domestic and family violence. This side of the chamber supports women and their children escaping domestic and family violence. Tickets are \$20 each or you can get five for \$100. They are available if you search 'Mark Furner RaffleLink'. I table the flyer with a QR code where members can donate or seek tickets for purchase.

Tabled paper. Flyer for Save the Children Fundraiser [\[1883\]](#).

Proceeds will go towards a south-western refuge in Queensland to support women and children from all parts of the state of Queensland who have escaped domestic and family violence. I have been supporting the values of White Ribbon Australia for many decades. I, along with many of my team, will continue supporting this refuge, as will the team from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. I want to put on the record my sincere thanks to the members of that team, in particular Wayne and Annette Hall from DAF, who have tirelessly collected funds and donations towards this event. Without their tireless efforts it would not have been possible.

The raffle will be drawn on the Speaker's Green at 1.15 pm on 2 December. I have organised for the Clerk to be the person to press the electronic button, to make sure there is no involvement with anyone who has purchased tickets. It is not too late. Please go to the QR code or search 'Mark Furner RaffleLink' and make sure you secure your tickets because I would hate for anyone to miss out. These are excellent prizes and it is a great cause.

Callide Power Station


 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.25 pm): The events we saw unfold last week at the Callide Power Station were significant and unprecedented, with serious and wide-reaching effects. It is an extraordinary event when all four generators at the one station fail simultaneously. One generator failing is bad, two is alarming and three is disastrous, but all four failing at once deserves a full and independent investigation. What was equally disturbing was the Premier's response. She dismissed this unparalleled situation, with all four generators down, as a basic maintenance issue. The Premier did not see any urgency in getting a briefing—she was more interested in long-lunching with Labor mates at the Labor conference over the weekend—waiting for two full days to act. If that is the standard the Premier accepts then that is an exceptionally low standard. This alone proves what the Labor backbench is saying—that is, the Premier has checked out.

I am on the record as having raised concerns about a lack of maintenance in coal-fired power stations for some time now. At every stage the government has dismissed those claims. However, this week the Mining and Energy Union publicly confirmed exactly what I have been claiming, quoting that the state owned power stations are 'being dangerously run into the ground'. The MEU goes on to cite safety concerns that are 'dangerous for our members who work at the stations', referencing the close calls workers have had.

If generators fail it will impact supply and prices, especially if there are heatwaves during the summer. On Monday the minister said there was 9,560 megawatts of electricity capacity available at that particular time. This falls short of Queensland's peak demand from last year, when demand rose to 10,102 megawatts. We know that there were nine days last summer where demand exceeded 9,000 megawatts—and we had a mild summer. Experts recommend a buffer of 1,000 megawatts at all times. This is cause for concern, and the minister all but admitted this himself in his comments on Monday.

Even the Mining and Energy Union is on the record as being concerned about blackouts. They said they are worried about our energy security. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, Queenslanders need to know that their government is doing everything it can to ease the pressure on households. A full independent investigation must be held to give Queenslanders the answers and confidence they need that their lights will stay on and that bills will not skyrocket. We know this government's track record when it comes to integrity issues and cover-ups so we cannot have Caesar judging Caesar. That is why the independence of the inquiry the LNP is calling for is vital. We always know an issue has gone from bad to worse if the Labor aligned union is engaging in open warfare with the government.

Torres Strait, Metal Waste

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.28 pm): In December last year I took a trip home to Yam Island in the Torres Strait to spend some time with family. While I was there I was appalled at the amount of metal waste that was accumulating in my island community. I want to highlight that this has been an ongoing legacy issue for all the islands in the Torres Strait where we have metal waste building up in communities.


When it comes to protecting the environment, the Palaszczuk government works well to protect our great lifestyle. Being from the Torres Strait, I certainly know what a unique part of the electorate and of Queensland it is and it deserves protection. Recently we announced \$1.75 million for the removal of scrap metal waste on six island communities in the Torres Strait. That is in addition to the \$5 million we have already invested in helping the Torres Strait Island Regional Council with the mammoth task of removing metal waste.

Ms Richards interjected.

Ms LUI: Yes; I take the interjection from the member for Redlands. The challenge for the Torres Strait has always been around funding investment and how we pick up waste accumulating in the communities. I thank the Minister for the Environment and the Palaszczuk government for considering the Torres Strait as part of our great strategy to protect the environment. The investment will not only go towards the long-term effects of looking after our natural assets but also support economic outcomes for communities in the Torres Strait.

I give a shout-out to TSI Quarry and Edmund Tamwoy for the work that they are doing to remove metal waste from all the islands in the Torres Strait, bringing it to Badu and then going through the process of recycling it. On 19 October I was there with the Deputy Premier and we saw how excited the community is about doing something so important for the environment while also protecting the island communities. We need look to the future for all the communities and the people who enjoy island living every day.

Health Workforce, Planning


 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to raise a number of serious issues, firstly on health. With the introduction of QScript, which is the real-time prescription monitoring system for schedule 8 and other specified medications in Queensland, there was a resultant loss of staffing with respect to the Monitored Medicines Unit, previously known as the medicines regulation and quality unit or drugs of dependence unit, in Queensland Health. Whilst QScript is very important because it gives real-time data for clinicians when they are prescribing those medications, what is also needed is comprehensive clinical advisory support provided to frontline health professionals about complex and high-acuity alcohol and drug clinical presentations both within hospitals and community health clinics as well as in primary healthcare services. I certainly encourage the Labor state government and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services to work collaboratively with health professionals and consider appropriate resourcing given these changes, because it is important for providing optimal evidence-based health care to those individuals.

When it comes to health workforce planning, specific challenges are re-emerging, in particular with respect to obstetrics in rural and regional Queensland. We know of the matters that have been canvassed in this place with respect to Gladstone Hospital and the Chinchilla maternity service. More needs to be done to recruit and retain rural generalists, particularly those with advanced specialised training in anaesthetics and obstetrics and also those who have emergency medicine, surgery and mental health qualifications. Significant implementation work has been progressed since 2006. I have to acknowledge the work of former Labor health ministers Stephen Robertson and, subsequently, Geoff Wilson, and also former deputy premier Paul Lucas, Lawrence Springborg and other health ministers. However, we are seeing emergent issues again with respect to the health workforce. We need to be

ever vigilant with the modelling for future needs based on population and demographic changes, combined with the statistical evaluation of population health changes, to ensure proper sustained infrastructure investment in Queensland.

As a former president of both the Australian Medical Association of Queensland and the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, I am continually contacted by medical health professionals who are very concerned about workforce planning in Queensland and what is going to be needed into the future. There is no doubt that we need a system redesign. There are workforce challenges. Models of care need to be looked at as do scope of practice reforms, openness and transparency on data, industrial relations reform and proper modern management principles within Queensland Health. This will be a significant challenge into the future, particularly for communities across Queensland needing to access care, whether that be emergency medicine support, primary care or access to rural maternity services. It is very important that the government plans ahead and undertakes due diligence, particularly with respect to health workforce planning.

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.34 pm): On 19 October I was pleased to welcome to my electorate the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, to inspect the recently opened southern trail head for the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, the longest rail trail in Australia. We were joined by Tarnya Smith, the president of the Friends of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, and Craig England, the rail corridor manager from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.


The trail head, located at Grace Street, Wulkuraka, is the southern jumping-off point for the 160-kilometre Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. The \$800,000 project was completed by Landscape Solutions and includes off-road secure parking for 36 vehicles, a bus layover for the safe loading and unloading of bikes and equipment, toilets, drinkable water, landscaped areas and shade shelters with picnic tables. The trail head is located on the easement for the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, but nearby is the disused easement for the first railway line built in Queensland, the Ipswich to Grandchester line. The 160-kilometre Brisbane Valley Rail Trail runs from Wulkuraka to Yarraman, located in the Toowoomba region.

Over many years the state government has provided funding to both the Ipswich City Council and the Somerset Regional Council to improve not only the rail trail but also bikeways that connect to the rail trail. That includes the Brassall bikeway network. The section of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail between Wulkuraka and Blacksoil forms the spine from which the state government funded Ipswich City Council Brassall bikeway network radiates. The 14-kilometre Brassall bikeway network runs through suburbs such as Karrabin, Wulkuraka, North Ipswich, Muirlea, Pine Mountain and Blacksoil.

The rail trail has become a recreational hotspot for walkers, skateboarders, bike riders and horse riders. The route has given a boost to the local economy and is a world-class tourist attraction. The rail trail passes through beautiful historic towns such as Fernvale, Lowood, Coominya, Esk, Toogoolawah, Moore, Linville, Benarkin, Blackbutt and Yarraman. The Wulkuraka rail trail has already proven to be a fantastic spot for locals and visitors to start or finish their journey on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. The trail head was a priority within the five-year Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Strategic Plan, which aims to boost tourism for towns along the rail trail route.

Members of the House may be interested to know that 'Wulkuraka' is the Aboriginal word for both 'red-flowering gums' and 'plenty of kookaburras'. I encourage anyone who loves the great outdoors to visit my wonderful City of Ipswich and travel along the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. In closing, once again I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for giving his full support to this very important project.

Member for Keppel, Performance

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.37 pm): There is no doubt that local government deserves to be treated better by this Palaszczuk Labor government. We have only to look at the community uncertainty and the waste of money and time caused by Labor's review of the Rockhampton and Livingstone council boundary to see that firsthand. From the very beginning, the LNP have maintained the position that the boundary realignments between local governments should not proceed unless both councils agree. Recently I received an email which sums up the boundary review between the Rockhampton and Livingstone councils. It states—

I personally appreciate what you have done to promote this issue of council's boundaries.

This was a farce to begin with.


I agree that this whole process was a waste of money for both councils and that it proceeded without a council resolution, was disgraceful.

All this could have been avoided if the member for Keppel had stood up for her constituents. It is obvious that the member for Keppel puts her interests and the interests of her Labor bosses ahead of her constituents. It was left to the Livingstone Shire Council Mayor, Andy Ireland, and his councillors to stand up against the proposed boundary review for the residents of Livingstone. In the middle of a full-blown cost-of-living crisis, the Palaszczuk government allowed a proposal to go forward to the Local Government Change Commission that would see Livingstone Shire Council rates increase by \$250 a year for residents.

If the member for Keppel had the courage to stand up for her constituents, the waste of money and time could have been avoided. While her constituents faced a massive hike in cost of living, she failed to voice the concerns of her residents. It is no wonder Rockhampton lost the Rockhampton Ring Road project that was due to commence in two months. Federal Labor knows it can walk over the members for Keppel and Rockhampton because they do not stand up to their Labor bosses. The Labor Prime Minister knows that they do not stand up for Central Queensland.

There is a recurring theme here with the member for Keppel: she does not stand up on cost-of-living increases from boundary reviews on residents; does not stand up for improved services at the Yeppoon Hospital—just try and get an X-ray there on the weekend—does not stand up for tackling youth crime; and is disappointed when she should be absolutely outraged by the loss of the Rockhampton Ring Road. The Labor Party has a poor track record. It is taking the constituents of Keppel and Rockhampton for granted. Only the LNP will stand up and be a voice for these Central Queensland businesses. Queenslanders and Central Queenslanders deserve better.

Cost of Living


 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.40 pm): Right around the world, the cost of living is a big challenge right now, and Queensland is absolutely no exception. In my electorate of Pumicestone, families and retirees are facing cost-of-living pressures that are significant. Our government is working hard to support them because that is the Labor way. One key measure is our \$175 energy rebate which is coming off local people's bills as we speak. I got mine recently. Under the Palaszczuk government, families in Pumicestone will have received a total of \$575 in energy rebates by the end of this year. Because we kept our energy assets in public hands, we can use dividends to support Queenslanders. I and every Labor member will always back public ownership of our energy assets 100 per cent.

There is no stronger choice than keeping Queensland energy assets in Queensland hands. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan guarantees that we will keep them in our hands into the future. With Queensland energy generated in Queensland, we will not be vulnerable to future price shocks every time some foreign dictator tries to hold the world to ransom on energy.

With our budget in surplus, we can keep supporting families with the cost of living. I want everybody in our Pumicestone communities to know about the cost-of-living support that is available to them. Our Smart Savings website makes it easy to find the rebates and cost savings that we are entitled to in one place. Pensioners checking Smart Savings will see that they get free glasses every two years, free dental services, cheaper transport, \$372 a year off their electricity bills, \$200 a year off their rates, rental support of various kinds, free travel and even money off their car and boat rego. Under our federal Labor government, they will also be able to get cheaper medicines in certain circumstances.

For families there is also a lot happening to support them with cost-of-living pressures. Families in Pumicestone can look forward to free or discounted kindy next year thanks to our Palaszczuk government's kindy saver program. I give a shout-out to our Bribie Island Community Kindergarten which does such a great job caring for our youngest Pumicestonians. Under the Albanese Labor government, by 2026 families will be able to access six full months of paid parental leave. Federal Labor is also making early childhood care cheaper for many local families by lifting the maximum rebate to 90 per cent and giving extra discounts for more than one child in care as well as extending the subsidy to out-of-hours and vacation care—something that families very disappointingly missed out on under the LNP. Labor backs everyday families facing the cost-of-living pressures in our communities right now every single day of the week. With state and federal Labor governments working together, those benefits will only double.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Boat Ramps; Ladner, Mr D


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.43 pm): In 2020 there were 26,682 registered vessels in North Queensland, not including commercial vessels. Queensland experienced pandemic-led increases in boat registrations at a pace of growth almost four times faster than population growth in percentage terms. Boat registrations in Queensland rose by 2.9 per cent in 2021—well above the

10-year average of 1.4 per cent. It is safe to say that every man and his dog has gone out and bought a boat. Hinchinbrook has become a focal point for locals visiting and people seeking to access the Great Barrier Reef's Palm Island group and to explore the Hinchinbrook islands. That is why we must see improvements at Cardwell's Port Hinchinbrook, Lucinda's Dungeness, Cassidy's boat ramp at Forrest Beach and boat ramp infrastructure upgrades between Tully Heads and Bushland Beach, in the Hinchinbrook electorate. The demand for this infrastructure has significantly increased, as has the trend towards larger boats. Therefore, we need boat ramp facilities that can be deemed acceptable. Safety should also be a focus with all-tidal access and pontoons to avoid lurking crocodiles. We must stop talking about building these things and start building them.

It was a pleasure to join Hinchinbrook Shire Council Mayor Ramon Jayo and the family of Doug Ladner for the official opening of Hinchinbrook's newest bridge. In true Ingham style, the formalities were coupled with light rain, but this seemed fitting given the purpose of the new crossing. In 2021 the council received funding of \$5.7 million from the previous federal government under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program for the construction of the bridge. Ingham will no longer be cut in two by flooding during significant weather events. The bridge will ease the burden on emergency services during these times. I must also acknowledge the state government for making funding available for the business case that led to the project being constructed after a visit from the Premier during the 2018 floods.

I congratulate local contractor Keita Services which did an outstanding job in constructing the new bridge and used local procurement whenever possible. It even constructed the necessary culverts locally to keep jobs local but also to make sure this project was delivered on time and under budget. Well done to Keith and his team. I cannot think of a more appropriate, deserving name for Ingham's newest bridge than the Doug Ladner Bridge. Doug committed 40 years of service to the SES. Through his time of service, he was awarded the National Service Medal and service medals for his service to the community. It was a privilege to watch Doug's family officially open the bridge in his honour. It was a brilliant day to see the bridge finally opened with the support of not only three levels of government but also the family of Doug Ladner which was very proud to cut the ribbon that morning.

Housing

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.46 pm): The housing market right now is facing unprecedented pressures. There is certainly no hiding from that. The right to safe and secure housing and, ideally, the option to grow up, to raise a family and to retire in their community has been and remains a focus for our Labor government. I had the honour of attending the Premier's Housing Summit last month which convened multiple stakeholders to collectively identify and respond to Queensland's housing pressures. Some great initiatives have already been announced. We have now doubled the size of our housing investment fund to \$2 billion to help with the commencement of more than 13,000 new homes and fast-tracked planning approvals for community, social and affordable housing. This week the announcement was made of the QBuild rapid accommodation and apprenticeship centre, the first of its kind in Queensland, building modern, prefabricated housing to help speed up housing supply. It will be open by Christmas.

Responding to the housing pressures in Queensland will require us to think creatively, think big and, of course, have some original thoughts, which our government continues to deliver. Recently, I saw members of the LNP out campaigning on the issue of housing. I thought I would have a dig around to see what plans and original thinking they have for the complex issue facing Queensland. Sadly, I first looked at their website because I thought that would be the first place we would turn to find a policy. I reluctantly tell members that there were no policies on housing on their website. In fact, there were no policies available on their website at all. I thought what I would do next—

A government member interjected.

Ms BUSH: I know. It is extraordinary, but it is true, I regret to inform the House. I thought I would check out the Leader of the Opposition's social media. It took me a bit of scrolling, but, eventually, I found something that resembled what someone might reasonably expect the start of a plan might look like. I will read from it. There are three points in its plan: infrastructure, partnership and social properties. I will table it because I think it is important to get on record the breathtakingly shallow pool of thinking from the Queensland LNP.

Tabled paper: Leaflet relating to social housing [1884].

Mrs McMahon: A shallow pool.


Ms BUSH: It is a puddle, really.

Mrs McMahon: It's a puddle!

Ms BUSH: It is a 'thought puddle', some might say. They are not terrible ideas. They are actually quite good ideas because they are our ideas. They are the things that we are already delivering. Let me go through some of the deliverables we have in this space already. We are investing \$200 million to unlock land supply by delivering water, roads and sewerage in new communities. We are investing \$2.9 billion to increase the social and affordable housing supply—the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history. We are delivering 7,500 social and affordable housing commencements under the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative. In addition to that, we have new and innovative campaigns including the Help to Home initiative and the Queensland's Build-to-Rent.

(Time expired)

Sustainability


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.49 pm): Sustainability must be more than a buzzword. It must be the practical application of efforts for Queenslanders to sustain, which in the dictionary means to strengthen or support physically and mentally. This is multidimensional and includes affordability, for what use is a sustainable product or endeavour if residents cannot afford to use it or governments to implement it?

For two years we have been advocating for passive wastewater systems which are economical and have been proven successful across Australia and internationally. However, the proposed new Australian Standard for onsite sewage treatment plants being made mandatory under Queensland's Plumbing and Drainage Act will implement a minimum eight-person capacity for an onsite domestic wastewater treatment system. This is in an era where households are growing smaller, with an Australian average now of 2.6 persons and the need for secondary dwellings—including granny flats and tiny homes—is growing to address our housing crisis. This will mean that households needing to install these treatment systems will have to be larger and more expensive in construction, maintenance and power when that is not needed for a one-bedroom household.

Affordability is part of sustainability and in this case we are making sustainability unaffordable. Then there are the environmental upgrade agreements, or EUAs. We have been seeking these for both commercial and residential buildings since 2019 as they are an affordable way to install solar panels and create less emissions. To simplify, a building owner borrows money from a financier—and that can include local governments—and makes the repayments through the council rates system. It is voluntary, with long payback times which can be passed along when the building is sold rather than finance having to be wound up. It sounds sensible if we want to transition faster to renewables, doesn't it? The state government have announced in the Energy and Jobs Plan that they will be implemented however only for commercial premises, unlike in Victoria which have brought it in for residential.

In our electorate by far the larger number of buildings are residential. Yes, EUAs will make a difference to our businesses and our emissions. However, with half of our homes being without solar panels, why would these be left out? It sometimes seems like we take two steps forward and at other times one step back. We need to be pushing forward together on sustainability which includes being real on what Queenslanders can afford. Overreach is not the answer with wastewater standards, nor is under-reach with EUAs, as just two examples.

Redlands Electorate, Islands

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.52 pm): I love the electorate of Redlands. It is probably one of the most unique electorates in all of South-East Queensland with five islands with strong residential populations. I think we are looking somewhere in the vicinity of 10,000 residents who live across Coochiemudlo, Macleay, Lamb, Karragarra and Russell. There is fantastic work going on there. The investment by the Palaszczuk government has been significant.


The satellite hospital that I spoke about earlier this week is absolutely going to service those islands—a \$40 million piece of catalytic infrastructure that will unlock the Weinam Creek PDA, which is the gateway to our beautiful islands. We are doing some fantastic work there with the hospital. We also have work going on across our schools there. On Russell Island I am pleased to report that there is a \$2.9 million investment in new classrooms that will be coming hopefully over the Christmas period. I am looking forward to seeing that work done.

Importantly, our ferry terminals are the gateway to the islands. They are the arrival and departure experience. There is a \$40 million collaboration with Redland City Council. I think it is really important to talk about working together. When all levels of government work together you get great outcomes. I am pleased to report that they are well on the way. Russell Island is going gangbusters—hopefully it will be open towards the end of this year. Macleay is taking shape now, and they are on to Lamb and Karragarra on the island side of works and the pontoon. That is excellent work.

I want to talk about Running Wild. They are a fantastic organisation that services our island community. Services to islands are difficult in any context. I am sure the member for Cook understands what I am talking about. When you live on an island everything is just that bit more of a challenge. Mobility is super important. The Running Wild youth foundation delivers the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in hospitality, in nature conservation and in all sorts of amazing areas. They do a fantastic job. They also do our Containers for Change recycling program across the islands and they keep the money in the local economy. It is really important for our community. We are up there in the numbers. I think the Redlands was not quite in the top five in the state in terms of containers, but I am sure once we bring in those other types of bottles we might lift our game and do a bit better!

Running Wild do a terrific job. They are based on Macleay Island. They have been under some pressure in terms of the permanency of their home. There have been some urgent meetings today with the Redland City Council about not closing them and booting them off the island. If that happens, they will fall out of the system. Our islanders will not be benefiting in the recycling space which is really important. We sit on a national marine park across all of those islands. I implore the Redland City Council to work together with Running Wild and with our agencies to make sure that we deliver a strong economy and a strong community for all of my islands.

Gold Coast Oceanway

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.55 pm): I hate to say it, but I told the House so! Due to the recent heavy erosion of Gold Coast beaches around Main Beach, the Gold Coast City council have deferred building the infamous Oceanway Main Beach section until after the 2024 council elections. It does not surprise me one bit and highlights the ridiculous and irresponsible spending of ratepayers' money on a project which everyone knows will be sacrificed when the next big storm hits the Gold Coast.


The so-called A-line rock wall was put in place at great expense to Gold Coast ratepayers to protect the shore line from further erosion. Building of structures east of the A-line was prohibited. Yet the council is flouting its own laws by constructing a four-metre concrete walkway east of the A-line, which they know will be washed away at some point in time. How silly and ill thought out is that expenditure, which I am advised has blown out in costings already and must surely rank up there with the genius decision to put the Gold Coast city lights welcoming structure in the middle of the M1 where no-one can read it!

As I have said repeatedly in this House, the beach is the perfect walking track for exercise enthusiasts, and concreting our beautiful natural sand dunes to placate a few whingeing political aspirants is not the answer to protecting our world-famous pristine beaches. Methinks the postponement of the Main Beach section of the Oceanway may have more to do with the firepower of the rich and famous residents fronting the Main Beach section which will be replicated when the council attacks the rich and famous residents in Hedges Avenue in a similar fashion in the wonderful electorate of Mermaid Beach. I cannot wait for that legal stoush to unfold. Again, it will be the council wasting ratepayers' funds defending the indefensible of wasting Gold Coast money on a structure they know will vanish into the ocean.

The state Labor government should hang their heads in shame for allowing this monumental waste of ratepayers' fund and also for contributing financially to this throwaway infrastructure when there are hundreds of projects in health and transport that need urgent funding. Stop the nonsense now and put the Oceanway in the too-hard basket.

The path in Kurrawa Park is brilliant and the widening of the footpath in Hedges Avenue is the answer to people pushing prams, jogging and for meandering cycling. Albatross Avenue will be the same. It beggars belief that council and the state government will waste more money indulging the politics of envy by attacking those residents with beachfront properties rather than undergrounding anachronistic and ugly decades-old powerlines which inhibit movement along the current narrow pathways. A sensible outcome can be attained which achieves all outcomes for all parties.

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.58 pm): Like all members on this side of the House, I have been speaking to people in my community about the Palaszczuk Labor government's Energy and Jobs Plan. I have been talking to them at the bus stops. I have been talking to them at the P&Cs. I have been talking to them at community events.

Ms Grace: At the markets.

Mr KELLY: That is right. I have been talking to them on their doorsteps. I have been talking to them at the Stones Corner parkrun. They are stopping me in the shops. They are stopping me when I am out doing my chores. Guess what they are telling me? They are telling me that they love it—they absolutely love it. Why do they love it? They love it because it is delivering three key things that the people in my electorate want. It is delivering clean energy, cheap energy and jobs. They love the SuperGrid and they want to see more pumped hydro. Our plan to build more batteries and more renewable energy is even easier to sell than the free fairy floss I give out at the Queensland Day Family Fun Day I run with the Seville Road State School every year. This plan is possible because we have been working on this for seven years.

First, we acknowledge that climate change is real and we need to take action. Energy is one of the key areas that we have been taking action on, but we have been doing it in other areas as well. This is not something those on that side of the House do. They do not acknowledge that climate change is real. Secondly, we have set targets and we have based our policies on these targets. That sends a message to investors that the Queensland government is serious about the shift to clean energy. Third, we established CleanCo, the world's first clean energy company, and it is in public ownership. Fourth, we directly invested in clean energy projects. There is a fifth, sixth and seventh, but I am running out of time, including: ACEs in schools and the Ukrainian club received a Community Sustainability Grant. I could go on and on.

That is how we went from seven per cent renewable energy in 2015 to 21 per cent in 2022. We had to do that against a backdrop of the Abbott and Morrison governments trying to undermine everything the Palaszczuk government tried to do. Thankfully, we now have an Albanese government which passed climate action legislation, setting firm targets and developing a plan to reach them. Isn't it nice to have representatives of our country at COP27 who believe in taking action on climate change and have not headed over there to lecture other countries. Our old mate Dutton has weighed into the debate in spectacular fashion. He is demonstrating with great gusto that he is at one with the zeitgeist, putting his views out there on nuclear energy. What this really says is that he is incapable of standing up to the new member for Flynn, the former member for Callide.


When you come to Greenslopes and talk to people, they will tell you that they absolutely love the Energy and Jobs Plan. They love it because it is delivering clean energy, cheap energy and jobs.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 27 October (see p. 3180), on motion of Mr Russo—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Report No. 33, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into matters relating to donor conception information*, tabled on 31 August 2022.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.02 pm), continuing: However, Queensland's legislative arrangements do not currently reflect these needs. This was an important inquiry to have and to be part of. On behalf of the committee I thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on this important issue and those who provided in-person testimony to the committee. I also thank our Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance.

The term donor conception refers to reproductive techniques and relates to a range of procedures that are collectively referred to as ART. People who have been conceived by donor conception are commonly referred to as being donor conceived. The exact number of donor-conceived persons born in Australia is unknown, as many persons were conceived with the assistance of general practitioners or through private arrangements outside of a formal healthcare setting.

States and territories are obliged to follow the National Health and Medical Research Council's *Ethical guidelines on the use of assisted reproductive technology in clinical practice and research*. The NHMRC guidelines were developed in 2004 and emphasise the right of donor-conceived people to information about their genetic heritage; however, in evidence to our committee Professor Sonya Allan stated—

In many cases ... access is being denied by the capricious behaviour of individuals who work in clinics. At the moment, a donor-conceived person's ability to access the information they even have a right to under the guidelines is arbitrarily controlled by the person on the other end of the phone.

In her submission Caroline Lorbach stated—


If you say that a donor-conceived person cannot have access to information on biological parents then you are saying that they are different and will be treated differently by the very nature of their conception and birth. This is discrimination; ...

The committee were informed of the legislated requirements for ART in other jurisdictions both in Australia and New Zealand. Conditions included the formation and control of donor conception registers and requiring ART providers to collect identifying and non-identifying information about a donor at the time of the donation.

There is a move across jurisdictions for the information about donors to be made available to donor-conceived persons upon request. While some jurisdictions have amended legislation, others are still in the drafting stage. Voluntary information sharing between donors and donor-conceived persons is encouraged. In Queensland there is no dedicated ART legislation regulating donor information.

The Office of the Information Commissioner noted that accredited ART clinics in Queensland adhere to the NHMRC guidelines which since 2004 have prohibited clinics from using gametes in reproductive procedures unless the donor has consented to the release of their identifying information to any persons born as a result of their donation. Under the NHMRC guidelines, donor-conceived individuals are entitled to receive identifying information about their donor once they have reached the age of 18. Donors are entitled to receive non-identifying information about the number, age and gender of any person born as a result of their donation.

It was noted by the committee that the Adoption Act defined identifying information as information that identifies a person. The Adoption Act provides all adopted persons with the right to obtain identifying information once the adopted person is 18 years of age. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.06 pm): As the chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee just noted, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee was tasked to inquire and report back to parliament on issues relating to access to donor conception information. This has been a heavy seven-month inquiry, with 71 submissions received by the committee. I do want to take this opportunity to thank all of the parliamentary members sitting on that committee, the very hardworking secretariat who made this report possible, and everyone who made a written submission to the committee or took the time to appear in person at the public hearing.

After considering the views and experiences of donor-conceived people, donors themselves and industry stakeholders, the committee made six recommendations. The committee recommended that, when they reach the age of 18 and if they seek to receive the information, all donor-conceived persons should be given identifying information about their donor, including their medical history. This extends to the gender and year of birth of any donor-conceived siblings and for a donor to be provided with the gender and year of birth of children if asked for.

The committee also recommended that requests for contact be facilitated, both between donors and donor-conceived persons and donor-conceived persons with donor siblings if both parties consent. It is important to note that the right of donor-conceived people to know the details of their genetic origins is a right being sought to apply retrospectively. This is significant, particularly for donors who donated prior to 2004 when many donations were provided on the condition of donor anonymity. Donors need to be supported in relation to any retrospective release of identifying information, particularly those donors who are hesitant about the release of their information.

In relation to releasing identifying information and facilitating contact, whilst I note that most of the donors who provided the committee with submissions were supportive of donor-conceived people being provided with identifying information, they said they would welcome contact with their donor-conceived child or children. As a safeguard, the committee has recommended that any contact between the parties be by mutual consent.


The committee also recommended: that a central register for donor and donor-conceived information be established with birth, deaths and marriages as a matter of urgency; that the state government investigate linking the register across jurisdictions; and that the staff operating this register contact previously anonymous donors to inform them about the changes. The committee has also recommended that birth certificates be annotated to note the fact of donor conception and that this be retrospective also, meaning that the birth certificates of donor-conceived persons already born will be amended to note the fact of donor conception.

Throughout the committee process, we were able to look at legislation in other jurisdictions. This exposed how overdue regulation is in Queensland. In Queensland there is no dedicated assisted reproductive technology legislation regulating donor conception information. Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia all have dedicated assisted reproductive technology legislation. Most of these states have had legislation enabling a donor conception register and regulation about the provision of donor conception information for over a decade, but this kind of delay and laziness is what we have come to expect from this tired, third-term government.

When the state government eventually gets around to implementing donor conception legislation, more consideration must be given to those who have been conceived through private donor arrangements. The committee heard evidence from Mr Ian Smith, who was a sperm donor from the 1980s and has also been very involved in working with both donor-conceived people and donors over the last 10 years. Mr Smith, who is currently completing a PhD in this area, said that private donations do exist. He said—

It is a growing area. It is really messy, but I think you have to recognise that it is happening. If you do set up a register in Queensland—which I would strongly recommend—allow people to register those private donation arrangements. You cannot control them but I think they should be recognised.

This whole area of practice is a growing area, and the government is not prepared for it. There are Facebook groups that are actively soliciting people to be donors. One of the main issues with these private donations is that, unfortunately, there are unscrupulous people out there who offer what is termed 'natural insemination' as part of a donation scheme—in other words, having sex in order to conceive. Obviously, there are all sorts of risks associated with that. While the Office of the Information Commissioner agreed that there needs to be a private donor register, the OIC also considered that donor information from private arrangements should only be included in the register with the consent of the donor in order to mitigate inaccurate information or to make sure the information is correct. This is an area that needs to be looked into a bit further.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution and report on the inquiry into matters relating to donor conception information. As always, I would like to thank the committee members: the chair, Peter Russo, the member for Toohey; the deputy chair, Laura Gerber, the member for Currumbin; Sandy Bolton, the member for Noosa; Jonty Bush, the member for Cooper; and Jon Krause, the member for Scenic Rim. I offer a special note of thanks to the secretariat whose support of this committee is consistently excellent.

Mr Power: It's a powerhouse committee.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr HUNT: It is quite the committee. I will take all of those interjections. Much of this address will be devoted to the recommendations of the committee. They are as lengthy as they are crucial, but before I outline the recommendations I will briefly capture the time lines around the consultative process. On 3 March 2022 the committee invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions on the inquiry, and 71 submissions were received. The committee held a public hearing on 13 May 2022.


The purpose of these consultative mechanisms was directed to a number of objectives: the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their genetic origins; the extent to which identifying information about donors should be given to donor-conceived persons, taking into consideration the right to privacy of donors; access to historical clinical records and implications of retrospectivity; access to support and counselling for donor-conceived persons and donors; whether a register should be established; and the benefits, risks and implications on donor conception practices arising from any recommendations. To that end, after the process was completed the committee handed down six key recommendations. The committee recommends that all donor-conceived persons be legislatively provided with the right to know the identity of their donor when they reach the age of 18, regardless of when they were born.

The committee recommends: identifying information about donors, including their medical history, be made available on request to all donor-conceived persons when they reach the age of 18; information about the gender and year of birth of donor-conceived persons born from their donation be made available on request to all donors; information about the gender and year of birth of donor-conceived siblings be made available on request to donor-conceived persons; requests from donors for contact with donor-conceived persons be facilitated subject to the consent of the donor-conceived person; requests from donor-conceived persons for contact with their donor be facilitated subject to the consent of the donor; and requests from donor-conceived persons for contact with their donor siblings be facilitated subject to the consent of both parties.

The committee recommends that the Queensland government introduces legislation to: prohibit the deliberate destruction of historical donor records; require clinics involved now and historically with donor conception to retrieve, check and submit all donor information to a central register within a reasonable time frame; provide that birth certificates of donor-conceived persons be annotated to note the fact of donor conception; and provide that birth certificates of donor-conceived persons already born be amended to note the fact of donor conception. The committee further recommended that: the

Queensland government considers funding counselling and support services for donor-conceived persons, recipient parents and donors to facilitate positive outcomes from recommendations in the report, utilising services with relevant and lived experience; and such counselling and support services should be independent of the fertility industry.

The committee recommended that: a central donor conception register be established within the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; this register be mandatory in relation to donor conception achieved within a fertility clinic; the register be available voluntarily to those who have pursued donor conception in private arrangements; the Queensland government undertake an investigation to determine how to (a) encourage participants in private donor conception arrangements to lodge donor conception information on the central donor conception register and (b) ensure the information is accurate; the staff who operate this register to actively contact previously anonymous donors about relevant changes to the law and available support services, and permit them to lodge contact preferences; and the Queensland government work with states and territories to investigate the linking of donor conception registers across jurisdictions and any potential implications. I look forward to continued progress in this space and I thank all concerned for their efforts.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.16 pm): I rise to speak on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report No. 33, *Inquiry into matters relating to donor conception information*. Our inquiry delved into matters relating to the rights of donor-conceived persons to know information about their conception. This included the identity of their donor, their genetic origins and access to clinical records. The committee was also asked to consider whether a register should be established to achieve these aims.

Conception and donation for conception are deeply personal issues and there has been a history of confidentiality around this. In many cases, donors have asked and been promised to be and remain anonymous. Conception via donation has increased in Australia in recent decades since the expansion of conception technologies in the medical system. This means we have learnt much from the lived experience of those who have been conceived by donor conception. Donor-conceived persons have expressed the need to understand their origins and to know about their genetic personal history and the identity of their donor. The competing rights—that is, the right to anonymity and the right to know your history—and how to balance them has been the task of our committee, and it has not been easy.


As a result of our inquiry, recommendations have been made to endorse the right of donor-conceived persons to access the identity of their donor when they reach the age of 18, including their medical history. It also recommended that requests from donor-conceived persons for contact with their donor, and requests from donors for contact with donor-conceived persons, be facilitated with consent from both. This allows those who donated on the basis of no contact to continue to do so if they so wish. The report also recommends that the Queensland government consider funding for counselling and support services for donor-conceived persons, recipient parents and donors.

From the stories shared through submissions and at the hearings from both donors and donor-conceived persons, the government must do more than consider funding. I ask again that, for anyone who is retrospectively impacted emotionally or otherwise, the government fund these services if it is going to make the changes recommended in this report. While important and necessary, the information and contact, if consented to, that will occur from these changes may have significant emotional as well as psychological impacts. The provision of counselling and support services will be essential to ensuring that any impacts are appropriately managed and minimised.

The report also recommends the establishment of a register of donor conception to be operated by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This is a practical solution that will facilitate the right to know that is established by the recommendations of the committee. It also sensibly recommends that the registry be mandatory for those conceived in a fertility clinic. However, regarding the recommendation that the register be voluntary for those who pursue donor conception in private arrangements because of the difficulty of enforcing such arrangements, the government already imposes a reporting requirement on parents at every birth, either naturally or donor conceived, through our birth certificates. It is mandatory, with Births, Deaths and Marriages providing a simple, free, online application process. It should not be difficult to amend this to provide for information about donors, if involved. The benefit of this is that all donor-conceived births would be registered. This matches the imperative of the first recommendation of the committee, that donor-conceived Queenslanders have a right to know their origins.

In closing, I would like to congratulate our chair, the member for Toohey, fellow committee members, our incredibly hardworking secretariat and the department on the work they have undertaken in this inquiry and subsequent report. To all submitters and those who attended the public hearings,

who shared their deeply personal journeys and heartfelt pleas, I extend our gratitude for their honesty and bravery. To donors, many of whom donated decades ago in response to a need, thank you for the compassion and understanding shown during the past months as we saw how difficult this has been for them as well. With that, I commend the report to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the donor conception committee report. I want to start by saying at the outset what a privilege it was to work on an inquiry like this. Of course, all the inquiries and all of the pieces of legislation that we have considered as part of the LAS Committee have the potential to change lives, but a couple of inquiries do really stand out for me for the positive impact they will have for Queenslanders, and this is certainly one of those.

As is acknowledged in the chair's foreword, the pathways to parenthood are different for everyone. We heard through the public hearings that for those who do struggle to conceive, creating a family can come with real difficulty and some real heartache. Accordingly, assisted reproductive technology as an option is increasing, both for those couples who are dealing with fertility barriers and for those who have made the decision to embark on parenthood independently. I commend the Attorney-General for bringing this inquiry before the Queensland parliament at this time.

The committee was tasked with exploring the issue that donor-conceived families in Queensland are experiencing. We were tasked with considering their needs and the policy implications that arose from that. The variety of those who made submissions was wideranging, but all the submitters were coherent and consistent in the challenges that they are facing and what they are looking for the government to deliver.

Children born through donor conception express the same desire and need to know their genetic history as any other person. However, Queensland's legislative arrangements do not currently reflect those needs. I would urge all members to review and reflect on some of the submissions that the committee received. I would like to share a couple with the House. The first is from Daniel who said—

I am a 68 y.o. radiation oncologist who donated sperm ... at two ... clinics in the early 1980s. The process was understood to be anonymous. I was discovered by two of my donor daughters in 2017 circuitously via AncestryDNA, and since then by 5 other donor children via the same pathway. I was very open to engagement ... and certainly believe in donor children's right to know.

Amanda said—

Not knowing anything about my paternal side has been painful, isolating and produced a feeling that I am different from everyone else.

Patrick's story was really interesting. His parents-in-law had purchased an Ancestry.com DNA test for him and that is how he discovered some of his background. It is quite an interesting submission to read. He said—


Through commercial DNA testing I instantly discovered 3 siblings. One month prior to writing this submission, a fourth sibling appeared. How many are out there? As a donor-conceived person, this question can become absolutely consuming. Every person about your age that you meet for the rest of your life, you will find yourself closely analysing their features and considering if they could be your sibling. An ever-present feeling of uncertainty that donor-conceived people know too well and that regular people would never even consider.

The committee heard of donor-conceived people who are continually searching for siblings or for anyone with genetic similarities. We heard of records being refused or records altered and of people conducting comprehensive and often costly searches to try to track down their biological family.

The report made six recommendations which go to the issues of: the right to know their donor identity; the right to identifying information; access to historical records and retrospectivity; access to therapeutic support; the establishment of a central register; and the obligation for the government to communicate to interested parties. It is our hope that these recommendations do go some way to providing the hope and outcomes that submitters were asking for.

There were submitters who expressed concerns regarding the retrospective application of the legislation in this area. It is important to note that DNA testing has changed this landscape and people are now able to access this information, albeit without adequate support. Ultimately, at the heart of the issue lies the central legal and ethical dilemma: does a person's right to know their genetic history outweigh a person's right to privacy? As a committee, we found that it does.

On behalf of the committee, I want to thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions and oral submissions on an important issue. I want to thank our parliamentary staff for their assistance and my committee colleagues, who always do a phenomenal job in this area. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.25 pm): This inquiry dealt with some of the most profound issues that people will ever inquire about in this parliament. The very matter of identity and, indeed, the lack of regulation around these issues in the past has presented some big issues for people who have been donor conceived and the donors as well. This report and the recommendations made in it, which other members have spoken about and outlined, will also bring about some big issues for parties involved in the process. It is clear that there is still some divergence of opinion about the right way forward for this. In the past, there was an assumption of anonymity on the part of donors. Generally, the submissions show that we have moved away from that position. There are still some people concerned about the retrospective nature of the recommendations here. Indeed, when it comes to people who are donor conceived, there was a divergence of opinion as well about the extent of knowledge and engagement that they would have or would like to have with their donor-conceived parents or siblings, as it were.

I note that, just to ensure it is clear to the House, whichever way regulation goes in this space, it is complex and it raises conflicts between the rights of different parties. However, this committee process, in my view, brought to the forefront two things especially which are most important, one of which was the need for donor-conception information to be available for parties who were donor conceived, in particular for medical and genetic tracking reasons. Because we have technology available now that enables people to be treated for particular diseases or to know that they are susceptible to conditions based on their genetic make-up and genetic history, that information needs to be made available for that purpose. The recommendations, I think, strike a balance to a large degree between being able to access that and also acknowledging the reality that not all parties will want to be connected on a social level between donor-conceived parties—parents, children and other offspring.

The second issue that came forward in the inquiry, which is just as crucial, was the importance of recognising that the knowledge of one's background is vital to a person's sense of self-identity, and indeed self-worth in some cases. I think there was evidence that came to the committee which showed that people struggled with the uncertainty of where they came from, and it played on people's mental health for years of their lives, and that being able to find out who their parents were was a huge relief and contributed greatly to an enhanced sense of identity. That is important for all of us.


Obviously, as I said at the start, the lack of regulation in the past has presented some big issues, and that is a big issue. I think many of us in this place would know our background. I am three-quarters of German descent and a quarter English. These are the types of things a lot of people are finding out through DNA testing and Ancestry.com. There was certainly evidence before the committee that said that anonymity in the sense of donor conception was dead because of tests like that and the information that is being gathered on databases like Ancestry.com.

The importance of knowing people's background is the second biggest factor that came out of the committee's inquiry. I thank very much all of the submitters who gave us their story. For some of them, I am sure it was very hard to tell it, but we should be grateful that they did that. I also thank the committee members who brought about this report.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.30 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Report No. 34, 57th Parliament, *Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner*, tabled on 9 September 2022.

Under the Queensland Legislative Assembly standing rules and orders the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's functions are: to monitor and review the performance by the entity of the entity's functions—in this case, of the Office of the Information Commissioner—to report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter concerning the entity, the entity's functions or the performance of the entity's functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the Legislative Assembly's attention; to examine the annual report of the entity tabled in the Legislative Assembly and, if appropriate, to comment on any aspect of the report; to report to the Legislative Assembly any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the entity that the committee considers desirable for the more effective operation of the entity or the act which establishes the entity.


The OIC is an independent statutory body established under the Right to Information Act and the Information Privacy Act with the aim of promoting access to government held information and protecting people's personal information held by the public sector. The OIC's functions include giving information and help to agencies and members of the public on matters relevant to the RTI Act and conducting reviews into personal information handling practices of certain entities; investigating and reviewing decisions of agencies and ministers; and reviewing and reporting on agencies in relation to the operation of the Right to Information Act and the Information Privacy Act.

As a committee, we reviewed the annual report 2020-21, which was tabled on 28 September 2021. The committee's recommendation was that the Legislative Assembly notes the contents of its report. In fulfilment of the committee's oversight of the OIC, we held a public hearing with representatives on 23 May 2022 where we heard evidence on the Office of the Information Commissioner. The committee welcomed to the hearing the Information Commissioner from the Office of the Information Commissioner, the Privacy Commissioner and the acting Right to Information Commissioner.

In her opening statement, the Information Commissioner spoke to the conscious decision of the OIC since 2021 to move the strategic focus of the commission to building agency capability to allow a focus of resources on strategic and emerging areas, issues of high risk and impact on the community. Key drivers for this attention are to allow the Office of the Information Commissioner to focus their available resources on strategic and emerging areas as well as issues of high risk and impact on the community while continuing to support less mature agencies with targeted projects and engagement. This approach is consistent with appropriate expectations for agency responsibility for leadership, awareness, systems and monitoring performance back through to leadership-driving actions to address risk.

In 2021 the Office of the Information Commissioner conducted five audits. The commissioner noted that a key area of concern for the commission over the past few years has been the delay for the community in accessing information, with increased external review demand driven by agencies not making decisions about access within statutory time frames and delays within the review process itself. The work of the Office of the Information Commissioner, especially in external review, continues to be significantly impacted by the challenging interactions, which has real consequences for equitable and timely access for other users of our services.

The commission continues to face the substantial impact of challenging demands and interactions with about a 30 per cent increase in staff being overloaded and burnt out by work. Strategic mechanism tools are now being utilised by the commission to manage challenges faced by staff including an initiative of their own, a vexatious applicant declaration, introduced in late 2021. The acting Right to Information Commissioner supported comments made about the challenges being faced by the staff and she spoke of a concerning trend. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.36 pm): The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee was asked to inquire into and report back to parliament on the issues relating to the Office of the Information Commissioner with respect to the 2020-21 financial year. The OIC is a statutory body that oversees the purposes of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 with the aim of promoting access to government help, information and protecting people's personal information held by the public sector. Both of these acts pertain to the accountability and integrity of the financial management of the state's finances and, as we have been discussing this week with the appropriation bills and the betting tax bill, it is an extremely important responsibility.

In 2009 the Financial Accountability Act was introduced into the parliament with the intention of it being 'the cornerstone of financial management in the Queensland public sector'. These are not my words; these are the words of the Treasurer. However, as we have seen over the past two days in the debate around the Appropriation Bill and betting tax bill, it is clearer than ever that the Labor government before us has strayed very far from this ideal.


One of the Information Commissioner's functions is to investigate and review decisions of agencies and ministers made under the Right to Information Act, including whether agencies and ministers have taken responsible steps to identify and locate documents applied for by applicants. In response to questions from the member for Scenic Rim in the committee, the Information Commissioner advised that in the period 1 July 2021 to 30 April 2022 they had received 561 requests to review RTI outcomes. During this period 61 formal written decisions were made including seven setting aside the agency decision and 24 varying the agency decision.

When I look back further at the 2019-20 and 2020-21 annual reports, I am deeply concerned to see that despite the state government changing the statutory time frame from a median of 90 days to now being a mean of 150 days, it was still taking the OIC 155 days to finalise a review. This can also be seen in the 2019-20 financial year committee process. The Information Commissioner put this down to the significant increase in external review applications. We are not in 2020 anymore and the number of applications has, in fact, gone down. However, the time it is taking to finalise a review is actually going up. I think we can put this down to the OIC not being resourced properly by the state government. Why would the state government not properly resource the OIC? Why would the state government not give them the staffing numbers they need in order to do their job, that is, the proactive disclosure and appropriate privacy safeguards for any information held by Queensland government agencies? The cynic in me thinks this is because the state government does not, in fact, want to disclose information to the Queensland public.

Even the OIC 2020 Working for Queensland survey results show the substantial impact of the OIC not having adequate resources, with about a 30 per cent increase in OIC staff being overloaded, being burnt out by work, being stressed and experiencing vicarious trauma. Despite implementing tools and strategies to help balance the wellbeing, health and safety of OIC staff, it was reported to the committee that the OIC was still understaffed. No doubt this has impacted the OIC's capacity to deliver.

Further, the OIC made a target for 70 per cent of applications to be satisfied with the conduct of a review made under the Right to Information Act and Privacy Act. Concerningly, the outcome of this in the financial year just past was 44 per cent. In the 2020-21 financial year it was 51 per cent, and this was down 16 per cent since the 2019-20 financial year review. This decline is terribly concerning.

Why does any of this matter? It matters because we need to have confidence that the role of the Information Commissioner will be carried out independently, fairly and impartially. The Information Commissioner is the government agency that is tasked with championing the proactive disclosure of and appropriate privacy safeguards for any information that is held by Queensland government agencies. That is the personal information held by local government agencies, the state government, public hospitals, health services, universities and public authorities. We need to have confidence that the OIC is adequately staffed, not only to protect the information of Queenslanders but also to disclose the information to Queenslanders that they seek, to make sure that RTIs are being answered and that Queenslanders are getting information.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.41 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the report pertaining to the oversight of the Information Commissioner. Thanks and acknowledgement—as always—must go to the committee members: the chair, Peter Russo; the deputy chair, Mrs Laura Gerber; Sandy Bolton, the member for Noosa; Jonty Bush, the member for Cooper; and the indefatigable Jon Krause, the member for the Scenic Rim. I acknowledge the hard work and diligence of the secretariat, who support the entire process.

The OIC is an independent statutory body established under the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009 with the aim of promoting access to government held information and protecting people's personal information held by the public sector. I thank the Information Commissioner, Ms Rachael Rangihaeata, RTI commissioners Katie Shepherd and Anna Rickard, and Privacy Commissioner Paxton Booth for the thoroughness of their contribution before the committee.

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee examined the 2020-21 report and held a public hearing with representatives from the Office of the Information Commissioner on 23 May. I start by commending the commissioner for the genuine concern that she expressed for her own staff. She said—

As I noted last year and in this annual report, our 2020 Working for Queensland survey results also showed the substantial impact of challenging demand and interactions, with about a 30 percentage point increase in staff being overloaded and burned out by work. We are using tools and strategies available to us to ensure we are fair, with clear communication, while balancing the wellbeing, health and safety of our staff and appropriate use of public funds, including the first own initiative vexatious application declaration in late 2021.

I believe that to be a cautionary explanation for those who view the public sector with disdain and seek only opportunities to cut, sack or privatise.

Despite the overload, the office demonstrated that the RTI process in Queensland is extremely robust and operating at a high standard. With respect to the OIC's objectives to provide an independent, timely and fair review of decisions made under the RTI Act and the IP Act, the annual report advised that the OIC received 685 external review applications in 2020-21—a decrease of 102 from the previous

year. The OIC finalised 753 external review applications. Of the total number of finalised reviews, 90 per cent were resolved informally, without a written decision, exceeding the target of 75 per cent. Incredibly and to the lasting credit of the OIC, 96 per cent of agencies that provided feedback were satisfied with the conduct of the review, exceeding the target of 75 per cent. Equally worthy of note are some important points that should be captured and reinforced. When asked—

Is cabinet-in-confidence being used more than previously to restrict RTI releases?

the commissioner replied—

It is a small part of what we see.

Ms Shepherd, the Acting RTI commissioner, added—

I would not say that there has been an increase in recent years. It comes up fairly rarely compared to other grounds for refusal in terms of what we see on external review.

Similarly, when asked—

Information Commissioner, have you or your office found any information that would indicate that RTI officers are not acting independently of government?

the commissioner responded—

We are not aware of any indications of that nature. Certainly, we have had that question at previous hearings. We have consistently advised, in a proactive way, agencies and ministers when we have met with ministers and ministerial officers about our model protocols about briefing practices with executives and ministers—this is about getting the balance right when briefing about decisions about application processes. That includes the ability to brief about a proposed decision that is about to be made to ensure that, say, a director-general or a minister can prepare for public debate. However, it is not to delay a decision, not to share personal information where it is not appropriate to do so and, of course, not to interfere with the actual decision-making.


Lastly, when asked—

Is your annual report reviewed by the department or the minister's office before it is tabled?

the commissioner was able to confirm—

No, it is not provided. It is provided directly to the Speaker.

These are all very interesting points in light of recent laptop conspiracy theories ventilated in this House. I ask that the report be noted and accepted.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.46 pm): I rise to speak on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report No. 34, *Oversight of the Information Commissioner*. The OIC, as we have heard, is an independent body that regulates the management of information by the Public Service, both promoting access to government information and protecting the private information of citizens held by the government.

In its oversight role, the committee held public hearings that were attended by the Privacy Commissioner, the Information Commissioner and the acting Right to Information Commissioner. The Privacy Commissioner stated that in 2021 the OIC implemented all of the recommendations made by the Crime and Corruption Commission during Operation Impala which do not require legislative amendment; however, there are still a number of recommendations which cannot be progressed without legislative amendment including mandatory notification of data breaches.


Under the Right to Information Act, a key function of the OIC is undertaking reviews of right-to-information requests. In the annual report they reported finalising a record number of reviews and reducing the substantial backlog of applications. Nonetheless, they reported that the challenging workload and unreasonable behaviour from some stakeholders have impacted the OIC, with about a 30 per cent increase in staff reporting being overloaded and burned out by work. They reported that, while they reinforce reasonable expectations with their team and stakeholders and implement fair and appropriate strategies to manage behaviour and deliver timely external reviews, if they continue this way their output is not sustainable. In the hearing the Information Commissioner reported that, while issues arose across all of the OIC's functions, they were most frequent with external reviews.

Applications for a review of RTI requests have been continually rising, and the commissioner said that there is rising complexity as well as there is a small number of highly complex and difficult complainants. While the government has provided some additional temporary staffing, this demand pressure will continue as part of that demand is outside the control of the OIC as it depends on how effective agencies are at making the initial RTI decisions.

A legislative tool the OIC uses to tackle agency delay is to issue a notice-to-produce document. This year the OIC has issued 15 of these notices, with the majority going to the Queensland Police Service. It follows that engagement with the QPS has been a priority for the OIC, which has made efforts to engage with senior leadership to encourage more timely outcomes for external review applicants as well as increase awareness of administrative access schemes. These are easier, quicker and often less costly alternatives to external reviews, but they are not always visible to the community or to QPS personnel themselves.

The OIC has been working with the QPS executive to discuss how administrative access schemes can be made more visible and used more frequently and readily. However, the OIC is not satisfied with the progress that has been made in this regard. The Information Commissioner attributes this to the QPS RTI unit being under-resourced and understaffed and it is important that this is made a priority and rectified. There is a need for additional ongoing resources for the OIC to deal with rising applications in the short term and to enhance its training function for the Public Service in the longer run, which will help reduce these review applications.

The committee has recommended in its report that the House note the contents of the report and I would commend the House and the government to take note of the workload issues that I have highlighted and that will need to be addressed in the coming years. Finally, as always, I want to thank our committee chair and my fellow committee members, our secretariat for its work on this report and the OIC for the outstanding efforts it has made in amongst the many challenges. I commend this report to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to report No. 34, *Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner*. I want to start by again thanking and acknowledging the secretariat for all of the work it does in bringing these reports and inquiries together and my parliamentary colleagues. I want to acknowledge and thank the Information Commissioner, Ms Rachael Rangihaeata; the current joint acting Right to Information Commissioners, Ms Katie Shepherd and Ms Anna Rickard; and the current Privacy Commissioner, Mr Paxton Booth, for their full and frank conversations in the public hearings. The OIC is an independent statutory body established under the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009 with the aim of promoting access to government held information and protecting people's personal information that is held by the public sector, and we would all know that it is an important right.

All of our constituents have contact with government agencies—some constituents do on a much more frequent basis than others—and they have the right to know what documents are being kept about them on record and they have the right to review those documents and to request amendments to those documents if they do not believe they are in fact correct. It is an important right for our people in having confidence in the systems of government and it is also important for government as an entity knowing that a person can inspect their records. Knowing that they can review it places upwards pressure on departments and individual officers to strive for a higher quality of information keeping and record keeping. This is a bit of a segue but I think it is still relevant: I was recently at the State Library speaking with the historians about the work they are doing in going back over the records in light of the work around treaty and looking at how governments of the day recorded information on our First Nations people. What they are doing in the State Library is really important but really quite powerful and confronting stuff and it reminds me that history is made by those who write it. The stories that we tell about people really do make a difference, so the right for individuals to review and to correct the record is really important now more than ever.

With respect to the OIC's objective to provide an independent, timely and fair review of decisions made under the RTI Act and the IP Act, the annual report advised that the OIC received 685 external review applications, which was a decrease from the previous year, and finalised 753 external review applications. Of the total number finalised, of external reviews 90 per cent were resolved informally and without a written decision, and this exceeds its target of 75 per cent.

I also want to recognise the spotlight that the Office of the Information Commissioner has been under in this particular reporting period. There has been a really large focus on the operations of the OIC and on the officers' interactions with the government, including members of cabinet. We saw that impact on the staff and on their morale and we saw an increase in staff feeling overloaded. I heard the member for Noosa mention a 30 per cent increase in people feeling overloaded. I think that is a really important reminder for all stakeholders but for us also as stakeholders as parliamentarians. We have an important responsibility in this place to scrutinise our government departments, but we also have a responsibility not to manufacture conspiracies, and I think that is what we saw play out with the OIC

that, despite the allegations being rebutted, we all know what resulted, including multiple unfavourable media reports and allegations thrown at senior public servants. That was raised again in our public hearing with the OIC on 23 May. Reading from the transcript when witnesses were asked whether cabinet-in-confidence is being used more than previously to restrict RTI releases, the response was—

It is a small part of what we see.

The response from another witness was—

I would not say that there has been an increase in recent years. It comes up fairly rarely compared to other grounds for refusal in terms of what we see on external review.


Similarly, when the Information Commissioner was asked—

... have you or your office found any information that would indicate that RTI officers are not acting independently of government?

the response was—

We are not aware of any indications of that nature ... We have consistently advised, in a proactive way, agencies and ministers when we have met with ministers and ministerial officers about our model protocols about briefing practices with executives and ministers ...

The OIC delivers an outstanding service to Queenslanders. I really look forward to our next oversight hearing. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise to contribute to debate on the report on the Information Commissioner. I am going to restrict my comments to the Information Commissioner's office and the process that it goes through. In the annual report of the Information Commissioner it said that 60 per cent of most inquiries are about access to or amendment of documents under the RTI and IP acts. The OIC reported that challenges to timely completion of external reviews included ongoing substantial demand relative to the available resources, the complexity in the matters, the delays from agencies in complying with the review process due to increasing demands—and I suggest that that also goes back to available resources—and the unreasonable and sometimes abusive behaviour from a small but time-consuming cohort of applicants. That is not acceptable in any way whatsoever.

I have a bit of experience with the Office of the Information Commissioner because I have been doing quite a few RTIs lately and quite frankly not getting back a great deal of information. I heard the member for Caloundra and other members in this place talk about some of the questions that the member for Scenic Rim asked at the committee's hearing around the availability of documents. I have had cause to talk to the Information Commissioner about the lack of documents flowing back from some of the RTIs that I have put in and I have been able to provide the Information Commissioner with copies of documents that did not show up in RTIs that should have and since that time I have then been provided with those documents. Miraculously, they showed up after I produced a copy of them. That is just bizarre. To say that the RTI job is not being done properly, whether it is a problem with its search capability or the number of staff who are there, there is a problem. There is a big problem.

With a lot of the RTIs that I have put in lately I am getting feedback from the RTI officer on the day that they are due that they cannot provide that information to me and then extending the time frame for another couple of weeks. This is happening now and delaying the process, and it is the job of the Office of the Information Commissioner to keep an eye on this sort of thing and to listen to feedback from members of parliament and other people putting in RTIs. These things are being delayed, and I have had RTIs that have been delayed for months and months and months. Eventually a decision notice is given to you and there will be an amount of money that has to be paid to the RTI office to provide that document. I always pay that money straightaway, but it takes three or four days somehow for the system to realise that it has been paid before I get that information, even though I send it a copy of the receipt.

For the benefit of the Labor members who have talked about cabinet-in-confidence, I have been trying to seek now for over a year—nearly two years—information on the best practice industrial conditions from the department of transport and every step of the way it has blamed cabinet-in-confidence. I accept that cabinet-in-confidence should be cabinet-in-confidence, but I have asked for feedback from the department as to what sorts of effects BPICs might have had after that cabinet-in-confidence decision was made and trying to access those documents.


Even those documents are kept from me, blaming cabinet-in-confidence. I was surprised that the Information Commissioner said they do not see very much of that because I have pointed to about five RTIs I have done around this one subject and I have not been able to get too much information back. The information I get back is completely redacted: cabinet-in-confidence.

On the subject of ministers interfering with the RTI process—and again we heard Labor members say during questions at the committee hearings that this was not happening much—I have produced a document in this place already about the minister responsible for the QBCC seeking access to my RTIs before they were given to me so that he could know what was going on and he could respond to the questions I put to him. There is ministerial control.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hart, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, to vary the date for the Community Support and Services Committee to report on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) to 3 February 2023 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to 3 February 2023.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 4 of 2022-23 titled *Status of Auditor-General's recommendations* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee and Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 5 of 2022-23 titled *Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence* be referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)


APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)

BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 3548, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.01 pm): I rise in support of the betting tax and appropriations bills that are before the parliament. I acknowledge the Minister for Racing, who is in the chamber today, for the fine work that she has done to bring this bill before parliament. I also acknowledge former treasurer Jackie Trad who brought in the initial Betting Tax Act. The former member for South Brisbane had the foresight to bring in a tax that not only drove the racing industry to do better but also ensured that the more they grew the industry the more money went back into it. I congratulate her for her fine and visionary work.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BROWN: I hear those opposite interjecting. They cannot handle being proven wrong. Since the introduction of that act, the racing industry has gone from strength to strength. We have been the best friend the racing industry has ever had. This bill will go even further towards building the racing industry. As the member for Mermaid Beach said, he uses the Tabcorp app. I use the Tabcorp app because I know that the contributions that I make using that betting app go back into racing. When I am having a punt with my mates they are not using that app. They are using other apps like Neds and Sportsbet, which are big multinationals taking all the cream and sending it offshore. They benefit from the investment we have made into racing infrastructure across the state, be it in the smallest of country racing clubs all the way to Eagle Farm. They benefit from the big prize money. It is important that there is a level playing field in this industry. It is important that, whatever app is being used at the betting table on a Saturday with my mates, Queensland Racing benefits.

It is important that at least 80 per cent goes to Queensland Racing. We have seen massive projects, be it out at Ipswich with the new greyhound track or investment in the greyhound track at Capalaba after the floods to help them get back on their feet. It means that Racing Queensland has

that flexibility to invest in infrastructure and country racing. It is not just infrastructure for racing. Many country meets are held at the showgrounds so they also benefit, as do the local tradies. It all goes back into a pastime that these country towns love. Time and time again we hear those opposite say they love country race meets, but it is only Labor that backs them. It is only Labor that had the foresight to bring in a program of taxation that drives the industry to get bigger and better so they can get more revenue in to invest across the industry, from the smallest race club all the way to Eagle Farm. I note the massive investment on the Gold Coast in an LNP seat. That will be of huge benefit to those punters and local members. I know the member for Mermaid Beach frequents that club. I give a shout-out to Cookie. He is a great president.

It is fantastic that this tax goes towards so much. Leaving aside that 20 per cent for racing, these betting apps will also contribute to the massive expenditure that we make each and every year to upgrade sporting facilities around this state such as facilities operated by Stadiums Queensland. Those betting apps make a profit from the product that we create here in Queensland. I congratulate the racing minister for this bill.

I also congratulate and thank Brendan Parnell for the work he has done. He has another six months to go. I have had a great working relationship with Brendan. Every time we catch up I am always lobbying for more for the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club's straight track. I think we need lights there. He helped that club in its time of need during the floods. I congratulate him on his future endeavours. He has big shoes to fill.

I note the comments of the minister in relation to the member for South Brisbane forgetting that they were getting donations from those benefiting off the gambling industry. I also highlight another aspect of this bill with regard to the appropriations and that is that the member for South Brisbane and the new member for Griffith time and time again campaign against the Toondah Harbour development out my way. Can members believe that at a time when we have a housing crisis across this state, the Greens, from their concrete jungle in inner-city Brisbane, are campaigning against a housing development in another city? It reeks of nimbyism—and they do not even live there. It reeks of hypocrisy that they would supposedly be the champions for housing, but when it comes to developing a fine establishment with the creation of housing stock and public facilities they are campaigning against it. Along with the donations they take from the gambling industry, that shows the hypocrisy of those members.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection from the member for Theodore. I know you guys will not fight the Greens in South Brisbane. I know that you guys rolled out the red carpet for them and made sure that they got a seat in parliament. I know of the grubby little preference deals—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order!

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER Member for Bonney, order!

Mr BROWN: They really bite at that one. They do not like being reminded of the preference deal they did in South Brisbane and I reckon there are more coming. I reckon there will be some more preference deals done at the next state election. We see Victorian Liberals opening up the gates to preferencing the Greens before Labor. It is really interesting to see the fringe party that the LNP have become. They preference One Nation, which they never used to do back when they had principles, and now they are also going into bed with the Greens. I expect that they will do a preference deal across the whole state coming into the next election.

Mr O'Connor interjected.


Mr BROWN: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. I know he cuddles up to them all the time at functions. He is always talking to the member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane. I watch you, mate. I know where you are going. I know what you are doing, mate.

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

Mr BROWN: He sees himself as the future—the modern Liberal who wants to saddle up with the Greens. I say: go for it, champ! It will help me in Capalaba. These are three fantastic bills. We have delivered six budget surpluses.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. How many budget surpluses have you delivered? Zero! We have delivered six budget surpluses and they have delivered zero.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.11 pm): Today we are debating the Treasurer's overspend bill—a bill that shows the highest overspend since the blowouts in the dying years of the Bligh government. It speaks volumes about Labor's approach to financial management. The state government is asking for approval for a whopping \$2.8 billion in taxpayers' money. To put that into perspective, this year's overspend is more than five times greater than previous unforeseen expenditure from the 2012-15 financial years—I repeat: more than five times.

This is a massive overspend and it tells us all we need to know about Labor's wasteful spending and wrong priorities. Let us talk about two of the biggest wrong priorities of this Labor government: the Treasurer's renters tax and now the GP patient tax. Unbelievably, instead of taking steps to fix the health crisis, the state government is backing a payroll tax that will see our hardworking GPs slugged with bills running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, which inevitably will be passed on to patients and could spell the end of bulk-billing in Queensland. That will affect every single Queenslanders who uses bulk-billing at their local doctor's practice. I can tell the House right now that it will not ease the strain on our doctors and nurses, it will not ease the strain on our local hospitals and it certainly will not help people dealing with cost-of-living pressures right now.

I have been inundated with messages from health practitioners pleading with me to fight the government on this GP tax. I want to read into the record the message from one GP, which states—

The morale of the medical profession is at an all-time low, including the central pillar of medical practice—that is, the general practice.

Recent activities in the Queensland parliament have been the final nail in the coffin.

There have been major enactments which will have long-term effects on general practice particularly and ultimately will trickle down to the patient.

It will have detrimental effects on health care and the health of all people.

The tax particularly the retrospective nature is nothing but a cynical money grab.

If this doctor bashing continues, we will struggle to attract good quality doctors in the future.


Medical practitioners should not be seen as a soft target for governments to keep attacking.

After almost three years of the pandemic, our hardworking GPs are at breaking point. Ultimately, this new GP tax will be a tax on patients as general practitioners will have no choice but to pass the costs on to their patients or close their doors. If that happens and if bulk-billing services are no longer available or are reduced to the point where people can no longer get a bulk-billed medical appointment, where will patients need to go? They will go to our emergency departments! How is that going to help the health crisis? If patients are not able to get a bulk-billed medical appointment, how will that help our cost-of-living crisis?

We know that already across the state some GPs are feeling the effects of this payroll tax. They have been slugged with retrospective bills running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. In question time yesterday we asked the Treasurer if he will waive the tax bills that GPs have been slugged with. Do members know what the Treasurer said? He said he will not be acting. We asked the health minister if she will guarantee that these new tax bills will not see GPs quit and that Queenslanders will not be slugged with more to see a doctor. What did the health minister say? She said that she could not provide that guarantee.

We on this side of the House will not give up on our hardworking GPs and the Queenslanders who rely on them. We will not give up on the patients. We will continue to stand up and fight for them to reduce cost-of-living pressures and to fix our broken health system, just as we did with the Treasurer's renters tax. Despite being in a cost-of-living and housing crisis, this Treasurer is so arrogant that even, after the Premier shelved the renters tax, he has moved amendments to this overspend bill so it says he withdraws the renters tax 'at this time'. Why has he carefully worded that amendment? To leave the door open to bringing the tax back! 'At this time' does not mean this tax has been permanently ruled out. In fact, it means that if Labor is re-elected in 2024 then the first thing this Treasurer will do will be to reintroduce the tax. His reluctance to rule out this bad policy tells us everything. His reluctance to rule out the bad policy around the GP tax tells us everything. We will not rest until we get these bad policies ruled out.

We have a Treasurer who is hell-bent on defending the indefensible and a third-term Labor government that is at war with itself and no longer governs in the interests of Queenslanders. Queenslanders deserve so much better than this state Labor government. Our GPs deserve so much better. They have had enough of Labor's taxes.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bills. I follow the member for Currumbin who spoke absolute nonsense about GPs. Clearly she was not listening yesterday to the responses of the health minister and the Treasurer on the fact that the law has been applied in the same way since 2008.

There has also been a lot of ranting and raving about the alleged overspend in the Department of Environment and Science, particularly from the members for Scenic Rim, Ninderry and Condamine. In his speech, the Treasurer made it very clear that that overspend can be entirely attributed to the \$672 million to deliver annual payments upfront to councils. Those payments were made to provide support to local governments and to provide surety to them going forward.

We know that those opposite do not like listening to anyone on this side of the House but I would have thought they would listen to their own leader who, in his budget reply speech, said—

I said when I became Leader of the Opposition that I would always give credit where it is due and so I place on the record my acknowledgement of the \$2.1 billion, 10-year transition strategy for the waste levy. Without this, local governments face the real prospect of higher costs and worsening environmental outcomes for an industry that can create jobs and deliver wins for the environment.

As always, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for acknowledging the good work that we on this side are doing. He might like to update his own members of parliament who clearly did not get the memo in their own speaking points.

This is a party that pretends it manages the economy but cannot even understand basic accounting or does not want local councils to receive these up-front payments. I suggest that the member for Scenic Rim, who got up in his contribution and criticised these payments, have a chat to local mayor Greg Christensen, who was absolutely instrumental in ensuring that this package delivered for communities across Queensland. It is a \$2.1 billion waste package that received the support of unlikely members in the community, people like CoMSEQ chair and Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner, who said—

... funding package confirms the State's commitment to supporting this plan and delivering the infrastructure and behavioural change needed to divert waste from landfill and ensure SEQ is a clean and sustainable global destination ahead of the 2032 Games ... CoMSEQ thanks Minister Scanlon ...

CoMSEQ Waste Working Group chair Greg Christensen said that the collaboration will continue through the establishment of the joint project management office with the state government to drive the delivery of the waste management plan.

We also had peak council groups like the LGAQ welcoming the decision with numerous quotes from them. This payment not only provides up-front surety to those councils, but, in addition to that, we are funding regional waste plans across the state where we are working with council and industry on where the holes are in the system and how we can plug them. We are doing that with a \$1.1 million Recycling and Jobs Fund—something I know is a foreign concept to those opposite given that all they did in the waste space was just repeal the waste levy and turn Queensland into the dumping ground of the nation.

We are delivering real and meaningful reform. That is exactly what the appropriation bill does. It also provides funding for us to provide investment for recovery and reconstruction costs that arose from the most recent flooding events in summer and, of course, provides the mental health levy which was a key recommendation of the Mental Health Select Committee. I am very proud to be a part of a government that is investing \$1.6 billion in health to deliver better services that address issues such as mental health, addiction, substance abuse and suicide as well as important capital investment. As has been said, it will only impact the top one per cent of businesses here in Queensland, businesses like Coles, Woolworths, the Commonwealth Bank, Harvey Norman—the list goes on.

I am hardly surprised to hear those opposite speak against this, particularly when it comes to health care. We saw the bizarre motion on Tuesday where they were fixated on the name of satellite hospitals. These hospitals would not exist if those opposite were elected to government. This side of the House takes investment seriously and we make no apologies for investing in our healthcare system, whether that be investment in mental health or investment in infrastructure on the Gold Coast like our

114-bed expansion at Robina Hospital, our \$16.5 billion Robina Hospital emergency department expansion, the 75-bed expansion at Gold Coast University Hospital, the 40-bed secure mental health rehab unit at Gold Coast University Hospital, the \$4 million redevelopment of Southport Ambulance Station or the \$1.3 billion investment to deliver the 404-bed Coomera Hospital by 2027. Despite what the member for Coomera and the opposition get up and say in the media, it is only this government that is delivering the health infrastructure that Queenslanders need. All they committed to—

Mr Crandon: You are not serious.

Ms SCANLON: I am absolutely serious, member for Coomera.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Coomera, order!

Ms SCANLON: At the last election the only thing the LNP committed to was a \$4 million planning study. That was all the money they committed to for the entire Gold Coast—a growing population. There was no actual money for real infrastructure—just planning.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left, order!

Ms SCANLON: Now they have the nerve to criticise the fact that not only are we delivering health infrastructure in Coomera but we are planning—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera and member for Bonney, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: We are planning beyond that. I would have thought it would be welcomed by the opposition that we have a long-term vision for the Gold Coast. Once again, it is just fake outrage from those opposite.


Not only are we investing significantly but we acknowledge that we need to grow our workforce as well. As I mentioned yesterday, we have seen an 82 per cent increase in the health and hospital budget on the Gold Coast because we recognise that our health staff need the support and they need to continue to grow in a growing city like the Gold Coast. That is why we are investing significantly.

I support the appropriation bill. There is an enormous amount of important investment in here to deal with disaster recovery, to deal with the important need to address mental health and also to respond to the targets that we have set out in our waste agenda. I am pleased to see so much investment being rolled out across the state. In your community, Madam Deputy Speaker, I know that we have invested significantly in the Torres Strait to make sure that we can deal with scrap metals. We are investing significantly in schools across the state to deliver organics grants so that school students can learn how to deal with food and garden organic waste. We are also investing in urban composting facilities because we know that there is enormous opportunity there. Fifty per cent of people's general waste bin is made up of food and garden organics. We need to turn that into a product rather than have it ending up in landfill, creating harmful methane emissions.

It is this government that has delivered the policy reform needed through changes in the waste levy—a levy that we are proud of because it is delivering the objective it set out to achieve, being the reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill in both the C&I and C&D sector. Now we are focused on tackling that household waste problem. I acknowledge the incredible work that councils have also been doing across the state and the collaborative style they have taken in engaging with government to land on what I think is a sensible solution. Clearly, it is a sensible solution because it was backed in by the Leader of the Opposition despite the rest of his party seeming to oppose it today in parliament. I am very proud of the investment that we are making.

A government member: They must not have read the memo.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member's interjection. They must not have read the memo, or someone who was writing the speaking points clearly was not paying enough attention to the Leader of the Opposition. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak in this cognate debate on the appropriation bills and the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will focus on Appropriation Bill (No. 3) which authorises the Treasurer to pay \$2.825 billion to cover budget blowouts from 14 government departments. That means that more than half the cabinet has overseen budget

blowouts in their departments. This is the largest amount of unforeseen expenditure since the infamous Bligh government budget blowouts in 2011-12. This is taxpayers' money which has already been spent. The sheer amount of the blowouts exposes an incompetent government which is losing control of spending. It is a government incapable of treating taxpayers' money with respect, incapable of keeping to forecasted budgets and a Treasurer who cannot manage the state's finances.

In the almost \$3 billion needed to cover the budget blowout, an allocation of \$2.225 million is needed for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, DAF. The increased revenue is needed for some key departmental responsibilities such as drought assistance, the Native Timber Action Plan, biosecurity measures, feral pest control, cluster fencing, the fisheries strategy and worker shortages. The Queensland Treasurer said—

Additional departmental services were primarily due to increased State funding for various programs including the Drought Assistance and Reform Package and the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce, partly offset by timing adjustments for a number of programs including cluster fencing and feral pest control and other biosecurity measures, the Queensland Agriculture Workforces Network, Native Timber Action Plan and the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

There were also expenses for Australian government funds for various programs including the Horticultural Netting Program and the Future Drought Fund.

Last year's budget was an exercise in accounting trickery, spin and announcements not backed up with any budget allocation or lines. DAF only delivered a press rerelease with little detail. The minister resorted to figures from seven years earlier to find a comparison to back the spin. Despite the government's eye-watering borrowings and record debt, DAF went backwards in funding and staff. DAF even sold assets and still went backwards! Operational expenditure went from \$586.733 million to a budgeted \$522.630 million. That is a reduction of more than \$64 million or 10 per cent. Staff numbers were less, offices closed, extension services all but disappeared, research and development was left to others, and pest and weed management were barely mentioned.

Despite needing up to 9,000 seasonal horticultural workers, it had no detail on assisting quarantine costs of foreign workers who were desperately needed on farms. The only reference to drought in last year's budget was a passing reference that relief assistance was a concession. The additional funding for drought in this bill shows the impact and severity drought had across regional and rural areas. This bill authorised increased funding for the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy. Last year's budget had no detail for the implementation of the onerous fishing reforms. There was no mention of or funding to complete a regulatory impact statement as the Queensland Productivity Commission advised.

The Native Timber Action Plan is inconvenient. Three years ago the Premier announced a Timber Action Plan. She promised a Native Timber Advisory Panel. When it was finally formed almost two years later, it was stacked with green activists including Aila Keto and Virginia Young, who helped mastermind the failed policy of Peter Beattie and Henry Palaszczuk. We have seen no recommendations from it. Even the government's own website about the plan has not been updated for almost a year. The Premier's two-year study to identify future sustainable actions is now a year overdue. Meanwhile, timber supply issues continue to impact housing construction. More than a 10 per cent increase in raw timber costs and lengthy delays to source products have inflated costs. If nothing changes, we will be short 56,000 house frames by 2035.

This bill authorises increased funds for the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network. I have been visiting primary producers in many areas of our vast state. Recently I visited regions such as Bowen, Ayr, Mareeba, the Atherton Tablelands, Rockhampton and Hervey Bay. The calls to act on labour shortages are unanimous. The *Queensland Country Life* headline 'Lack of workforce holds ag to ransom' summed up the problem. Labour shortages and skyrocketing costs are impacting grocery prices at the checkout. They are pushing up fruit and vegetable prices on supermarket shelves. AgForce said—

The labour crisis is a major barrier to farm production ... and without a real solution, production costs will continue to rise, and consumers will be hit with even higher grocery prices.

This bill provides for additional funds for the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce. The war against fire ants is being lost. There are serious issues and lots of unanswered questions around the Fire Ant Eradication Program. All states and territories fund this program. Queensland has a responsibility to deliver on their investment.

For years I have warned about biosecurity risks. Yet over successive years Minister Furner has cut animal welfare and biosecurity officers. It is either ignorant or deliberately indifferent. Biosecurity risks should not be managed as media exercises, and the daily struggle of landholders and producers to deal with feral pests and invasive weeds are an afterthought.

The government did everything it could to avoid debating weed management and finalise the inquiry into the impacts of invasive weeds in Queensland. It tried to bury the report, watered down recommendations, bury its record and avoid scrutiny. This bill is just the latest evidence proving the agriculture minister fails to stand up for the industries he is supposed to represent.

This bill is glaring proof that the government's only economic plan is for more taxes, more debt, reckless increased borrowing and to fail on integrity and transparency. Its management is characterised by 15 new taxes, wasteful spending, overseeing cost overruns which plague infrastructure projects and the wrong priorities. Because the Treasurer will not rein in wasteful spending of his cabinet colleagues, he increases taxes, breaks the tax promise made 26 times and breaks the debt promise by borrowing \$28 billion after promising to borrow \$4 billion.

Wasteful spending has consequences in communities like Gympie. It means we do not get the projects and infrastructure we need. Projects are being constantly delayed, put in the too hard basket, or worse ignored. Ministers know about them because I frequently raise it with them. They cannot claim ignorance.

The government refuses to deliver a new hospital for Gympie and an ambulance station at Glenwood. It knows the hospital's facilities are old and not fit for purpose, with services fragmented and spread across multiple buildings. Its own Sunshine Coast HHS master plan said the Gympie Hospital cannot provide the level of service we need. It recommended preparing a business plan for a new hospital on a new site.


If they were not wasting money, Rainbow Beach would get its properly designated police station now. Antisocial behaviour on Teewah Beach continues to be a problem, and Imbil Police Station needs additional personnel as well as an upgrade.

Wasteful spending means we miss out on funding for road and bridge infrastructure and improved train services or to relieve pressure on state-controlled roads. The Mary Valley Highway needs to be upgraded to at least B-double standard. Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach roads need overtaking lanes. The three-kilometre stretch between Tooth Drive and Reuben Road on the Gympie-Woolooga Road needs widening to two lanes.

Despite the hand wringing and media opportunities, the government is clearly reluctant to flood-proof my region. It refuses to help improve flood immunity and start planning for a high-level bridge to improve access between north and south Gympie or upgrade bridges on Gympie-Woolooga Road.

Gympie also needs increased train services from Gympie north to the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. It ignores fast-tracking investment in new school buildings and flood-proofing them, especially at One Mile State School. Demountables should only be temporary; they should not be the solution. James Nash State High School has approximately 1,300 students and 150 staff. It needs a multipurpose hall big enough for all staff and students. Gympie needs funding towards a multipurpose entertainment facility, improved and increased sports facilities across the region and heating for the outdoor pool at the Gympie Aquatic Recreation Centre.

The government is incompetent and incapable of getting the priorities right. It resorts to accounting trickery, dodgy valuations, raids on Public Service superannuation and pushing borrowings out to conceal the true state of the books. It is too busy blaming anyone else, pursuing photo opportunities, red carpets, ribbon cutting and indulging in media spin. Its record speaks for itself. It is a government you cannot afford to trust.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate on the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3). In regard to the betting tax reforms, these will provide a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry into the future. The changes broadly involve imposing a five per cent racing levy in addition to the current betting tax of 15 per cent—effectively raising the rate to 20 per cent; incorporating free bets into the calculation of betting tax; and hypothecating 80 per cent of annual betting tax revenue to the Racing Queensland Board. Imposing the racing levy in this manner ensures it will be imposed and calculated on the same basis as betting tax. It will make it much easier for operators to comply with their obligations in relation to their returns and will streamline administration for the Revenue Office.

Country racing is, of course, an essential part of the economic and social fabric of many communities across Queensland. We have heard that from plenty of speakers in this debate. As the most decentralised state, these big racing events are often the biggest day of the year in many

communities and are certainly a great day out. These amendments will provide certainty to country racing in relation to funding models into the future so they can plan for future events. They can tie in other local festivals or calendar events in town to line up with the racing carnival knowing that it can go ahead with certainty.

The bill amends the Racing Act and the regulation to provide that Racing Queensland must pay a minimum amount—\$20 million—of the hypothecated betting revenue which the Treasurer will be required to pay to Racing Queensland under the Betting Tax Act to fund country thoroughbred racing meetings. We have invested over \$100 million through the Country Racing Program over the last six years. The proposed minimum dollar amount of \$20 million will replace the Country Racing Program and represents a real increase in the minimum funding for thoroughbred racing with an inbuilt increase.

Should betting tax revenue grow at greater rates than we expect, the government is able to re-evaluate the prescribed amount as it is regulated as a minimum amount. This funding is about certainty so that country thoroughbred racing is no longer dependent on grants but instead has a sustainable funding source well into the future.

Despite what some may have said, this is not a tax on punters; this is a tax on large multinationals, the largest of which are principally foreign owned or foreign residing. For example, the owner of Ladbrokes and Neds recorded nearly \$2 billion in revenue last year and the owner of Betfair recorded \$2.5 billion in global revenue. These are very large multinationals. It has been argued that they are bleeding Queensland Racing dry. It is about time the companies that are profiting from Queensland's thriving racing industry also invest in its future.

Moving on more broadly to the appropriation bills, the unforeseen expenditure is a routine part of the budget cycle. It happens every year and it is not the same as department overspending. A department can incur unforeseen expenditure which may occur for any number of reasons. These can include natural disasters, emergent issues, new decisions and the implementation of government policies made during the year, a change in timing of Commonwealth payments or accelerated project delivery including bringing forward the capital spending on large projects.

Not only was Australia impacted by COVID last year but we also had significant weather related events. These events are difficult and sometimes impossible to anticipate in a budgetary sense. Many of these significant items of unforeseen expenditure relate to COVID business grants. At the time of the 2021-22 budget it had not been anticipated what form they may take. The minister for the environment clearly outlined which of her departments were responsible for unforeseen expenditure and there were some very good reasons, including arrangements with councils that came about in a timely manner.

As we can see from other jurisdictions, the extent to which unforeseen expenditure arises varies greatly. New South Wales had a very different COVID experience to Queensland. The then treasurer and now Premier had only just released his budget when New South Wales went into lockdown. We are being criticised for our \$2.8 billion in unforeseen expenditure, whereas New South Wales has paid \$17.8 billion out of their Consolidated Fund which is six times more substantial than our budget. Their debt position is much worse than ours overall.

In terms of the reallocation of funds, they have brought forward hundreds of millions of dollars for Bruce Highway upgrades, the Gympie bypass, the Townsville Ring Road, and the Bruce Highway duplication south of Cairns. If we do not want to have unforeseen expenditure we can slow those projects down and they will not be done quickly. I am sure no-one would want to argue that.


Mr Healy: No, they would not be happy with that.

Mr MELLISH: No. I will take that interjection from the member for Cairns. Locally, I am very pleased to see initiatives in the budget that deliver for the north side of Brisbane. We have a massive hospital expenditure coming up with the Prince Charles Hospital's \$300 million expansion—I thank the health minister for that—93 additional beds. It is an outstanding project in the member for Stafford's electorate just across the border. We will have to chat about those boundaries in the next redistribution, as it is a great hospital for the north side. Everyone who goes there commends the staff for their hard work. I am really pleased that we are extending that. This is in addition to the world-class cancer treatment centre at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, which will host an additional 150 hospital beds. We are also investing \$1.6 billion into mental health services over the next five years.

Locally in this budget there is plenty of education expenditure. I am particularly pleased with the new buildings that are going in Geebung Special School and Aspley Special School. Geebung Special School should be done by early next year; Aspley Special School is coming on great and should be

done by the end of this year. I am really pleased that those school projects are going ahead. We have Aspley East State School, Aspley State School, Bald Hills State School and Craigslea getting some great funding in this budget. I am really pleased with how they are going.

In terms of road projects, we have the Beams Road overpass. Early works are underway there relocating the car park. That is a fantastic project. Three levels of government are investing in it. I really look forward to seeing that go ahead. These projects only happen under Queensland Labor governments. I am really keen to ensure we have more great budgets delivering initiatives such as this. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3), which are being debated in cognate with the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

The objective of the Appropriation Bill is to seek formal authorisation for specified amounts to be paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure. Fourteen government departments and agencies, including the Legislative Assembly, have incurred unforeseen expenditure in the financial year starting 1 July 2021. Unforeseen expenditure is another name for a budget blowout. The legislation authorises the Treasurer to pay \$2.8 billion from the Consolidated Fund from the government's central bank account which holds income. This is the biggest blowout of its kind in the last decade, so what does it tell us?

It tells a story of a Treasurer unable to contain wasteful spending. What the bill lays out clearly is that the current Treasurer is completely unable to manage the state's finances and fails to treat Queensland taxpayers' money with the respect it deserves. This is despite the additional billions in taxation income. Despite the income from all of the new taxes and rivers of gold from coal realities, we see declining service delivery across a range of portfolios. At the same time, there is wasteful spending from this Palaszczuk Labor government.

One white elephant of waste that comes to mind is the Wellcamp regional accommodation centre. In the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning there is \$573 million worth of unforeseen expenditure. The explanatory notes state that the additional equity adjournments were primarily due to funding for the Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre. Located at Wellcamp, the Regional Accommodation Centre cost taxpayers some \$237 million. This quarantine facility was all about playing politics with the former federal government. Perhaps if the Labor government had not wasted funds on Wellcamp, the money wasted on the accommodation centre would be enough to bring the local government Works for Queensland program up to \$100 million per year.


The explanatory notes mention funding adjustments for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to cover recovery and reconstruction costs primarily arising from flooding in the summer of 2021-22. There is no doubt that Queenslanders and local governments have experienced a summer of natural disasters. Queensland is one of the most disaster prone states in the country. That is another reason why it is so important not to waste taxpayers' funds because we do not know the extent or frequency of the next disaster shock that might impact our state. It is so disappointing to see that \$237 million wasted at Wellcamp.

There is money that is needed urgently for the extension of the Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants, which close 5 December this year and 6 January next year. There are eligible Queenslanders who are applying to QRIDA right now for these recovery grants and they are worried they will miss out on this grant funding. Constituents like Jack in my electorate cannot get on to QRIDA on the phone. They have waited up to an hour on hold, only to be hung up on when the connection is finally established. It is too wet for Jack to get any trucks onto the property to do the repair work. Many others cannot get quotes because there is a shortage of contractors.

It is disappointing that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries had an unforeseen expenditure of \$2.2 million; however, they still hang up on their clients. What Jack needs is a minister for agriculture who speaks up in cabinet and ensures there is customer service provided by his department and agencies. I call on this Labor government to talk to their colleagues in Canberra and approve a 12-month extension to the Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants. There are only three weeks left to get this extension approved. Without that extension there will be many eligible Queensland farmers, businesses and not-for-profits across southern Queensland—some of whom have been impacted by multiple events—that will miss out.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection from the member for Gympie. Many MPs, including myself, have written to the Deputy Premier. He needs to turn his attention to this extension urgently. There are only three weeks left. Queenslanders deserve better than what they are getting at the current time from this Palaszczuk government.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.47 pm): I love being lectured to by the LNP on the Appropriation Bill. In fact, I will be lectured to by the LNP on the Appropriation Bill. It gives me the opportunity to rebut much of their ridiculous nonsense.

In question time the member for Coomera mentioned a theoretical child—I think it was a theoretical child—and raised concerns around the hospital for Coomera. I want to address that theoretical child from Coomera, because I can tell you some of the things that theoretical child from Coomera will not be doing, no matter what age she gets to. She will never be drinking water from the fake Bradfield scheme. She will never be out there dancing under the sprinkler, watering the garden or making cups of tea with water from the fake Bradfield scheme because, even if those opposite had been elected, the fake Bradfield scheme had absolutely no funding until two years after the Olympics. It is utterly ridiculous for those opposite to stand there and lecture us on delaying projects when their whole promises are delayed projects.

I can tell the House what else that theoretical child will not be doing. They will not be driving up and down the gold-plated Bruce Highway that was also promised. At the time of the election, I think it was 16 years hence that that would have been delivered.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr KELLY: It certainly was not promised by ScoMo. What that theoretical child might be able to do if they fast-track through uni at the speed the member for Coomera outlined for them is they might be able to read a master plan for the Coomera Hospital. As the Minister for Health pointed out, all that the member for Coomera promised in the last election was a master plan. We are actually delivering a hospital at Coomera, just as we have delivered many other things for the electorate of Coomera. I know the member for Coomera likes to come in here and yell at this side of the House about all the things he thinks should happen in the electorate of Coomera, but I wonder how much yelling he did when the Newman government was in power for a mercifully short period of time.

This appropriation bill again demonstrates what a fantastic economic manager the Palaszczuk Labor government is, and I want to commend the Treasurer for his ongoing good work. We have seen record low unemployment rates in our state, and that is a result of good economic management. We have come through some of the most difficult economic times as a state and we have managed to come out the other side in better shape. Yes, we have some challenges coming our way, but I am absolutely confident that we are capable of meeting those challenges.

I look around every day and I see the things we are doing in my electorate that make a difference; they make people's lives better, safer and brighter in the electorate of Greenslopes. In the education sector, I see \$18 million being invested in Holland Park High. It is the biggest investment in that school since it was opened 51 years ago. I see people riding on the Veloway, getting to and from work faster and safer. Now thanks to the budget there is going to be an overpass over O'Keefe Street and another one going over the back of the PA Hospital. This will connect our community even better. I believe that eventually they will go all the way in the other direction down to the Springwood area. That is a fantastic program. I see the Brisbane Tigers, formerly Easts—I was hoping they might be the Firebirds, but that is another story—have construction of their new facility underway. I am dropping out to see it tomorrow. That is a million dollars contributed by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

As I said, I love being lectured on health by the members opposite. I see what is happening in my area. There are 249 new beds at the PA Hospital to the tune of \$359 million. Just today we have seen a real concrete outcome of the mental health inquiry that I had the pleasure to lead. We put aside \$1.6 billion in a dedicated fund for mental health services, and we have seen eight new mother and infant mental health beds opened at the Mater Hospital partially funded by that fund. We had four in the state; we now have 12. That is an incredible step forward in such a short time. I see social housing being built in my electorate. I am pleased to say that Brisbane Housing Company has announced a new project in Stones Corner that will have social and affordable housing. I hope the Greens do not come and protest against that because it will be high-density living, but it is absolutely the right spot to do it. I see the benefits of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I do not have to go far for that. I can walk around here in parliament and see people who have graduated from Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs in my electorate working in the catering section of Parliament House.


Ms Farmer: Such a big supporter of the program.

Mr KELLY: Absolutely, I will take that interjection. Nothing makes me prouder—and I am sure it is the same for every single person on this side of the House—than seeing people with challenges and disadvantages in life getting into a decent, dignified job.

Ms Farmer: Do you know they cut that when they first got in?

Mr KELLY: Absolutely they cut it. They slashed it and burnt it. We would not see those people walking around Parliament House with dignified and decent jobs if those opposite had been in power.

Let me finish with Cross River Rail, one of my favourite projects. It is going to deliver a huge boost for the entirety of South-East Queensland. It is going to deliver economic benefits right across the state. It is a fantastic project. I heard the member for Maroochydore talking during this debate about the federal government's contribution to a project at the Sunshine Coast. The reality is they contributed zero dollars—'not a cracker' was the term used by my friend the member for Coomera—to Cross River Rail. The Palaszczuk Labor government has done the heavy lifting when it comes to that project—just like we are doing the heavy lifting when it comes to the Energy and Jobs Plan. We will continue to do the heavy lifting, we will continue to manage the economy well, and we will continue to create jobs and make life better, safer and brighter for the people of Greenslopes. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to address the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. These pieces of legislation were introduced into the Queensland parliament on 12 October and subsequently referred to the Economics and Governance Committee for due consideration and scrutiny, with the Economics and Governance Committee reporting on the bills on 4 November 2022. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all members of the committee for their work in scrutinising these bills, as well as the committee secretariat for their work. As is outlined in the relevant sections of this draft legislation, the objectives of the bills relate to formal authorisation being sought by the state government for specified amounts in each bill that the Treasurer has paid from the Consolidated Fund for unseen expenditure that has occurred in the 2021-22 financial year in excess of the amount provided by the relevant budget appropriation bills.

The total authorised expenditure being sought from the two bills equates to \$2.825 billion. The vast majority of this relates to Appropriation Bill (No. 3), whereby additional funds are being sought from the Consolidated Fund for 14 departments as stated in the respective financial year starting 1 July 2021. The amount being sought is \$2.823 billion for these 14 departments. As a comparison, in the previous relevant year it was only \$447.456 million for six departments. Whilst the Treasurer will offer a range of reasons for this expenditure—and I do acknowledge and respect certain additional expenditure is required for public benefit—there are certainly many areas where wasteful spending has taken place under the Palaszczuk state Labor government. We have seen this before, particularly during the Beattie and Bligh years. It is the Treasurer's lack of credibility and respect amongst his colleagues which has resulted in these huge budget blowouts in these bills. This has exposed the sheer ongoing incompetence of the Palaszczuk state Labor government to plan and budget appropriately.

I will give some examples of wasteful expenditure under the state Labor government. The first is the Cross River Rail blowout of over \$2.6 billion.

Mr Minnikin: And rising.

Dr ROWAN: The member for Chatsworth brings this to the attention of the House all of the time. I take that interjection; it is rising. In relation to that project, the blowout continues to increase under Minister Bailey in relation to not only Cross River Rail but also other projects, including: the \$220 million spend on the Wellcamp quarantine facility; the Coomera Connector blowout of \$600 million; the Brisbane South and Fortitude Valley state secondary colleges blowout of \$18 million; the North Queensland Stadium blowout of \$48.4 million; and the Capricornia Correctional Centre blowout of \$10.9 billion. That is just to name a few when it comes to this Labor government and the blowouts and the waste that occurs under the Labor government.

All this government has is a taxing agenda, a blowout agenda when it comes to wastage in this state and a lack of proper planning and due diligence. Despite all of this, there is still no comprehensive integrated road and public transport plan to address traffic congestion or improve public transport and deliver safety to cyclists and pedestrians across the western suburbs of Brisbane, particularly within the electorate of Moggill. It has been over 550 days since community consultation closed on the Kenmore roundabout project and there is still limited information on what the state Labor government intends to do. A fraction of this government's wasteful spending could have been allocated to address the Our

Lady of the Rosary intersection, which is the section of Moggill Road which intersects with both Kenmore Road and Almay Street. There are serious concerns about student safety at that intersection. Again, with the wasteful spending that is occurring under this government, there could have been funds allocated to fix that.

Government members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I know Labor government members do not care about school student safety and that is why they are interjecting—because they do not care about it. They have done nothing in relation to that. They are not standing up for the safety of local students. They will not do that. They will not step up to the mark and allocate funds, and that is why they continue to interject—because they do not care about school student safety. It is very important that they actually show some due diligence and step up to the mark and engage proactively with school communities, local residents and other concerned local people within the electorate and deliver these solutions. Rather than waste money, which they continue to do, they should show due diligence when it comes to taxpayers dollars and allocate proper budgets and proper planning processes. They should ensure that local people in my electorate of Moggill and right across Queensland get the infrastructure they deserve.

As the member for Chatsworth also knows in relation to the Centenary Bridge duplication project, this was supposed to be delivered last year, or commenced last year, but it will not actually commence until next year. This is the thing about this Labor government: they always make these promises, they always talk about spin and rhetoric, they always have smoke and mirrors when it comes to their economic strategies here in Queensland, but we have heard it all before, particularly when it comes to their dubious economic strategies—loading debt onto government owned corporations, raiding the defined benefit schemes of public servants—

Mr Power interjected.

Dr ROWAN: They continue to interject because they know the truth. The people of Queensland know the truth. They interject because they are embarrassed by it. Those Labor members opposite are embarrassed by their poor performance here in Queensland, but they have form when it comes to this in Queensland. They have form because we have seen it, as I said before, under the Beattie and Bligh Labor years. This is the biggest overrun that we have seen since those dying years of the Bligh Labor government.


That is why health is falling apart. Look at what is happening in relation to ambulance ramping. People cannot get the services they require. We have clinical governance failures which are occurring in Mackay, Caboolture and right across Queensland. People are very concerned about this. Frontline health professionals are talking about it all the time. They are talking about it in the media and they are coming to the opposition. Patients are talking about it as well. The government is not allocating these funds to get the proper services that are needed here in Queensland.

I would say to the Labor government that it is time to step up, to show due diligence when it comes to managing the dollars of taxpayers—those very important dollars—and ensure they are spent appropriately and there is due oversight when it comes to doing that. I know that our shadow Treasurer has alluded to many of these issues in the Queensland parliament as well.

When it comes to the overspending here in Queensland, it is not unexpected really when we see the track record of the Palaszczuk state Labor government in its third term—

Mr Minnikin: ‘Labor-nomics’.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It is ‘Labor-nomics’. Here in Queensland they always have more debt, they never have due diligence when it comes to spending, and they have no respect for hard-earned taxpayer dollars. I say to those opposite that what they need to do into the future is ensure there is proper planning, proper budgetary processes and a proper allocation of funds when it comes to delivering the vital infrastructure and services that we require in Queensland.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (5.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. On 6 June 2022 the government announced changes to the betting tax to provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland’s racing industry. I can say, as many in this chamber would be aware, they have been desperately looking for that. I am very pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government has well and truly delivered, as the minister mentioned earlier today.

The racing levy ensures it will be imposed and calculated on the same basis as betting tax. This will make it easier for betting operators to comply with their obligations in relation to both monthly and annual returns and will streamline administration for the Queensland Revenue Office. The bill amends the Betting Tax Act 2018 to incorporate free bets into the calculation of taxable wagering revenue from 1 December 2022. The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction not to currently impose a betting tax and, of those that do, all except Tasmania incorporate free bets into calculating the betting tax.

I would like to touch on country racing funding. Country racing, as a lot of us know, is an essential part of the economic and social fabric of communities across Queensland. In line with broader amendments to the Betting Tax Act, an alternative funding method is required to provide certainty to country racing participants on funding for country racing into the future.

Since 1959, the Cairns Amateurs has been an absolute world-class event and it has been supported by the Palaszczuk government. Thousands of people from around the Commonwealth and some from overseas have visited the tropical north. This is an event that pumps \$15 million-plus into our regional economy and it is one of the many events that get the strong support of the government. The changes that are being made by this bill are absolutely essential. Large multinational organisations definitely need to pay their fair share.

There are a couple of things I want to touch on in relation to the appropriation bill. I want to acknowledge the investment the Palaszczuk government has made in the Cairns region. We will not even get into details about the hundreds of millions of dollars that both state and federal governments have invested in relation to roads coming in and around Cairns. The Cairns Western Arterial Road, the northern section of the Captain Cook Highway, has received both federal and state funding and continues to grow. We have seen money from both the state and federal governments in relation to the Cairns Southern Access road, which has been completed and is absolutely spectacular.


The other benefit of this hundreds of millions of dollars of investment is the jobs it provides for the local community. We have very strict guidelines on employment and we have strong engagement with the local community. I talk to a number of people in my community and to a lot of business owners who are heavily involved.

I want to also touch on the \$176 million that we have invested in the Cairns Convention Centre. This was something that was built by a Labor government and now we are refurbishing it. This is a facility which is fundamentally important to our economy. We know from our tourism culture that we have so many hotels around. We bring intrastate, interstate and international events to our world-class convention centre. Prior to the \$176 million development it generated about \$80 million a year, and this permeates through our community and is absolutely essential. At the completion of this upgrade—and you will all be enjoying the final product when you come to Cairns for the sitting of parliament in May of next year—this facility will generate at least \$130 million into our economy. This is absolutely essential.

We spent \$126 million on dredging. We are seeing the cruise ships come in. We recently announced a \$150 million commitment for a major expansion to the Cairns Marine Precinct which will enable the maintenance, repair and overhaul of large ships, not only navy ships. There will also be significant investments in superyachts. We have made a multimillion dollar investment. I acknowledge the Treasurer in this decision because it was the Treasurer who recognised their importance.

We have four international airports in Queensland, more than any other state in the Commonwealth. We do lack critical mass. For those people who do not get it, we do not have the population to sustain the numbers. The way we deal with that is that we fill the belly of the aircraft using our agriculture and aquaculture. The Treasurer approved \$10 million for a refrigerated export facility, which is absolutely fantastic. This will see an expansion of the \$200 million which the Palaszczuk government, in conjunction with the private sector, has put out there to ensure we get a solid return.

There are so many initiatives. We can talk about Building our Regions. We can talk about Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which is such an important program in my part of the world. There is over \$50 billion for an infrastructure program. We have a \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan. We have the largest investment in health. We have the largest investment in housing. I have to say, without any doubt, I am enormously proud to be part of a government that gets it and, more importantly, can articulate it.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.07 pm): It is a privilege to speak tonight on the appropriation bill and to bring further attention to the House the disappointment that we are seeing with the Labor government putting Queenslanders into further debt—debt like we have never seen before, heading to


\$128 billion. This appropriation bill contains the largest overspend in living history, \$2.85 billion. That would not be a problem except that Queenslanders understand and hate waste. It is alright if the money is being spent on things that will provide a return on investment or improve services, but when Queenslanders see a government wasting money there are huge concerns. I am sure many Queenslanders cannot wait for the 2024 election.

I must say that the waste in my community is glaringly obvious. The Wellcamp facility is just up the road, a \$220 million overspend. That money could very well have been spent on the Warrego Highway, the Brisbane Valley Highway, Forest Hill Fernvale Road or even the Gatton Helidon Road and the Laidley Plainland Road. That would have seen all the safety improvements done on those roads, not to mention improvements to the health services in our community. They are just the tip of the iceberg.

What about our water project? I know there is \$12 million from the city deals sitting there which needs to be released. Instead of talking about the positives of those programs, we are actually seeing waste. Queenslanders know—even Labor supporters know—that Labor cannot manage money; that is a truism in our community. We need to see this Labor government held to account.

We have to look at the 26 times the Treasurer promised Queensland there would be no new taxes. We have seen some of the worst taxes possible in terms of the payroll tax that is now being applied to many organisations. I heard the Treasurer say that there has not been a change in policy since 2018. I think there has been a change in the interpretation of that policy being applied to GPs and other businesses across Queensland, let alone the land tax we have also seen recently removed as of now. Who knows when that will be back on the agenda?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the Treasurer to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.10 pm), in reply: I want to begin by thanking all those members who provided their support for these bills. These bills represent two core values of the Palaszczuk Labor government: firstly, nation-leading economic reform to key sectors of the economy; and, secondly, ensuring that vital services and infrastructure are delivered to the people of this state. I want to first turn to the appropriation bills. In this debate we have heard a lot of overcooked LNP rhetoric about the supplementary appropriations, with those opposite falsely claiming they are a bad thing. That rhetoric and those statements have no merit. They convince no-one and are a waste of the parliament's time.

I want to put on the record up-front that as Treasurer of Queensland, I could not be prouder to seek this supplementary appropriation for the 2021-22 financial year for unforeseen expenditure. There is not one aspect of this unforeseen expenditure that I regret nor is it expenditure that should be regretted. That is because this unforeseen expenditure saved Queenslanders—both their lives and their livelihoods. That financial year had some extraordinary curve balls for our state and our nation and it is only right and proper that the Queensland government stepped up to meet everything demanded of it, whether foreseen or otherwise. As I said earlier this week, Queensland's economy is more than a profit-and-loss statement, and we will never apologise for stepping up to spend when our state needs it. The unforeseen expenditure in this bill is the written proof that the Queensland government did exactly that.

Collectively, the government has responded with \$15.2 billion in additional financial assistance to support Queenslanders. We can see from other jurisdictions the extent to which these types of unforeseen issues can arise. Just look at New South Wales. New South Wales had the equivalent of unforeseen expenditure of \$17.8 billion for exigencies of government during the year 2021-22. That is around six times what Queensland expended. Yet when confronted with the fact, what did we hear from the LNP? Nothing! We heard absolutely nothing. Is that not funny? All through COVID the LNP looked to New South Wales. The LNP demanded 64 times that the border with New South Wales be opened, but when it comes to unforeseen expenditure, up goes the banana curtain. A mental block is erected between Queensland and New South Wales at the Tweed. New South Wales does not exist; Queensland is an island.

I make no criticism of the New South Wales government or their extraordinary levels of unforeseen expenditure. When you have a financial year like we had, like New South Wales had, like Australia had—when you have those financial years in Queensland and New South Wales there is going to be unforeseen expenditure. Of course, in other areas our government, like New South Wales,

has chosen to invest where other circumstances deemed it appropriate. We paid out the waste levy to councils in advance, which can I say the Leader of the Opposition welcomed in his budget reply but now rejects. We seek appropriate constitutional and parliamentary appropriation for the very expenditure that he supported in his budget reply but condemned in the House this week. We successfully administered the Morrison LNP government's HomeBuilder program and the Morrison LNP government's financial assistance grants for councils. All of these have contributed to unforeseen expenditure, which under the Constitution we have to bring into this House for appropriate parliamentary approval. In most of those cases that money has been repaid to us as revenue—or will be at a later date.

Of course, there is also money that we spend on vital infrastructure. The LNP would not understand about that because they bragged about cutting infrastructure and the infrastructure budget when they were in government. We brought forward spending of hundreds of millions of dollars on Bruce Highway upgrades, forming part of unforeseen expenditure for which we quite properly seek parliamentary approval.

As I mentioned, the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill delivers important economic reforms for our state. It will provide long-term funding certainty for the industry and for Racing Queensland. It has been a bit hard to hear it—a little bit quiet—but I think this reform may, in fact, have the support of the LNP. However, they could not admit that and had to conceal their support under a blizzard of misdirection and misrepresentations or contributions otherwise filed in a folder marked 'miscellaneous LNP nonsense'. It has been a while since I had to listen to an LNP debate and I had some hope, naive as I was. I thought maybe—just maybe—we might have heard a policy contribution by the LNP. During the course of the debate—

A government member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the minister. I will not hold my breath because during the debate I do not think I heard a single, solitary policy idea, reform or suggestion. The LNP has nothing to do as an opposition, yet they come up with nothing.

Let's face the facts. The LNP have supported every revenue measure in the budget I have brought into this House as Treasurer. They voted in support of every single revenue measure passed by the parliament in the budget sitting week. I welcome them supporting these revenue measures time after time, as they did during the budget sitting week, but the LNP should have the honesty to admit that they supported the government's agenda on tax and revenue. They should cut out all of the pointless, meandering complaint and criticism, and maybe—just maybe—the LNP should do some work.

A case in point is payroll tax as it affects medical practitioners. Over and over we heard them this week demanding unspecified changes to arrangements to payroll tax. They cannot say what or how or why; they all just regurgitated LNP talking points. Yet these payroll tax arrangements were exactly the same arrangements they presided over when they were in government. I think the LNP backbench is being let down by a front bench who do not think, do not plan and do not do any work at all.

We also heard all sorts of bluster and bravado about the removal of the interstate land tax loophole, yet when the actual reform was before the House in the budget in June they voted for it. The LNP voted aye for the reform.

Mr Janetzki: The Premier voted for it, too.

Mr DICK: I get that the opposition are frustrated; they support a measure that is not now proceeding, but it does not mean that the LNP get to rewrite history. Their conduct just shows the craven politics and the bad faith that underpins everything this current Leader of the Opposition and the LNP do. On the one hand, the Leader of the Opposition came in here, supported the revenue measures before the House and voted aye. Then a few months later he started complaining about them. Then he comes in here and attacks not only the new revenue measures but also the old revenue measures, including the payroll tax provisions that he presided over as a cabinet minister in the Newman government. Then to top it all off, the member for Broadwater now demands more spending in his own electorate on police and education.

The member for Broadwater even had the temerity to come into the House and demand more funding for housing—the same sort of social and affordable housing that he condemned when he was a councillor on the Townsville City Council, calling social housing 'sardine city'. That shows the character of the person the backbench has put in charge of their parliamentary party. The choice for

the Leader of the Opposition is that if he wants to cut payroll tax he has to cut spending. The fact that he tries to have it both ways just shows that he does not have the courage or the conviction to lead this state.

The LNP's recurring comment on these bills has been that government spending to save lives and livelihoods was somehow a mistake. While the opposition have been quick to complain, they have been far less ready to tell the people of Queensland what spending they would cut. I acknowledge the contributions from the members who highlighted the critical role that this expenditure played in supporting Queensland's recovery from COVID and natural disasters. The members for Mount Ommaney and Jordan, amongst others, passionately described the work that volunteers, businesses and community clubs are undertaking to recover from the flooding events earlier this year. Yet the LNP regards helping volunteers and flood victims as a waste of public money—no wonder, coming from the party that cut funding to community groups in this state. I will be sure to remind Queenslanders of the position that the LNP has taken on supporting hardworking volunteers to recover from flooding over the months and years to come.

I turn now to some of the remarks made by members in the debate. I note the claims made by the member for Toowoomba South and other members about coal and royalties. They have said that I am unwilling to talk about coal—nothing could be further from the truth. I have been talking up the contribution of coalmining in this state long before the opposition tried to latch onto the issue, including when I was the minister for state development supporting new coalmines at Winchester South and Olive Downs—a mine which is under construction as we meet in this House. The fact of the matter is this: I am always proud to talk about coal.

A prosperous resource sector is good for jobs and it is good for Queensland. There has never been a better time to be a coalminer in Queensland. As members opposite have acknowledged, coal prices are currently off the charts. Coal companies are selling coal for prices they have never seen before, and so their profits are boosted enormously. It is why we introduced progressive coal royalties. They have received bipartisan political support—something that the LNP conveniently ignored in this debate. Not one member of this House voted against them. The LNP went further—they voted to support them at their state conference.

Government members interjected.

Mr DICK: Can you believe it? That is because it is good policy and it is the right thing for Queensland. What I am surprised by is the shamelessness of the LNP on the issue of coal royalties in Queensland, because these royalties will help deliver the great services and infrastructure that regional Queenslanders need and deserve, like a new Moranbah Hospital. If the member for Burdekin does not like it, I will be happy to campaign with the Labor candidate for Burdekin every day up until the next election about how important that hospital is for the Burdekin electorate.

I note the comments of the member for Toowoomba South about my recent trade and investment mission where I represented the Queensland government in Korea, Japan and Singapore. The member for Toowoomba South said he did his research on my trade mission—sorry, he ran a Ctrl-F search. That is what counts for research when it comes to the LNP. There was no mention of substantive issues or investment, or anything that supports trade and investment outcomes. There was no question about what we can do to position ourselves to help support Queensland exports. It is all shortcuts for the LNP—a lazy opposition with no work ethic.

I note the comments made by the member for Everton about an alleged new payroll tax on doctors. In line with my comments in the chamber and outside of it, I advise the member that payroll tax is neither new nor targeted at doctors nor targeted at any industry or profession. The payroll tax arrangements are the same arrangements that the member for Everton presided over when he served in the cabinet of Campbell Newman—that is the sort of sloppy oversight we expect from the member for Everton.

I now turn to comments around the betting tax component of the debate. The provisions contained in this bill will help guarantee a secure future for this great industry, whether here in Brisbane or in great regional cities like Rockhampton. I know the member for Rockhampton's passion for regional racing and his support for the industry. I also note that the member for Southern Downs strongly supported sustainable funding for the racing industry. At least one of the members opposite had the courage to speak the truth. I note the contributions of the members for Hinchinbrook and Traeger on the betting tax amendment and their support for the bill. As they stated, it is important that multinational companies operating in Queensland and benefiting from Queensland racing should put something into the racing industry. I thank those members for their support of this important industry and the social

and economic contribution it makes. I note the member for Toowoomba South's comment that the betting tax is a good thing for Queensland, but the member for Surfers Paradise said that this betting tax is evidence of my broken promise. The LNP supports revenue investment in the racing industry, they recognise the need for a new and sustainable funding model, they acknowledge that the revenue will be required to support the industry to ensure a fair playing field for Queensland operators, but they criticise the mechanism. Ever and always we see the opposition having it both ways and standing for nothing.

Multiple members spoke about promises made at the last election—promises that they were happy to forsake and abandon when they were in government. We often remember the LNP's cuts to services, but we also remember that that was accompanied by an LNP tax grab totalling \$3 billion. Only the LNP could tax Queenslanders more and spend less. Let us go through all the tax and revenue measures that they put through: coal royalties up \$1.64 billion in a mining downturn; insurance duty, including on the family home, up \$990 million; stamp duty up \$361 million; emergency management levy, up \$187.6 million; penalty units up \$87.5 million; gaming machine taxes up \$15.9 million; health service levy up \$22 million; and taxes on casinos up \$30.8 million. I have said it before and I will say it again and again: our party promised the people of Queensland that we would not raise their taxes, and the people of Queensland will not pay one dollar of the revenue measures I announced in the budget.

I note the comments made by the Greens political party member for South Brisbane about racing and gambling. There have always been wowsers amongst us; it is a long tradition in Australian politics. I ask this question: if the honourable member for South Brisbane is so opposed to gambling, if the member does not like racing or gambling or betting or wagering or drinking, why does the member for South Brisbane not come out and call for an outright ban? Why not have the courage of your convictions? The member for South Brisbane should be proud that she aspires to live a more moral, upstanding life than the rest of us. There are societies in the world where there is no gambling and no drinking. Personally, I do not think that is the right choice for Queensland, and I am not going to be a hypocrite about it. I do not think the people of South Brisbane would agree with that sort of world either. However, if the member for South Brisbane wants us to adopt a more austere lifestyle, if this is more than hollow virtue signalling, then let her advocate for this openly and without reservation.

I note that the policy position of the Greens political party is to phase out and ban all thoroughbred and harness racing in Queensland, but there was not one mention of banning thoroughbred racing and harness racing in this state in the contribution that the member for South Brisbane made last night—not one. She did not come in and say it should be banned. I would have more respect for members of this House if they held to their policy position in the parliament. Our government supports the racing industry and supports the rights of Queenslanders to have a punt responsibly, and we make no apology for doing so.

As mentioned earlier, I will move amendments during consideration in detail to the Betting Tax Act 2018 to ensure that betting operators are not entitled to an additional deduction for totalisator bets which are not available for other types of bets. Importantly, these further amendments will ensure equitable treatment of totalisator bets and other types of bets in relation to free bets. Additional amendments circulated in my name to be moved during consideration in detail will repeal the provisions that implement the interstate land tax measure on 1 January 2023. These amendments give effect to the Queensland government's announced position which has been well ventilated in the media and with relevant stakeholders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: I know the opposition is upset because it voted in favour of those very provisions. Finally, I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to these bills, particularly officers of the Queensland Treasury, staff of Racing Queensland and staff of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing's department of industrial relations who supported the preparation of these bills. I think we can all agree that our public servants in this state do a great job and I want to commend them and the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3)

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation Bill (No. 3)

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr DICK (5.33 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr DICK: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 4

Page 8, after line 19—

insert—

4A Amendment of s 25 (Particular payments excluded in working out total eligible payments)

Section 25(3)—

omit.

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

Tabled paper: Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Cameron Dick's amendments [[1885](#)].

Tabled paper: Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Cameron Dick's amendments [[1886](#)].

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr DICK (5.33 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr DICK: I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 4

Page 8, after line 19—

insert—

4B Amendment of s 26 (Amounts for totalisator bets)

Section 26(2)—

omit, insert—

- (2) For section 24(3)(a), the amount is the total of any amounts paid by the betting operator during the period, as an additional dividend to the dividend payable out of a totalisator pool, to a person who made a Queensland totalisator bet with the betting operator.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Mr DICK (5.34 pm): I move the following amendment—

3

Clause 10 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2)

Page 13, after line 8—

insert—

69A Taxable wagering revenue for 2022—2023 financial year or part of financial year

- (1) This section applies for working out the taxable wagering revenue of a betting operator for a period that consists of—
 - (a) the 2022—2023 financial year; or
 - (b) a part of the 2022—2023 financial year.
- (2) New part 2, division 2, subdivision 2 applies only in relation to the part of the period, if any, that is after the commencement.
- (3) Former part 2, division 2, subdivision 2 continues to apply in relation to the part of the period, if any, that is before the commencement as if the *Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022* had not commenced.
- (4) In this section—

former, for a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

new, for a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from the commencement.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 77, as read, agreed to.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I note that the Treasurer's amendment No. 4 and the member for Toowoomba South's amendment No. 1 are identical and seek to amend the bill at the same point. As this is a government bill, the practice is that the government amendment will be moved first. Once the House makes a decision on the Treasurer's amendment, the member for Toowoomba South will not be able to move his amendment pursuant to standing orders 87 and 150.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr DICK (5.35 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr DICK: I move the following amendment—

4

After clause 77

Page 68, after line 13—

insert—

Part 6 Amendment of Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022

78 Act amended

This part amends the *Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022*.

79 Amendment of long title

Long title, 'the Land Tax Act 2010,'—

omit.

80 Amendment of s 2 (Commencement)

Section 2(3)(b)—

omit.

81 Omission of pt 6 (Amendment of Land Tax Act 2010)

Part 6—

omit.

Mr JANETZKI: This is the moment! This is the time of the Treasurer's humiliation. This is the moment of the Treasurer's humiliation. I do not have much sympathy for the Treasurer generally, but there is part of me that thinks that this in fact is not just the Treasurer's shortcoming; it is an entire Palaszczuk government cabinet shortcoming. I ask members to think about this: this tax that was so ill-conceived, so ill thought through, so poorly planned actually passed through this cabinet twice—

twice! It could have been even more. This tax has gone through the Palaszczuk government governance processes twice—once in MYFER in December and again before the budget. Although it is the Treasurer's failure and it is the Treasurer's humiliation today, it is an entire cabinet shortcoming that it failed to listen so often and its governance processes are so poor. From the moment the Treasurer announced this in December we called it for what it was: it was a renters tax pure and simple—from the very beginning we said it—but the Treasurer never listened. The Treasurer did not listen to academics. The Treasurer did not listen to economists. The Treasurer did not listen to the property industry. The Treasurer did not listen to those people whom it would most affect—renters. The Treasurer did not care.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: He did not listen. In the wake of everybody and everything they had to say, the Treasurer arrogantly pursued this tax. I note the earlier contribution from the member for Nanango. The Treasurer did not even listen to the Victorian Premier. Can members imagine the Victorian Premier saying, 'This is not a good tax'? Can members imagine the Victorian Premier not liking any tax? He did not like this one and the Treasurer still did not listen. The Treasurer was then ultimately forced to listen to the Premier. The Treasurer was forced to listen to the Premier, but still he doubles down in the explanatory memorandum and says, 'We will not proceed at this time.' We know the Treasurer deep down inside loves it. He loves this tax and he will bring it back if he gets the chance. 'We will not proceed at this time': we know exactly what the Treasurer will do if he gets the chance, but the Premier has left him abandoned, humiliated and betrayed and the Treasurer will never be premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: This amendment is why Treasurer Dick will never have the support of the Labor caucus to take over the Premier's job. His ego has had a battering. His ego is so big and it has been bashed to smithereens because of this.

Who could forget that at every press conference he has done since he introduced the renters tax he has stood by it? The Deputy Premier stood up and said that he backs it personally. We know that those opposite never did, though. We know that he convinced his colleagues that the public would allow this to go through. He was trying to make out that it was only going to impact interstate people, when the reality was that it was not; it was going to impact Queensland taxpayers. He broke his promise of no new or increased taxes—not the first time, not the second time and not the third time but the fourth time.

His colleagues knew it. The Premier knew it. The pressure got too much in Canberra. When she went to Canberra and said to her interstate colleagues, 'The Treasurer tells me that you guys will be all okay with this if we all sign up to it,' and they said over their little COAG National Cabinet dinner, 'No, we're never going to agree with it. We're never going to share the information of our taxpayers with your state,' then the Premier said, 'It is gone.' The Treasurer had a statement issued five minutes later stating that he stands by everything he says. He stands by it because he is a high-taxing treasurer. He is by far the worst treasurer in Australia. Let us look at his own words when he introduced this tax. He said—

We are proud of these reforms. Why? Because they drive more equity and fairness into the tax system and ensure that people do not use multiple jurisdictions to avoid their responsibility to pay land tax. The LNP has opposed this.

Yes, we did! He said—

Let us make it clear: the LNP will vote against this and does not support it. The LNP did not support it when I announced it in the mid-year review. The member for Toowoomba South has led that charge.

Yes, Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South has led the charge because the member for Toowoomba South listened to Queenslanders and he listened to the property sector—unlike this Treasurer, who has embarrassed—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Members, there is to be order in this debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: What an embarrassment for this Treasurer, the worst treasurer in the country.

(Time expired)

Mr DICK: The LNP members are entitled to their view, but they are not entitled to rewrite history.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: We have just heard the ad hominem attacks. I am quite used to that. It does not bother me to be criticised by the worst attorney-general in Queensland—

Mr Fumer: The worst on record.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the minister: the worst attorney-general on record—someone so appalling in the discharge of his duties that he breached confidences of senior judges of the Supreme Court of Queensland. It is water off a duck's back for me when someone like the member for Kawana, who voted in favour of the land tax measures that went through the House, criticises me. I was surprised; I thought they would have the courage of their convictions.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I thought that the party that claims to be the party of low tax, the party that does not believe in heavy taxation, would have the courage of their convictions in that debate, but they were persuaded by the policy merit of what we put before the House. That was demonstrated in the budget sitting week, when every single revenue measure I put through the House was supported by those members opposite. They supported all of those measures that I implemented. I was proud to do so.

Let us not have this nonsense rewriting of history by the members for Kawana, Toowoomba South and Nanango, who, of course, were so proud to jack up taxation and revenue measures by \$3 billion as soon as they got into government. We know the member for Nanango was proud to sit around the CBRC table not only jacking up revenue but also, almost 10 years to the day, sacking 14,000 Queensland workers.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, I am going to bring you back to the amendment.

Mr DICK: I am only following the relevant contribution made by the member for Kawana. For the purpose of the *Hansard* record, that was a bit of facetiousness because, of course, there is very little that is ever relevant in what the member for Kawana says. Speaking to the amendments, we are implementing the government's announced policy position.

Mrs Frecklington: But not the true position.

Mr DICK: Member for Nanango, I know that you were only in government for a short period of time, but when you are a minister in the government you are part of the government. This is the policy position of the government that we are implementing as part of these amendments. Let's not see history rewritten. That is the difference: parties of conviction, parties of convenience. We saw that all through question time this week. No wonder the heads of the backbench members were so low at the end of question time. They know that they are led by people like the member for Kawana and the member for Broadwater, who use any issue as an issue of convenience.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Whilst we are fascinated, this is completely irrelevant to the amendment that is before the House.

Mr BROWN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There have been a number of interjections from those opposite. The Treasurer has simply taken those interjections, which he is allowed to do.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, I am going to bring you back to the amendment and ask that you speak to that.

Mr DICK: The government's position is clear: these provisions are being repealed and they are not coming back.

Mr Powell: At this time.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. Member for Glass House, do not put words into my mouth—

Mr Powell: It is in the explanatory notes!

Mr DICK:—when I have said outside of this House and in here today that these provisions are being repealed and they are not coming back. The explanatory notes do not speak for the Treasurer. The explanatory notes do not speak for me at this time. I am speaking for me at this time, member for Glass House. The provisions are being repealed and they are not returning. I am surprised at the way the LNP have conducted themselves because when the reform was in the House the member for Glass House, the member for Kawana and the member for Nanango—all of the members opposite—supported the measures in the revenue bill that was passed with the budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: I know they are frustrated. I know they are upset. I know they do not like it, but they should contain their frustration. They should not be interrupting the process because it is delaying the repeal of the provisions that they are so enthusiastic about repealing.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I am going to issue a general warning and remind members to remain relevant to the amendment or I will put the amendment.

Mr DICK: This is an important amendment that I am moving in the House. I appreciate the concern of members opposite that the process has taken longer than they would have liked. However, I think it is important that this be implemented and implemented in accordance with the decision we have made as a government. I am very pleased with the bills before the House. I thank members for their contributions and I also thank members for the contributions they have made on these amendments on this important matter.

Mr Powell: Don't you guillotine it.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Glass House for his encouragement and that has enlivened me. However, on a point of order, there is no guillotine. There is, of course, an order of the House that determines the process.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Treasurer, I am going to bring you back to the amendment or I will put the question. Do you have a further contribution to make?

Mr DICK: No, but I am not sure: do members think I have thoroughly interrogated this issue?

Government members: No!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: I appreciate your encouragement, Madam Deputy Speaker, and, sad as it is, I bring my contribution to an end.

Dr ROWAN: We have heard the contribution from the Treasurer, who talks about not rewriting history and gives a comical performance. He says we should trust him. How can we trust this Treasurer when multiple times before the last state election he said there would be no new taxes? We know that is simply not the reality.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Dr ROWAN: Twenty-six times; I take the interjection from the member for Buderim. As has been said by the member for Toowoomba South and the member for Kawana, this is really a humiliation for the Treasurer. There has been division within the government and a lack of due process and consultation. They have not listened to Queenslanders. The processes have been poor. They tried to introduce a renters tax or, as it has been termed, a land tax in the middle of a housing affordability crisis which had the potential to punish and penalise some of the most disadvantaged in our state of Queensland by driving up rents, meaning some would not have had housing. Let us think about what that would have meant for them.

This is one of the highest taxing treasurers since the days of the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments, but that is what we see from Labor. 'Labornomics' means higher taxes and higher debt. They have no plans. Let us think about this third-term Labor government and the strategies they have had over those three terms: loading debt onto government owned corporations, raiding the defined benefits scheme of public servants and revaluing the land registry office. This is another example of what they have been trying to do.

As has been clearly articulated by the member for Toowoomba South and the member for Glass House, the explanatory notes state 'not at this time'—it is very clear—yet the Treasurer says, 'Trust me.' Before the last state election, 26 times he said that there would be no new taxes and now he says, 'Trust me.' We can always trust Labor treasurers not to break their promises in any way! That is simply not the case.

The most embarrassing thing for the Treasurer is that he was slapped down by the Premier. The Premier slapped down the Treasurer. No-one on their backbench is interjecting now because, like the Treasurer, they know that he was slapped down by the Premier. The Premier said, 'No, this is not going to happen in any sort of way.' According to the explanatory notes it is not going to proceed 'at this time'. We are supposed to take on face value that we can trust the Treasurer, the member for Woodridge. He is a man you cannot trust. Queenslanders know that you cannot trust the Treasurer. The Treasurer will not keep his word. Before the last state election he said there would be no new taxes and that is a broken promise. It is a broken promise from this Labor Treasurer. He simply cannot be trusted. The Palaszczuk Labor government cannot be trusted to manage Queensland's finances. Queenslanders know it and at the next election they will punish Labor.

Mr POWELL: I also rise to address the amendment and to pick up on some of the comments made by the member for Moggill. I want to address the broken promise aspect first. We have heard the Treasurer change his language from 'no new taxes' to 'no new taxes on Queenslanders'. I want to pull him up on that front and tell the story of Ralf. Ralf does not live in New South Wales and Ralf does not live in Victoria. Ralf lives in the electorate of Glass House. Through inheriting a property in a will, he and his family would have been slugged with this new land tax. Where was that property? In Sydney! Where do they own property here in Queensland? In the electorate of Glass House! Because of the contribution of the Treasurer, that gentleman and his family would have been slugged by this land tax. Let us dispense with the idea that it was not a tax on Queenslanders. This was going to affect Queenslanders, both property owners and renters, as members on this side of the House have said.

I suspect I am going to get guillotined any second now, but I want to pick up on the reference to the explanatory notes not speaking for the Treasurer. I had the honour of serving this state as a minister. I know that, as a minister, I had to sign off within the department and then through the—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment No. 4, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment No. 5, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

5 Long title

Long title, 'and the *Racing Regulation 2013*'—
omit, insert—


, the *Racing Regulation 2013* and the *Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2022*

Question put—That the long title of the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Lowood Police Station

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.57 pm): Tonight I rise to talk about something confronting and tragic that happened in the beautiful country town of Lowood last Thursday morning. Unfortunately, some lowlife snuck around the back of the police station and poured petrol over a police car, and it and two other police cars caught on fire. The residents in the street woke up to the blaze.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, can you confirm that this is not subject to any criminal proceedings currently before a court and is not sub judice?

Mr McDONALD: I can, Madam Deputy Speaker. The community in Lowood were shocked when that fire was lit by that lowlife. The town has 17 police officers, who are already stretched to the limits, and they had to call on additional resources to find the person who committed that terrible offence. Barbara lives opposite the station. She woke at 12.30 when firefighters arrived at the station. She said—
I'm just shocked. I have no idea why anyone would do this. The coppers here are just lovely.

Caitlin Sheiwe lives near the station. She awoke to see the blaze. She said—


I woke up for a drink of water and could hear these loud bangs outside. It actually sounded like car doors being slammed shut.

This is a scary situation. One thing worse than crime is the fear of crime. When we have somebody in the community doing this, it is just disgraceful. If anybody knows anything about this, they should give police a call on 131444 or call Crime Stoppers on 1800333000.

Recently at a Somerset council meeting, councillors expressed their disgust at the amount of crime happening in recent months—and now this fire. Councillor Sean Choat said that the Palaszczuk government has shown a displacement for safety and that the community has been left vulnerable. How can residents feel safe in their homes if the police station is being targeted? Councillor Choat said that there are currently only 17 officers at the Lowood station. That is only one more than in 2018. He also said that vehicles should be replaced immediately. I call on the minister to do exactly that.

The Lowood police division is dynamic and is situated in an emerging and growing community. Every police hour and resource is needed. The disruption to the police environment by arsonists is just not acceptable. The Lowood police work hard for their community. I have called on the minister before to see a 24-hour police station built at Lowood. We need 25 police officers there and additional resources to keep our community safe. It is time the minister delivered that 24-hour policing resource to our community, which deserves to be safe and to feel safe.

Caloundra State High School

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (6.01 pm): My old high school, Caloundra State High School, has gone and done it again. On 21 October I was invited to attend the end-of-year performance by the Caloundra High Edge dance group, an accelerated program for dance students. What an absolute joy it was to witness. I almost want to dance myself right now. For the benefit of the House, I will not.

It does not happen by accident, though. Without head of department Anita Hounslow, dance teachers Lisa Royter, Jenna Griffiths and Amber Williams and teacher aide and former Edge dancer Paige Wharton, it simply would not be the triumph it was, without these teachers leading the way. Then there are the parents of these incredible students who were at the performance in force to acknowledge the culmination of years of training and rehearsals. The sweat, the injury and, yes, at times the tears that go into quality performing arts performances like those of the Edge dance group are very obvious.


I mention the incredible year 12 students who danced for the last time this year: Tiggi Mullens, Sophie Wharton and Jordyn Montague. I sincerely hope these dancers keep studying dance and keep excelling. They were truly amazing. The breathtaking talents of Ava-Ling David, Zerah Wildman and Camille Flaherty have been acknowledged. They are the new dance captains for 2023. Given their own amazing performances, I cannot wait to see where they take the Edge dance group next year.

Aside from the absolute Broadway quality dance numbers performed by this troupe of dancers at every year level, there were individual performances that had to be seen to be believed. Rojan Marders, the famously sequined tap dancer from last year, was back and this time was joined by Paige Carter and Ruby Jordan in an incredible, sensational jazz trio. Meiling Wyre's contemporary solo was absolutely stupendous. The efforts of Ivy Davies and Holy Vaughan, students from year 9, were all the

more staggering given that their talent so clearly exceeds their tender years. Do not even get me started on the choreography and performance of Shae Prescott and Huey Liston—absolute brilliance. There was not a dry eye in the place.

Edge dancers, I cannot thank you enough for your performance and for your very obvious dedication to the arts. Our youth are quite simply amazing. Our future is in very good hands. Caloundra State High School continues to produce—as it has done since at least 1987—quality citizens.

Sunshine Coast, Youth Crime; Mooloolah River Interchange

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.04 pm): Sadly, the Sunshine Coast is not immune to the crime crisis gripping Queensland. The trend that we have seen in Cairns, Townsville and down to Toowoomba is increasing on the Sunshine Coast, particularly in some of our newer communities like Sippy Downs, Palmview and Mountain Creek. In Sippy Downs the number of unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences has doubled in the last year. Times are tough when residents go to bed at night unsure if their family car will still be parked in the driveway or in the garage the next morning.

Every day, Sippy Downs community pages on Facebook are punctuated with CCTV footage of young criminals testing car doors and breaking into vehicles. Having your car stolen takes a huge financial and mental toll on victims on crime. Tradies lose their work station and equipment and they need to cancel jobs. Kids cannot be dropped off or picked up from school. Every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe and secure in their communities, especially in their own home, but right now many do not.

We heard from local police this week who said that property crime is on the rise on the Sunshine Coast, with transient criminals coming into our communities to target our homes and our businesses. Construction sites are also a major target. Workers at a local IGA store in Sippy Downs were held up a couple of nights ago at knifepoint. Fortunately, the offender was caught by the police dog squad quickly. Our police are doing the best they can with the limited resources they have.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, can I just confirm that none of these matters you are raising are subject to charges?


Mr MICKELBERG: None of the matters that I have raised offend the sub judice rule.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the call.

Mr MICKELBERG: What we need is more crime prevention—more boots on the ground and a higher visibility of uniformed police. Since the day I was elected to this House in 2017, I have been calling for more police resources to be allocated to the Sippy Downs Police Station. I am regularly contacted by residents who are unable to contact the station, which is often unmanned, and who feel that a larger police presence is needed to address the growing crime rate. Our local police are working hard with the limited resources they have to tackle crime, but the crime wave washing over our community right now is swamping them. When asking to be re-elected at the 2020 election, Labor promised another 2,000 extra police officers statewide. I would like to know where they are because they are most certainly not in Sippy Downs, and we need them.

In the brief time I have left, I would like to address the stress that several of my constituents are currently under due to their homes being resumed to make way for the Mooloolah River Interchange project. Those residents understand that the infrastructure project is long overdue, that it is important and that land acquisitions are a part of that process, but what is of concern is how those residents are being treated and the lack of support that is afforded to them through that process. They tell me that they have not been afforded fair compensation or assistance in finding another home and, considering we are in the middle of a housing shortage and affordability crisis on the Sunshine Coast, that is simply not good enough. Some of these residents are spending \$100 a night on motels. The state government and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads need to do more to support these Sunshine Coast residents in their hour of need.

Morayfield Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.07 pm): I want to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate all of the students who are graduating from high school, primary school or kindergarten in the Morayfield state electorate over the coming weeks and month ahead. From the eight high schools in the Morayfield

state electorate, there will be 626 year 12 students graduating this year. I congratulate them. They are at the end of their secondary schooling and I wish them well for the next stages in their lives. I want to also wish them well for what they might do to celebrate the end of their secondary schooling.


Of the 12 primary schools in the Morayfield state electorate, 930 students will be graduating from year 6—a great milestone for them to celebrate. Obviously they will be very excited about starting their secondary schooling next year. Of course, there will be dozens and dozens of kindy kids who will be graduating this year as well, including my eldest boy, Danny. I want to say how proud I am of him. I am obviously very excited that he will be off to big-boy school next year. He is obviously very excited, but will need to practise his A-B-Cs and 1-2-3s.

I also acknowledge that this government is making significant investment in state school infrastructure. Not only has the government announced that we are building a new school to cater for the population growth in Caboolture West, with that school to open in 2025-26 and cater for up to 1,100 students when it is finally completed, but we are also investing in the existing infrastructure of schools throughout the Morayfield state electorate, including the new hall at Morayfield State High School. This is a great project on which I was very happy to work with the school community, and I want to commend the education minister for her support of the proposal. It is a big \$7 million hall that has two sports courts, a gymnasium, change rooms, amenities and a performance stage—all the facilities that go along with supporting the activities of that hall.

We will celebrate an exciting milestone next week with the official opening of that hall. I am very much looking forward to celebrating our investment with the school community. It coincides with their awards celebrations next week. I am very happy to show off that hall to the broader school community.

I also wanted to acknowledge that we are due for a celebration at the Lee Street State Special School for the opening of their new hall. It is a massive joint hall with the Caboolture State High School. It is a great partnership where we are embedding facilities that can be shared across two school communities. I will be very happy to celebrate the official opening of that hall in the near future as well.

Moranbah Senior Training and Education Program

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.10 pm): Moranbah in the Burdekin electorate is at the centre of Queensland's resources industry, an industry that contributes billions to the economy and billions to the state government each and every year. Moranbah is also proud of its students—and with very good reason. Back in 2015 Moranbah State High School students were recognised in the school-based apprentice or trainee of the year awards. In 2019 Brenton Tomlinson was named as a finalist in the same awards after securing a school-based traineeship through Moranbah State High School's M-STEP program. M-STEP is the Moranbah Senior Training and Education Program and, to many locals, is symbolised by the big blue shed at Moranbah High. How many M-STEP finalists will we see in next year's awards? The answer is none, because today the big blue shed is closed.


Just this morning the Premier spoke about training students for future jobs in trades. Yet, today, a facility that has a track record of training students for just those jobs sits closed. Yesterday the Minister for Training and Skills Development could barely contain her excitement during her ministerial statement when she described Queensland as 'leading the way' on apprenticeships and traineeships in schools. When speaking about the government strategy she said, 'An important component of that centres around equipping our school students for the jobs in demand now and in the future.'

Apparently that component is less than important in Moranbah. Despite all the talk about traineeships and apprenticeships from those opposite, the big blue shed at Moranbah is without a teacher—and it is closed. It is a slap in the face for each and every worker in Queensland's resources sector that, in the heart of the Bowen Basin, a program to train the workers of the future has stalled. Even worse, it is a slap in the face for students at Moranbah State High with dreams of working in that industry.

Once again, this government has failed to deliver for Moranbah, for the resources industry and for our children. If the Premier's words about the importance of training students for future jobs in trades are to be believed and the minister really believes that Queensland is leading the way on apprenticeships and traineeships, we will see the big blue shed open again in the near future. If not, Moranbah only has this government to blame.

That community is centred around the resources industry. I have seen what that shed delivers with the equipment and the resources that are contained within that shed. To think that that shed is now closed because of a lack of a teacher is absolutely disgraceful. Everything needs to be done to make sure that that shed reopens to give those students in Moranbah the opportunities that they deserve going forward.

Deebing Creek

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.13 pm): Two weeks ago land clearing began at the Stockland Paradise Waters residential development at Deebing Creek in my electorate. This inspired Greens members from Brisbane and beyond to re-engage with the small group of protestors camped on the site of the former Deebing Creek mission, which is about a kilometre away from the Stockland development.

Missions are a shameful part of white history. The former Deebing Creek mission operated from 1887 to 1915. I am aware of the sensitivities for the traditional owners of the area and for First Nations people who have an historical connection to the old mission site and the state owned cemetery. The fact is that the land currently being developed, as well as the land the former mission is on, was converted from reserve land to freehold land in the eighties. The developers and the lawfully registered native title claim group, the Yuggera Ugarapul People, or YUP, have developed a cultural heritage management plan, or CHMP. It has been a personal and extremely difficult journey for them, and I know how seriously they have taken the process.

As the member for Ipswich, I am connected to my community. I know the local First Nations people, and I know how much pain the current protestors, along with members of the Greens party, have caused them over the past several years and continue to do to this day. I have been advised that, despite their personal investment in the CHMP, and their involvement in the broader Ipswich community, the YUP are treated with disdain by the Greens and by the protestors currently on the site. I have been told that the YUP are, in fact, completely ignored and even made to feel unwelcome by the Greens and other protestors whenever they visit the site. Just let that sink in: the lawful native title claimants of that country are made to feel unwelcome by the Greens and by the protesters when they visit their own country.


I have a message for those Brisbane blow-ins who have claimed this issue as their own to score cheap political points. You do not speak for the Yuggera Ugarapul People. You do not speak for Ipswich people. Those West End Greens like Brisbane City Councillor Jonathon Sri and the state MP for South Brisbane seem set to live their lives as perpetual undergraduates, drawing attention to themselves by taking on issues that do not concern them, as is the case in this matter—but it really causes harm to people. These self-serving charlatans need to know that by their actions and their words they are causing immense pain to local First Nations families.

Similarly, *Ipswich Tribune* journalist Brian Bennion loves the sensational headlines that make outrageous claims. He also needs to know that his post-truth journalism is causing pain to First Nations families in Ipswich. I am reliably informed that the YUP refuse to even speak to him because he is not representing their best interests. I know how they feel.

When it comes to healing the sins of our past, I will continue to work with the YUP, the state and federal governments, and the Ipswich City Council going forward. The YUP have my full support and deserve nothing less.

(Time expired)

Mount Isa, Water Security; Social Housing

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.16 pm): There has been a sharp rise in water costs in the Mount Isa City Council area. It was changed to a user-pays system a number of years ago. We have the benefit of large water supplies out there. We have two big dams—Lake Moondarra and Lake Julius, with separate owners. We have bountiful water surprisingly for such an arid climate, but we do not use the water because it is too expensive.


The state government takes a big chunk of it. There is an anomaly in the way those dams are governed. One of the main dams is built by the mines and it has a water board. Seqwater needs to take over those assets and manage them to improve the regional security of water. That would provide benefits to the ratepayers of Mount Isa. There could be benefits of up to \$500 per ratepayer. That would be a huge saving. It is an elegant solution for the state and for the council to address those two problems. It needs to happen and I think it would benefit all Queenslanders.

I also want to talk about itinerants in Mount Isa. This is causing a huge social problem. Alcohol bans in the Territory have seen Mount Isa become an attractive place for people to come and drink and live in the riverbeds. It causes enormous social disruption. Living like this does not help anyone. This lifestyle does not help them or their families.

A lot of housing in the NT remains vacant where those people have presumably come from. There is no interaction between our government and theirs to sort this out. No-one wants to own the problem. We in Mount Isa are paying the price for the problem. It is really hard for people who have lived there a long time to come back to visit and see what is happening there at the moment. It is not a place to be proud of, to walk the streets at the moment and see the number of itinerants drunk and misbehaving. They deserve better and the people of Mount Isa deserve better than just pretending it does not happen.

There needs to be a discussion about tightening up that housing inventory. They should say, 'Mate, if you have a house over there, you either have to vacate it or move back to that house. You cannot live in a river bed when you have a house.' You cannot do this if you do not have visibility on either side. I have spoken to Territory counterparts who have said, 'You are right. We would like to solve this problem as well. It is a problem for us if you do not have good optics and visibility on housing.' When it comes to the itinerants, we cannot fix the problems if we do not know where they are. There are the subsequent youth justice problems that come along with that dysfunction. There is no point pretending the problem does not exist. They are hard conversations to have. These problems would not just be confined to Mount Isa. They will continue to spill out to other areas if left unaddressed.

Remembrance Day; Queensland Veterans' Council; Premier's Anzac Prize


 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak about tomorrow's Remembrance Day commemorations and encourage Queenslanders to take part in commemorating the day. On 11 November 1918 at 11 am the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of the utter destruction of World War I. Tomorrow we will pause to remember those who have served, died or suffered in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. I will be paying my respects tomorrow in my capacity as Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs to the Premier at the RSL Queensland ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance at Anzac Square. As a result, I am unfortunately unable to attend my local services at Geebung RSL or Kedron Wavell, which I normally attend; however, I am happy to be represented at both events. I am sure these services will do justice to the day as they do every other year. I particularly thank the local students, who are often students from Aspley State High School and Craigslea State High School, for their spirited contribution to these services every year.

I encourage all Queenslanders who are able to attend their local Remembrance Day service in person tomorrow. For those who are unable to attend, Anzac Square, in conjunction with the State Library of Queensland, is enabling Queenslanders to pay their respects by placing a poppy and message online or by request at the Anzac Square and Memorial Galleries at Anzac Square. I am wearing my poppy today. Taking a moment to commemorate ensures those who made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten.

On another veteran related topic, this morning I was very pleased to hear the Premier announce the composition of the new Queensland Veterans' Council, which will be chaired by Quentin Masson DSM, CEO of Wandering Warriors. Other members of the council who will bring a wealth of experience include: Lorraine Hatton OAM, Miriam Dwyer, Christopher Hamilton, Rob Skoda and Nicole Hayes. The new Queensland Veterans' Council will shine a light on Queensland's veteran communities and improve their access to government. I really look forward to the council getting underway. It was an election commitment from the Premier, and I thank her and the member for Ipswich for her work in this space also.

Today it was my pleasure to meet Nooria Ahmadi, a Forest Lake State High School student from the Premier's electorate of Inala. Nooria was one of eight winners of the 2023 Premier's Anzac Prize. This is a fantastic opportunity for eight students to travel overseas to visit sites on the Western Front, including Villers-Bretonneux and Fromelles. They will get plenty of historical learnings over there and they will visit sites they would not get the opportunity to see otherwise. It will be an amazing opportunity for those students. It is a hotly contested prize. These eight students are the first ones to go overseas in three years because of COVID. I really look forward to joining the students on the trip. It will be a fantastic opportunity for them. Well done for their dedication to remembering those who have passed before them. It should be a really great day.

Public Sector Reform


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.22 pm): With the recent release of the Queensland Audit Office report on the performance of the Public Service, which reinforced some of Professor Coaldrake's findings, it is vital this is not relegated to the 'chamber scream'. Instead, we must strive for a collaborative agreement on how our departments can make the improvements required.

I have previously raised the issue of the inability of government to identify emerging risks or to respond in a timely fashion when MPs bring forward issues that must be addressed before they lead to even bigger issues, headlines or fatalities. Just two examples within my own electorate include efforts to address the volume of visitors to Teewah North Shore Beach in the Great Sandy National Park, which has been unsustainable for years. Recommendations four years ago from the Cooloola Teewah working group which would have addressed the issue are still unrealised. Added to that is the desperate need for integrated IT systems between QPWS and QPS as part of the management of the ever-increasing dangerous behaviours and outstanding overarching strategies such as the Cooloola Recreational and Great Sandy plans which are outdated—one by decades. Daily we see the ramifications of these delays and inaction. Another issue known for years was under-utilised social housing. Nothing has been done to provide our agencies with enough one-bedroom units to free up family-sized homes, which would have lessened the impact of the housing crisis as well as alleviated the strain on our frontline staff.

When I first became an MP I outlined the cost to everyday Queenslanders, public servants, communities, businesses and our future when governments are slow to act. Waiting until an issue is front page news is expensive, reactive, stressful and unsustainable. The question is what mechanism exists to ensure that information from frontline staff and agencies turns into action and what are the barriers? Is it a lack of funds, monitoring, independent assessment or will? Who is ultimately responsible for ensuring this action as well as efficiency, foresight, innovation and sustainability in the Queensland Public Service?

The Public Service Commission is responsible for building a highly capable and responsive public sector workforce. Is that where we need to start? Ultimately, every Queenslander is a stakeholder in this. May the government response to the Audit Office report deliver answers and create a Public Service that rewards innovation, efficiency and efforts by public servants and Queenslanders to resolve issues before they become crises. As much as I am loath to suggest a full analysis, I am not sure how else we can move beyond what has, and is being, experienced. Whichever way is undertaken, it must be supported by all in this chamber and not utilised as 'scream fodder'.

Mon Repos Turtle Centre

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (6.25 pm): The bells are ringing and the turtles are here! Our young Reef Guardians were on hand this week for the ringing of the bells at St Peter's Anglican Church in Bargara to signal the start of the turtle nesting season at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre. The first nesting turtle of the season was flatback turtle X8473—very catchy name—first recorded nesting at Mon Repos in 1977. Flatback turtle X8473 has had 17 breeding seasons since that time. She came ashore on Mon Repos beach last Friday night, and after digging her chamber she laid 64 eggs in her first clutch of the season.

The symbolic act held at St Peter's Anglican Church is more than just a ringing of the bells for the start of the turtle season; it is also the ringing of the bells for the tourism boost into our local economy. Last turtle season saw 16,615 people visit the iconic Mon Repos Turtle Centre. On the back of this I am advised there were some 70,000 visitor nights as a result of this magical tourism experience, which is one like no other anywhere in the world. Bundaberg is a tourism destination hotspot and continues to grow from strength to strength with the support of the Palaszczuk Labor government. From an investment into coastline attractions, shared funding of overnight Great Barrier Reef experiences and supporting tourism innovation and the agritourism sector, the Palaszczuk government continues to showcase Bundaberg's tourism operators to the world.

One of the ways the Palaszczuk government supported tourism this year in Bundaberg was to deliver the first ever NRL premiership match played in Bundy. In partnership with the NRL, the Bundaberg Regional Council and the Canterbury Bulldogs, I am very happy to say that Bundy will again have the eyes of the world focused on Salter Oval in 2023. At 2 pm on 30 July 2023, round 22 of the Doggies and the new Dolphins franchise will battle it out on iconic Salter Oval. What a major coup it is for Bundy to have the Dolphins travel up to the region in their first season in the NRL. It will be absolutely wonderful. I want to pass on a big thankyou to Minister Hinchcliffe, who is here in the chamber, the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier for all of their work in supporting the Canterbury Bulldogs, the NRL and the Dolphins coming up to Bundaberg. The best news is that after next year we have one more year as well. It is an outstanding effort for Bundaberg, the tourism destination of Queensland!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I would like to acknowledge in the gallery members of the Mansfield electorate Youth Advisory Council.

The House adjourned at 6.28 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, 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