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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 30 November 2022

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WEDNESDAY, 30 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.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Integrity Commissioner, Appointment



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise that on 29 November 2022 I administered the oath of office to Linda Waugh as Integrity Commissioner. I table a copy of the oath.

Tabled paper: Oath of Office of Ms Linda Waugh as Queensland Integrity Commissioner [\[1993\]](#).

School Group Tour



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise honourable members that we will be visited in the gallery by student leaders and teachers from Caningeraba State School in the electorate of Burleigh.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, lodged and sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

Harrisville, Flood Immunity

Mr Krause, from 479 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently upgrade the causeway on Warrill View Peak Crossing Road on the entrance to Harrisville to improve flood immunity and allow access to Harrisville during inclement weather [\[1994, 1995\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon Palaszczuk)—

[1996](#) Queensland Government: The Queensland Plan Annual Progress Report 2021-22

Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Hon. Crawford)—

[1997](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2021-2022

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were/member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Callide (Mr Head)—

[1998](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to provide adequate maternity and other medical services at the Gladstone Hospital.

Member for Pumicestone (Ms King)—

[1999](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to Cape Town, South Africa, by the member for Pumicestone (Ms King), to attend the Advanced Professional Development and Skills-Building Residency Programme, 20 to 23 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Community Safety, Knife Crime



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.32 am): As Queenslanders go about their every day and every night lives it is imperative that we do everything we can as a government to keep them safe. In that regard, I am determined that my government will lead the nation when it comes to community safety.

In May 2021 we commenced a trial of wand powers for police to detect weapons in Gold Coast safe night precincts. This week, we introduce Jack's Law which will expand those powers and extend them into multiple new orders for a further two years. It is called Jack's Law in memory of Jack Beasley, who one night three years ago tragically happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and lost his life when he was stabbed. He was just 17.

I did not know Jack, but I have come to know his parents, Brett and Belinda, a little and I cannot imagine their grief. However, they have directed their heartbreak from this tragedy into something quite selfless and admirable—helping to save the lives of others. Through the Jack Beasley Foundation they have tirelessly advocated for wand powers so that others might be kept safe. It is a moving and noble effort in memory of a teenage boy who, again, I did not know but by all accounts was a very special person.

Our trial of wand powers enable police to use electronic metal detection devices to identify whether a person is carrying a knife or another weapon in a Gold Coast safe night precinct. In total, 197 weapons were confiscated. Those weapons included machetes, sharpened screwdrivers, flick knives, replica guns and knuckledusters. While those seizures are reassuring, it is at the same time terrifying that so many weapons are on our street. Each one we are able to remove is potentially a life saved.

Jack's Law will now be expanded to all 15 Queensland safe night precincts and crucially onto public transport including trams, buses, trains, ferries and associated stations. A further review will be conducted in two years to ensure the powers are appropriately used and having their intended effect. Queenslanders have the right to feel safe in public—we are giving them that confidence. Jack's Law is an important law that will save lives in memory of a life taken too soon.

Path to Treaty; Native Title Determinations



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): Our government is committed to our Path to Treaty and to working with our First Nations people to recognise their longstanding connection to country. As we made clear yesterday on this side of the House, we support the implementation of the Uluru statement in full and the Voice to Parliament—unlike those opposite. Any one of them can go out to the media—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The House will come to order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition can go out to the media and say what his views are. It is very clear; it is very easy to do. Our view on this side of the House—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier I will ask you to continue with your ministerial statement. The House was asked to come to order, we are not off to a good start, so we will be watching very closely today as to how these interjections continue on all sides of the House.


Ms PALASZCZUK: Another step towards reconciliation is happening in Queensland later this morning. The Federal Court is on Thursday Island, and is set to hand down historic native title determinations which have been 21 years in the making. The determinations will go towards resolving seven partially overlapping native title claims over land and sea by five recognised traditional owner groups of Northern Cape York and the Torres Strait. The area covered by the claims stretches from Captain Billy Landing on the north-east coast of Cape York; east to the Great Barrier Reef; north to the seas surrounding Warral (Hawkesbury) Island and Ului (West) Island; and west to Skardon River, north of Mapoon.

The determinations today cover around 22,000 square kilometres of land and sea and comprise 50 islands, sand cays and rocks. It is the first time that First Nations peoples of the Torres Strait region have joined with First Nations people of mainland Australia to work together to progress a joint native title claim with one voice.

As Kapua Gutchen, an elder of the Kemer Kemer Meriam peoples, said, 'We have always known in our culture that this is our land and waters but we also need to work with the law of the land and this was the right way to go about it. It now means that the rest of the world will know that it is our land and heritage, too.'

Some 30 years ago another Meriam man known as Eddie Koiki Mabo successfully established his family's title to Mer Island in the High Court. It is through Eddie Mabo's dedication to justice that the legal fiction of terra nullius was overturned. This not only changed the lives of many First Nations people but paved the way to the federal government passing the Native Title Act in 1993. Recognising native title is vital to Queensland's path towards reconciliation. It helps preserve First Nations people's culture, values and traditions which benefits all Queenslanders.

International Tourism


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.37 am): These Christmas holidays three million passengers are forecast to go through Brisbane Airport. It will be the first restriction-free Christmas period in three years. When Brisbane is busy, Queensland's tourism industry is very busy. Some 75 per cent of all Queensland arrivals transit through Brisbane Airport. This is a remarkable increase given the national and international travel restrictions over the last two years.

In comparison, last year, including the Christmas period, Brisbane's Airport passenger numbers peaked at 1.21 million. However, with the lifting of restrictions and borders opening both nationally and internationally earlier this year, the travelling public have been voting with their feet, and the three millionth visitor is a great recovery sign.

We are supporting this recovery through the \$200 million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund—a great partnership with four international airports. This fund is estimated to deliver up to 5.3 million airline seats a year and generate almost \$4 billion in visitor overnight expenditure. To date we have announced six services have received support from the fund, including those delivered by Qantas, United Airlines, Air Canada and Scoot. Today I announce a seventh deal, with China Airlines to increase its flights from Taipei to Brisbane onto Auckland and return service from three flights a week to five starting from January. This route not only serves as a hub for passengers from high-spending markets like Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and their home of Taiwan, but also thousands of tourists from New Zealand.

Qantas also recommences Brisbane to Tokyo services tomorrow, starting at three flights per week in and out of Haneda Airport. Japan has always been one of Queensland's most important sources of inbound visitors for more than two decades and this service is critical to the path of international market recovery for many of Queensland's tourism operators. I want to wish everyone who is intending to catch a flight or travelling these Christmas holidays a safe and happy break.


Go for Gold

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): Before officially opening the Everleigh State School last week with the education minister and the member for Logan, we watched some future basketball superstars playing on their new courts. They even gave us a lesson or two in shooting hoops. It was the perfect backdrop to announce the first stage of our \$100 million Go for Gold program, which is now open for schools to apply for funding.

Go for Gold gives schools the opportunity to apply for grants for sporting equipment and infrastructure, encouraging greater participation in sport. Round 1, with a total of \$7 million, is now open, with schools right across Queensland invited to register their interest in grants of up to \$5,000 for supporting equipment. This means that all schools from Coolangatta to the cape will be able to purchase new sporting equipment, like balls, bats, gloves and goalposts, to help children get active and encourage a new generation to go for gold in 2032. Half of the funds from round 1 will be invested in regional Queensland and the fund will prioritise schools where the equipment will benefit the wider community too.

I can confirm that in the five days since it has been open we have had 147 applications already—23 from North Queensland, 22 from Central Queensland, 12 from the Darling Downs and nine from the Far North. That is fantastic. I encourage all schools to keep them coming. Applications close on 31 March next year. A second round will open next year for sports infrastructure. Go for Gold is just another example of our government's commitment to ensuring Brisbane 2032 delivers a positive legacy across all of Queensland.


Aviation Fuel

 **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): As the world moves into a low-emissions future, we have seen a surge in demand for low-carbon aviation fuel. The world's airlines have set a target of net zero emissions by 2050, with green jet fuels needed in large quantities to achieve this. This presents a tremendous opportunity for Queensland to tap into this fast-growing market and be the national leader in a new industry expected to be worth \$3 billion annually and generate up to 15,600 Aussie jobs by 2050. Queensland's time is now and we must avoid this investment opportunity going offshore.

Realising the full potential of production and deployment of green jet fuels on home soil requires government and industry working together to develop a coordinated vision and strategy. That is why the Palaszczuk government brought together key industry players from across the entire supply chain for a round table, including Boeing, Qantas Airways, Virgin Australia, Brisbane Airport Corporation, Ampol, BP, Airlines for Australia and New Zealand, Australian Sugar Milling Council, Canegrowers, CEFC and Bioenergy Australia. There is significant industry support to establish a sustainable aviation fuel industry in our state and to work together to get this vision on the runway. Queensland is recognised internationally as one of the best locations in Australia for a supply chain, with huge potential due to our rich supply of feedstock such as sugar cane and tallow. If we get this right, Queensland could be producing and distributing green fuels across domestic and international markets, reaping huge economic and environmental benefits.

We have already been leading national efforts to develop a biofuels industry through the Queensland biofutures 10-year road map. We have been leading the way with the first sustainable aviation flights out of Brisbane with Virgin Australia and the \$500 million announcement from Oceania Biofuels to build Australia's first commercial aviation fuel biorefinery in Gladstone. We have supported Mercurius to build its pilot plant in Mackay and Southern Oil with its biofuel pilot plan in Gladstone. Our renewable energy and jobs plan includes renewable energy targets of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035, and sustainable aviation fuels will allow us to achieve even greater emissions reductions and create jobs in regional Queensland. Our round table with industry experts and key stakeholders across the entire supply chain is yet another step towards Queensland's future as a clean energy powerhouse. The sky is the limit.

Central Queensland

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.44 am): More than anywhere else in Australia, Queensland relies on the strength of our regions. Regional Queensland is the bedrock on which our state has been built since its earliest days and it is the key to our state's ongoing success, and nowhere is that more evident than in Central Queensland. Anyone who has had the pleasure of walking down Quay Street in Rockhampton has seen firsthand the evidence of the wealth that Queensland minerals bring. Those magnificent buildings reflect the days when Mount Morgan was the richest goldmine in the world. Now Mount Morgan mining will rise again.

Last week I had the opportunity to join with the Minister for Resources, Scott Stewart; the member for Keppel, Brittany Lauga; and the mayor of Rockhampton to announce that the Palaszczuk government is backing the proposal by Heritage Minerals to rework the millions of tonnes of tailings at Mount Morgan. This mine has been sitting abandoned and has been under the government's stewardship for almost 30 years. Heritage estimates that it could recover 263,000 ounces of gold and 5,600 tonnes of copper. As it recovers those precious metals, Heritage Minerals' processes will clean up the acidic water that remains in the Mount Morgan pit. That will provide ongoing benefits to the Mount Morgan community, as will the 130 jobs—skilled, long-term jobs—that this project will support.

At nearby Bouldercombe work is underway to install a 70-tonne transformer that will connect Genex's 50-megawatt battery to the grid. That will support nearby renewable projects in development, including the 370-megawatt Boulder Creek Wind Farm and the 350-megawatt Mount Hopeful Wind Farm. Work is well advanced on Alliance Airlines' \$60 million maintenance, repair and overhaul hangar at Rockhampton Airport supported through our government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. Construction is in its final months and the hangar is expected to be operational by March next year. Our government is backing jobs in resources throughout Central Queensland. We are backing the energy infrastructure that will support more heavy industry in Central Queensland and we are investing in infrastructure that will support long-term, highly skilled jobs in the aviation sector because it is our government that cares about central and regional Queensland.

Public Service, Enterprise Bargaining Agreements; Early Childhood Education and Care



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.46 am): The results are in and the answer is yes, yes and yes. Our valued public servants are overwhelmingly supporting our new enterprise bargaining agreements that deliver some of the best pay and conditions in the country: nurses and midwives, 92 per cent yes; teachers, 94 per cent yes; and police, 98 per cent yes. That is more than 115,000 Queenslanders who are giving resounding support to our 11 per cent pay rises over three years as well as cost-of-living adjustment payments up to three per cent. This will make our public sector some of the best paid in the nation, delivering good jobs and better services.

We are delivering for regional and remote Queensland. We will look after the Nationals. Our new teachers agreement includes increased incentives to attract and retain teachers in regional, remote and rural locations. For example, if a beginner teacher chooses to head to Georgetown State School in the Gulf Country in the electorate of Traeger to start their career, they will now take home over \$86,000 per annum compared to \$78,000 for their counterparts in the city. Throw in additional entitlements, like housing assistance, funded flights home and an increased travel allowance for dependents, and it is a great deal.

We are also working on a national teacher workforce action plan, building on our current plan, and I am looking forward to the meeting of education ministers in Perth in December. We are addressing similar issues in our critical early childhood workforce. Our new \$1 billion Kindy for All package provides additional guaranteed minimum funding for over 350 kindergarten services in regional and remote areas to assist in attracting and retaining qualified early childhood teachers. This \$38.5 million investment will allow services to offer things like above-award wages, relocation costs and subsidised rent. Sessional kindergartens will also receive additional funding which means services in areas like Townsville and Cairns will receive a guaranteed minimum of over \$16,000 to fund these important initiatives and services in very remote areas like Charleville will receive over \$61,000.

Every day our public servants make a difference to the lives of Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will continue to stand up and back them all the way.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Media Article



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): I support the comments of the industrial relations minister about how great it is to see our health workers getting great outcomes from a great Labor government.

Today the ABC published a highly defamatory article authored by Rory Callinan. I am calling on ABC management to immediately retract this article, which is based solely on smear and innuendo. I believe this defamatory report reflects poorly on the author, Mr Callinan, and on ABC management for publishing it.

For over 12 months, Mr Callinan has been ambulance chasing a story about the Redcliffe vaccination hub. Without a shred of evidence, he has alleged a conflict of interest where no conflict exists. I have spoken to Mr Callinan on this matter at some length and my office has provided multiple written responses to Mr Callinan. As I said on the record to Mr Callinan in relation to the selection of the Redcliffe vaccination hub site, this is not a ministerial decision and I have not made or received any representations from the department on this matter. Unless Mr Callinan can provide any evidence of my involvement in this decision he should apologise and withdraw the story. People expect better of the national broadcaster's reporters.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections. I would like to hear the statement.


Mrs D'ATH: People expect better of ABC management. As required, I declared in my register of interests that I had accepted storage space for furniture, a fact acknowledged by Mr Callinan. This story has been generated by the fact that I appropriately made a declaration on my register. Mr Callinan seeks to draw links where none exist. After more than 12 months of digging, this is the best he could come up with. It is embarrassing that the ABC let Rory Callinan run this story.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders. The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders. Muttering is still a form of interjection.

Hooning


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.52 am): Can I associate myself with the comments of the Minister for Industrial Relations about our government's outstanding support for public servants and the 98 per cent support from police officers for their EB. In the words of Ian Leavers, he thinks that the EB for police is the best in the Western world. That is further proof of our government's support for frontline police.

This morning in front of Parliament House we saw graphic evidence of what can happen to a car that is driven recklessly and dangerously. We saw how a car driven recklessly and dangerously can be ripped apart and left in pieces of jagged, torn metal. It was not a pretty sight, but it was very instructive on so many levels. First of all, what we saw this morning sends a clear warning to those who choose to drive dangerously. What happened this morning tells dangerous drivers who indulge in hooning that their car can be confiscated—confiscated and then used by firefighters of the Fire and Rescue Service to practise their skills at cutting open a vehicle to rescue those trapped inside.

This morning's demonstration also sends a message to all drivers to make better decisions on our roads because if you make poor decisions you can end up trapped in a smashed up vehicle. Importantly, today is a reminder of the price those who engage in illegal driving activity can pay. From now on, vehicles that the Queensland Police Service seize can be made available to the Fire and Rescue Service to hone their life-saving skills. We make no apologies for this approach. These are literally matters of life and death. Road safety is that important.

Each year hundreds of people lose their lives. That means that each year hundreds upon hundreds more people are left grieving the loss of a loved one. Road deaths are preventable and none are more preventable than those caused by hooning. That is why Queensland has among the toughest hooning laws in the nation, including the owner onus which means the owner of a vehicle caught hooning on camera will only escape punishment if they can prove that someone else was driving it. That is why we will employ every other measure and send the strongest warnings possible to those who hoon, who put their own lives at risk and who put the lives of others at risk. Life is too precious for it to be wasted by the stupidity and carelessness of hooners on our roads. The government will never relent when it comes to community safety and today the government will be introducing further legislation that targets those who willingly participate in hoon events and hooning more generally. The lives of those on our roads are worth it.

Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.55 am): Queensland farmers know only too well the threats that Mother Nature can pose. Many in Southern Queensland have experienced four floods this year. If there is one thing we know as Queenslanders when it comes to natural disasters it is that preparation is the key. That is why I am urging producers to prepare now for the wet season ahead: have those contingency plans updated, have emergency supplies ready for your family and for livestock.


The Palaszczuk government is always looking to deliver better services for Queenslanders. That is why earlier this year the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries developed the online Natural Disaster Impact Survey. That survey will assist farmers throughout Queensland. It allows growers to quickly record and upload evidence of the damage to their property caused by floodwaters. It means that DAF is able to capture the extent of damage to properties quickly and, importantly, allows disaster assistance to flow to those in need quicker than in previous natural disasters. I encourage producers to keep the Natural Disaster Impact Survey handy this wet season.

If any producer is impacted by a natural disaster they do not have to wait till national disaster arrangements are activated. They can immediately apply for Individual Disaster Stricken Property status with access to freight subsidies of up to \$5,000 and concessional loans of up to \$250,000. We know that it has been tough getting contractors and tradies to help with repairs after natural disasters.

That is why the closing date to lodge recovery grant applications for this year's February to April floods has been extended to 10 March 2023 and we are working with the Commonwealth on extending the closing dates for the other flood events.

I can also announce that due to the improved seasonal conditions, after almost a decade the drought declaration for the Paroo Shire will be revoked, effective from tomorrow. That means the drought declared area of Queensland has dropped to 38 per cent. As we approach another La Nina event this wet season, I want to assure Queensland producers that the Palaszczuk government will always stand by them through the good times and the bad. We will continue to provide them with better services so that they can go on with producing the best quality food and fibre that supports the good jobs in Queensland's agriculture industry and our state's great lifestyle.

Cybersecurity; ICT Industry

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): Today is Computer Security Day. It was first held back in 1988 when very few people had computers in their home. Now—and especially this year as so many in our communities have personally felt the impact of cybercriminals—it has even greater significance. We know that all organisations and individuals are at increasing risk of cybersecurity threats. The Palaszczuk government understands the risks and we are responding to the real and escalating threat to the data we hold and for the services we provide to Queenslanders.

We know that cyberthreats are ongoing and increasing, and that they come from a range of sources, including nation states and activists, but predominantly from financially motivated criminal groups. As many experienced during the recent Optus and Medibank incidents, breaches can be stressful for anyone whose data has been compromised. We are staying vigilant and have a team of experts working behind the scenes to assess the threats and risks and to take actions to minimise the risk to Queenslanders. We actively coordinate with the Federal government and law enforcement to share knowledge and hold cybercriminals to account.

We are also helping to develop the next generation of Queensland's digital specialists. With Queensland's accelerating digital future, it is estimated about 10,000 new digital professionals will be needed by 2024. First Nations people have been underrepresented in digital careers and we are taking proactive steps to address this. We have piloted our First Nations Digital Careers Program, which is a partnership with Microsoft aimed at First Nations Australians interested in a career in the digital industry.

In August we placed four trainees in positions within the Queensland government and two with our industry partner, Fujitsu. The trainees have recently completed an intensive 12-week pre-employment boot camp with the program's Indigenous partner organisation, Goanna Solutions. The program focuses on preparing them for the workplace while completing the first modules of their Certificate III in Information Technology studies. Recently I was pleased to attend the end-of-boot-camp celebrations to present the trainees with their completion certificates and to congratulate them on their achievements to date. The trainees have now transitioned into their workplaces and are using the skills learned during their traineeship and they continue to expand their knowledge of the digital and ICT industry.

We are planning to use the program to build interest in digital careers in First Nations people. From this pilot we hope to be able to build up the program and we aim to secure positions for up to 100 participants across Queensland for the 2023 intake. The Palaszczuk government is committed to accelerating Queensland's digital future because we know it will deliver good jobs, better services and enhance our great Queensland lifestyle.

Disability Action Week; Armstrong, Ms P

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.00 am): This week is Disability Action Week and this year's theme is 'Workforce diversity: open up to opportunity'. As this week is set aside to acknowledge people with disability, I take this opportunity to announce the release of Queensland's Disability Plan 2022-2027: Together, a better Queensland. The plan gives effect to Queensland's commitments under Australia's Disability Strategy and amplifies the Palaszczuk government's commitment to an inclusive Queensland.

Queensland's Disability Plan sets out a strategy to achieve good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders with disability. This is the first plan since the state's transition to the NDIS. It builds on the former plan, titled All Abilities Queensland, and recognises the contributions and

valuable insights of people with lived experience of disability. That is why this plan was co-designed with people with disability. It puts their lived experiences and needs at the centre of all future action. We will champion people with disability to be central to design and decision-making on all things that impact their lives.

Queensland's plan aligns with Australia's Disability Strategy. It highlights seven priority areas for action: employment, inclusive homes, safety, community support, education, health and community attitudes. The plan acknowledges the unique aspects of the state's peoples, regions and diversities, and helps ensure that the more than 900,000 Queenslanders with disability have an opportunity to reach their full potential.

Creating a disability-inclusive state is a job for everyone, not just a job for the government. In the spirit of Disability Action Week, I encourage all local governments, industries, businesses, organisations and communities to commit to working collectively with people with disability to improve access, employment and inclusion. The plan has a framework for action. It will measure outcomes and impact, consider human rights and look at long-term cultural and systemic changes to make a meaningful impact in the lives of Queenslanders with disability. I look forward to working with the Queensland Disability Advisory Council, QDAC, to action Queensland's Disability Plan alongside my ministerial colleagues, industry and Queensland communities.

To round out Disability Action Week, this Friday, my colleague Minister Farmer and I are participating in the Queensland with Disability Network online employment forum. I look forward to hearing the perspectives of people with disability and industry on how Queenslanders can play their role in creating an inclusive Queensland.

While I have this opportunity it would be remiss of me if I did not thank Paige Armstrong, the outgoing CEO of QND, Queenslanders with Disability Network, for her years of service to the Queensland disability sector. I wish her all the best for her retirement, commencing on Friday.

Great Barrier Reef



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.03 am): The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest reef system with thousands of reefs and more than 600 types of coral. It is critical that we protect it. Last week, I announced that we are doubling our Reef Assist program to \$20 million. This forms part of a \$75 million package to restore gullies, stream banks and wetlands across all six of the reef catchments. The Reef Assist program is not just tackling water pollution but also supports good jobs in regional Queensland. In fact, in the first round we saw more than 230 jobs created.

One of those successful proposals was from Jaragun Ecoservices, which will now receive \$862,000 to restore wetlands in the Russell River catchment area. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of visiting Jaragun's Dennis, Liz and the team and saw firsthand their mentorship and expertise being passed on to the next generation of particularly First Nations participants. I look forward to seeing their latest project, alongside the six others funded in this latest round.

As I said yesterday, Queenslanders can be assured that we will continue to build on our reef conservation actions. That is why today I am announcing that more than \$125 million of our reef water quality funding will be used to support the agricultural industry to deliver on-ground practice change and support best-practice management programs and extension projects that help landowners make their farms more sustainable and reduce water pollution. Farmers have an important role to play in looking after the reef. I have had the pleasure of meeting landholders across the state who are leading the way.

The reef report that has been handed down highlights the importance of addressing water pollution. This focussed funding builds on our \$500 million Land Restoration Fund, reef regulations and the announcement yesterday that we will double our compliance team to stop nutrients from ending up in the reef. I am also pleased to announce that, as part of our reef package, we will be allocating \$14 million for a new technology and innovation fund. Queensland is known for its innovation and we want to utilise that to accelerate on-ground conservation works. We will also be allocating \$8 million to support threatened species recovery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, adding to the \$14 million in threatened species funding allocated in our most recent budget.

The reef report is clear: while we have taken big steps, we need to put the pedal to the metal and be rapid in our action. These new programs will be another weapon in our arsenal to protect the reef and what it means for Queenslanders.

Pumped Hydro



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.05 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver reliable, renewable power with pumped hydro at the heart of securing Queensland's future energy system. It is the single greatest investment we can make in our transformation to achieve 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032. Our plan will deliver two—including the world's largest—pumped hydro energy storage projects, building on hydro schemes such as Wivenhoe and Kidston in North Queensland. As renewable energy grows from 21 per cent today to 70 per cent in 2032 and 80 per cent in 2035, the system needs pumped hydro to balance energy supply and demand. Pumped hydro has a far greater storage potential than batteries alone but they will work together to ensure that Queenslanders have a reliable system—yes, even if the sun is not shining or the wind is not blowing.

The Borumba Dam pumped hydro energy storage project is already delivering on the job opportunities that are key to our plan for Queensland's energy future. It is a project that will deliver both generational change to our energy system and incredible business opportunities for local suppliers. I am pleased to announce that, before we meet in this House again in 2023, Queensland Hydro will open expressions of interest from quarter 1 of 2023 for businesses and suppliers. They will be seeking tenders for workers' camp supply, geotechnical survey and sample programs, civil works to upgrade site access tracks and local road quality, temporary bridge structures to enable site access, temporary water supply equipment infrastructure and the drilling program.

The surrounding regions of Wide Bay, the Sunshine Coast and the hinterland are incredibly important to the Queensland SuperGrid and the Energy and Jobs Plan. If yours is a local company, perhaps in the electorate of the member for Bundaberg or further south in Caloundra and especially in Nambour in the electorate of the member for Nicklin, now is the time to get ready for some supercharged action.

Mr Perrett: What about Gympie?

Mr de BRENNI: For the benefit of the member of Gympie, just last week the team from Queensland Hydro's Borumba Dam project returned to Gympie and Imbil for more community information sessions and to engage with local businesses in that community. They also advised the community of early insights from the preliminary studies they are undertaking for a report to the government by early 2023. I can report that attendance, interest and engagement from both the community and businesses in the local community is strong.

Our mega pumped hydro projects will act like giant batteries for the nation. They will underpin reliable power, more renewable and pump out clean, reliable energy when Queenslanders need it.

Sport Infrastructure



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.09 am): From warped courts to shipping containers full of sporting equipment left stranded on clubhouse roofs, the four extreme weather systems that rolled into Queensland almost back to back from this time last year through to May this year gave the state's community sporting infrastructure an absolute hammering. Hundreds of sporting facilities, buildings and fields were inundated or smashed by torrential rain. The massive clean-up created a lot of hard work for volunteers. I want to thank the many community volunteers who rallied around local grassroots sporting clubs to help out and make an insurmountable job that little bit easier.

The Queensland and Australian governments have partnered on a \$75 million disaster recovery and resilience fund. More than 200 sites across 20 local government areas are sharing in this recovery and resilience funding. The funding includes: \$2.47 million for Mitchelton Sports Club in the seat of Everton; \$2.4 million in Lytton to get the Wynnum Wolves Football Club back on its feet; \$1.5 million for Noosa district netball; \$790,000 in Gympie to get the One Mile Sports Complex back in action; \$1.37 million in Miller for the Sherwood Football Club; and \$1.34 million to repair courts and ensure that Auchenflower Basketball Stadium in the seat of Maiwar is a more resilient facility for future events. Clubhouses, change rooms and playing grounds will be repaired or rebuilt. They will be strengthened and made more resilient to future weather events.

I want to thank our Sport and Recreation staff across the state who stepped into their gumboots and worked closely with those clubs and communities to assess more than 150 damaged sites. It has indeed been a big job. I also know that the federal minister for emergency management, Senator Murray Watt, like the Palaszczuk government, has been very keen to get this recovery and resilience funding

out as quickly as possible to where it is needed most. These four almost back-to-back extreme weather events continue to challenge us, but Queenslanders are incredibly resilient and I know that this \$75 million will make a big difference in local communities.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cost of Living



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (10.11 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House notes the increasing financial pressures on Queensland families arising from the policies of the Palaszczuk government as evidenced by:

- (i) young learner drivers being required to pay the highest licence fees in the country;
- (ii) a 25 per cent increase in vehicle registration fees since 2015;
- (iii) increasing domestic and business power bills;
- (iv) increasing water bills resulting from government imposed bulk water charges;
- (v) record pressure on housing affordability and a growing unavailability of private and social housing stock making it increasingly difficult for Queenslanders to put a roof over their heads;

and calls on the government to ease this cost-of-living crisis and reduce the financial burden it has imposed on Queenslanders.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE



Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.12 am.

Mackay Hospital

Mr CRISAFULLI (10.12 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. When removing the Mackay health board, the minister said that they should have been more aware of what was happening. When did the minister become aware there were issues at Mackay Hospital, or should the minister, like the board, have been aware earlier?

Mrs D'ATH: The Leader of the Opposition should be aware how the structure of the Queensland health system operates, but I will explain it anyway. There are 16 boards and hospital and health services established across Queensland.

A government member: Who put that in place?

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. It was put in place by the LNP. They established boards that are statutorily responsible under the act to oversee the governance—both financially and in terms of the quality of health care being delivered—by that hospital and health service, including the appointment of the chief executives.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections or he will be warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: The Leader of the Opposition talks about my responsibility. I have taken responsibility. I have stood up and I have acknowledged the harm that was caused over two governments—under this opposition and under this government—to these women. I have not heard the Leader of the Opposition acknowledge at all that one of these babies' deaths occurred while they were in government. There is no apology on their part and no acknowledgement at all. They just sweep that one under the carpet. Maybe they consider it is old news—I do not know—but I know that the mother still lives with that pain today.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have cautioned the Leader of the Opposition for interjecting—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier. I will be in control of the chamber.

Mrs D'ATH: When these issues came to my attention, the chief executive initiated a part 9 review. As soon as that report was released and the HHS's response was available, I stood up with the interim chief executive to release the details of that and outline what the HHS was going to do to address those recommendations. In addition to that, I committed to the department looking at statewide reforms to do everything we can to avoid this sort of failure by the health system in the future. Every single HHS has

to learn from what happened at Mackay. I have spoken to the board chairs about my expectations about their learnings from this report—that they need to know what is happening in their HHSs, that they have responsibility under the act. I expect them to comply with their statutory obligations in relation to those issues. Those opposite think I should be the only one held accountable, but the public expect—

(Time expired)

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Mackay Hospital

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. Whistleblowers have told the opposition that there was an internal investigation into the birthing unit at Mackay in May 2021 which raised serious issues with the unit and was never made public. When did the minister know about this review, or should the minister, like the board, have been made aware earlier?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for the question. I am going to be very careful in the information I provide. Although privilege applies in this chamber, I am duty-bound to ensure that I have provided procedural fairness to the board members in the show cause. I am also very alive to the fact that it can be judicially reviewable. I will not be going into details about the information that came to light to me in the part 9 report, the reviews that did occur and whether I believe the board members took sufficient action to address the reviews that had happened previously.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take the groans from those opposite. Those opposite seem to think that you can establish—

Opposition members interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: Those opposite seem to think that you establish 16 statutory bodies yet they should not be held accountable for anything—that they are not responsible, that it is not their job. Then why did the LNP set them up in the first place? Why did the LNP set up the boards and make them responsible for HHSs if, when things go wrong, they do not want them held accountable? Why did the LNP set them up? They do not think the board should be held accountable. They do not think the doctors should have been held accountable. They do not believe that the boards should be answerable for what happens in the HHSs. They do not believe that the doctors should have been held accountable. The Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you are given latitude due to the position you hold, but you are warned under the standing orders, as is the member for Whitsunday. I can barely hear the minister.

Mrs D'ATH: I will repeat the comments that were made by the opposition at the time this report came down. They said that the only person who should lose their job was me. The doctors whose actions led to physical and psychological harm to these women, in some cases permanent, should not be held accountable? No, they should stay in their jobs apparently, under those opposite. They are not answerable? No. The board? No. Executive leadership? No.

Do they take any responsibility for what happened under their watch? Not at all. I have not heard one peep—not one word—from the Leader of the Opposition or the shadow health spokesperson about what happened under their watch and is in this report. I hear the sigh from the member for Buderim. How disappointing and disgusting. Go and meet with the mother who lost the baby under the LNP's watch. Go and meet with that mother—

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

Mrs D'ATH:—and say that they do not think they owe—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mrs D'ATH:—that woman an apology because I apologised—

Mr MICKELBERG: Point of order, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: Completely unnecessary, member for Buderim. I was asking, as per the arrangements, for the minister to resume her seat so I could hear your point of order. I am tempted not to hear the point of order at this point, but I will.

Mr MICKELBERG: I made no comment—no sigh. The minister is misleading the House and I ask that she withdraw and apologise.

Mr SPEAKER: No, member. Have you taken personal offence, because I did not hear a direct reference? If you have taken personal offence there is a convention for that.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will not take personal offence. The minister is misleading the House and I will write to you.

Mr SPEAKER: You will sit down now, member. I warn you under the standing orders for frivolous points of order. Minister, do you have anything further to add?

Mrs D'ATH: No.

Electricity Assets

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the benefits of keeping our electricity generators in public hands?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for the question. I know that the member for Greenslopes, like other members of my team, has been out and about across Queensland talking about our Energy and Jobs Plan. This Energy and Jobs Plan is transformational for our state, creating 100,000 jobs and making sure we reach 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032. The reason we are able to implement this plan is very simple. It is because Queenslanders' electricity assets are in public hands. We hear those opposite talk a lot—

An incident having occurred in the public gallery (10.22 am)—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Please resume your seat, Premier. Sergeant at Arms, the gallery will be closed to the public. I ask the media to not photograph.

An incident having occurred in the Speaker's gallery—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member of the public in the Speaker's gallery will put that device down. You should not have a phone. That phone will be confiscated, as will the second device that you are now holding.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, please resume your seat.

A further incident having occurred in the public gallery—

Mr SPEAKER: The public gallery will be cleared of all members of the public. Members of the public in the Speaker's gallery, I have seen devices. Those devices will be confiscated to be potentially used as evidence as part of the horrendous protest we have seen this morning. It is disrespectful to the parliament and this institution. Members of the public in the public gallery, I ask that you please get out of your seats and leave the public gallery. All members of the public in the public gallery will sometimes be tainted by the actions of others.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The House will come to order. I believe that the gallery is just about cleared.

I ask that we resume proceedings (10.25 am). My understanding is that the Premier was on her feet responding to a question from the member for Greenslopes.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am actually talking about renewable energy so that is the irony of the situation. Every Queenslanders should read this plan. This plan is very clear about our transition to renewable energy. This is the strongest plan in the nation.

Our democracy should be able to function without any fear for members' security. People have the right to protest silently in public, and I endorse that, but there are rules in this chamber. I will leave that for you to reflect on, Mr Speaker.

In relation to our Energy and Jobs Plan, let me say this: because we have kept our energy assets in government hands we are able to give direct cost-of-living relief to households. No other state in the country is able to give people \$575 like we have over four years. For every single member of LNP let me say this: we have given people \$575 off electricity bills. Every single member of the LNP has also received that \$575 relief over four years.

I note that the federal government will next week be speaking about what they plan to do, but I say very clearly about gas that Queensland is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to gas. In fact, we are supplying three-quarters of the gas to the east coast of Australia. If the issue is supply, New South Wales and Victoria need to address the issue or build a pipeline to Queensland. This is another clear example of what they can do—build a pipeline. We have reserved some of our domestic gas for domestic use.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next question, members, I will be extending the period for question time to 11.16 am as a result of the disruption. I do not believe it is the fault of any member of this House, as I see it. I believe proceedings have been disrupted to the point where we can do that.

Mackay Hospital

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Health. Whistleblowers have told the opposition that the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists called for an external review of the Mackay birthing unit in June 2021. When did the minister know about the recommendation or should the minister, like the board, have been aware earlier?

Mrs D'ATH: As I said in my last answer to an almost identical question in relation to the reviews, I have become aware that there are other reviews that occurred at the hospital and that formed part of my consideration as to whether I believed the board had fulfilled its obligations and duty of care to the people of the Mackay community in acting on any previous reviews and whether there was sufficient follow-up to ensure that any concerns that were raised were addressed.

Health and Hospitals Plan

Mr McCALLUM: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier please update the House on how the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan is delivering for my wonderful community of Bundamba, and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bundamba for the question. The member for Bundamba and everybody on this side of the House knows that we have a Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. It is another plan from our government, unlike those opposite from whom we are yet to see a new idea, yet to see a plan and yet to see a private member's bill—lazy, lazy, lazy.

I am very pleased to update the member. Since we have been out to the satellite hospital at Ripley for the concrete pour, I can advise the House that the roof is on and work is underway constructing framing, cladding and sheeting works. There is rapid progress happening out there. These satellite hospitals are going to be closer to communities that need the help the most. They will also relieve some of our hospitals. For the Tugun satellite hospital, the steel works and roofing are well underway. For the Kallangur satellite hospital, concrete slabs have been poured and steel works have been laid for half the site. For the Caboolture satellite hospital, the roof is on, the walls have also gone up and internal walls are being constructed. For the Redlands satellite hospital, the external walls have gone up—

Mr Bleijie: What about the TV satellites—are they on?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Are you right, member for Kawana? I am talking about hospitals.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: He is always rude and condescending, Mr Speaker. For the Redlands satellite hospital, the external walls have gone up and brickwork is ongoing. For the Eight Mile Plains satellite hospital, the minister has turned the first sod, with the concrete pour imminent. For the Bribie Island satellite hospital, key works are starting, with asbestos recently removed from the site.

This is what Labor governments do: we build. We build hospitals and we are going to deliver these satellite hospitals. Not only that; we are going to build new hospitals and we are going to expand existing hospitals, unlike those opposite. Their only plan is to cut, sack and sell.

I find it ironic the constant talk from those opposite when it comes to health when they made the savage cuts to the health workers in this state. Even now people do not forget. People remember those savage cuts of those opposite. They are going to remember it for many years to come—including the member for Broadwater, who sat around the cabinet table and made those decisions.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. No wonder he left Townsville, because Townsville experienced some of the most savage cuts under the Newman government.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to media reports today that a company owned by a close friend of the minister received a health contract worth over \$400,000 in her own electorate. Did the minister disclose the close relationship to her department?

Mrs D'ATH: Yes, I did disclose it after the fact. I could not have done it beforehand because I had no involvement in choosing the site, or the negotiations that were done at the HHS level, until it had occurred. Yes, I did disclose it to the former director-general at the time.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will cease her interjections. I need to hear this answer.

Resilient Homes Fund

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of the Resilient Homes Fund, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches to disaster recovery?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. I can provide an update to the House on the Resilient Homes Fund. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has recently completed the third phase of Queensland's largest reconstruction monitoring assessment since the 2011 floods. More than 58 per cent of the 8,694 properties that were impacted by the 2022 South-East Queensland floods are no longer damaged—that is, they have been fully repaired now.

Between 10 and 28 October, officers visited properties across Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Gold Coast, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs, Toowoomba, Western Downs, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie, Fraser Coast and North Burnett. October's reconstruction monitoring assessments, led by the QRA, saw 5,250 of those properties revisited across 16 local government areas and followed the first reconstruction assessments that were carried out in June and July—1,648 homes, approximately 31 per cent, are no longer damaged.

QRA has greatly supported the National Emergency Management Agency, QFES, Disaster Relief Australia, the Australian Red Cross and Datacom. Some 117 offers have now been presented to home owners for voluntary buyback under the RHF. Seventy-five flood impacted home owners have accepted those buyback offers across seven local government areas—Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast, Gympie and Moreton Bay—and more are expected in coming months.

We acted quickly in the wake of the flooding disaster to set up the Resilient Homes Fund. A fund like that is only possible because we have here in the state the first and greatest standing reconstruction and resilience agency in the form of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. Let's never forget that those opposite wanted to close down the QRA—wind it up, shut it down. If we had no QRA, we would have had no mechanism to deliver this kind of resilience program.

Do you know what is worse, Mr Speaker? The member for Broadwater wanted a new tax to fund disaster recovery. He thought Queenslanders should pay a disaster levy to fund disaster recovery. This is a bloke who yesterday came in here and talked about cost of living. Today he wants to move a motion about cost of living, but he thought Queenslanders should have to pay an extra tax so that he could deliver disaster recovery. It is bad enough having to worry about a coming disaster season, let alone having to worry about the disaster of the member for Broadwater's disaster tax!

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Minister for Health. While the health department was giving over \$400,000 to a company owned by a close friend for a vaccination clinic in her own electorate, was the minister storing any personal belongings at the complex owned by the same company receiving the government money?

Mrs D'ATH: I have already made a ministerial statement on this. There was inference in that question. I have made it very clear that I have appropriately declared that I was offered storage by a friend who owns the site where the vaccination centre ended up being, but I have had no involvement in the selection of the vaccination site, how it was chosen, the lease arrangements or any representations whatsoever on their behalf in relation to choosing that site. I have followed the proper processes, as has the HHS. If those opposite continue this line of questioning, making these sorts of inferences and imputations on my character, Mr Speaker, I will be writing to you.

Torres Strait, Native Title

Ms LUI: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment and Acting Minister for Resources. Will the Treasurer update the House on why it matters to recognise native title rights in the Torres Strait?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cook for her question and for her commitment to advancing the cause of Queensland's First Nations people, especially her beloved Torres Strait. The member for Cook knows how important it is for our nation to properly recognise our First Nations people. Recognition of native title is a crucial element in our government's commitment to genuine reconciliation with First Nations peoples on the path to treaty.

This claim covers an area where two cultures meet—where the waters and islands of the Torres Strait wrap around the northern most point of Australia. This is the first time that First Nations people from the Torres Strait Islands and mainland Australia have worked together to progress a joint native title claim with one voice. Of course, this is not the first time native title rights have been recognised in the Torres Strait. Two hundred kilometres from the waters surrounding the northern cape is Murray Island—the home of Eddie Koiki Mabo and the site of Australia's first successful native title claim.

Recognition of native title matters just as the Indigenous voice to our nation's parliament matters. When we debated this House's support for the voice yesterday I thought we would hear something about that from the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition complained about a lack of notice. First Nations people put the Leader of the Opposition and all Australians on notice when they issued the Uluru Statement from the Heart 5½ years ago. The Leader of the Opposition's own state council, on which he sits as a member, put him on notice by voting against it. His own federal Nationals leader, David Littleproud, a fellow Queensland LNP member, put him on notice when he said the federal National Party would oppose the voice. That is why the Leader of the Opposition needs to take a stand and stand in front of the media and declare publicly whether he supports an Indigenous voice to our national parliament or not. It is a simple question and a simple proposition.

A government member interjected.

Mr DICK: Like the minister says; I take her interjection. Yes or no? The Leader of the Opposition whinges and whines. He is the 'whiner in chief' for this state because he does not have the strength to take a position. The Leader of the Opposition does not have the courage to state publicly whether he supports a Voice to Parliament: yes or no? Nor does the deputy leader, the member for Kawana, have the courage to come into the House to speak on the motion and say whether he supports a Voice to Parliament: yes or no? I say to the Leader of the Opposition that you only have to look to Victoria and see what happened to Matthew Guy and the Liberals on Saturday night to see where autobabble and 'something, something, something' ultimately gets you.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. I refer to reports today of the health minister being gifted a service by someone who has received a financial benefit from the minister's department.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Bulimba will cease her interjections. I have asked for silence during questions.

Ms SIMPSON: When did the minister disclose this conflict to the Premier in accordance with the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me make it very clear that, in relation to the article, the health minister has addressed this at length. Let me say this: there has been evidence in the past of those opposite hurling mud, making false accusations and everything else. I am advised by the director-general that these matters are operational decisions made by officers of the Department of Health. There was no involvement by the office of the minister or the minister personally.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). This was about the Ministerial Code of Conduct and the responsibility of the minister to disclose a conflict of interest to the Premier.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier is being relevant. The question related to an article which features a number of different elements. The Premier is able to respond to all elements of the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am further advised by my director-general that the minister has complied with the requirement to register the gift on the member's register of interests.

Jobs

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland workers with good, safe, secure jobs, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. She has worked all her life for workers' rights and a voice for workers. We know on this side of the House that we stand up for workers in this state. We stand up for our public sector workers. We stand up to ensure that workers have a voice. As industrial relations minister in this state, I am very proud of the nation-leading reforms we have introduced. These reforms will ensure that workers are free from sexual harassment, sex-based and gender-based harassment, racism and discrimination. We have ensured that the QIRC has the industrial powers to address these issues in the workplace. At the same time we are giving workers a voice to raise these issues, including our First Nations workers.

What we stand for is in stark contrast to what those opposite stand for. When you look at alternative approaches you have to ask yourselves what those opposite stand for other than mudslinging, coming into this House with baseless accusations, whining from the Leader of the Opposition and whining from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That is all they do. They do not stand for workers' rights. They did not stand for vaccination. They supported anti-vax fake unions in this House. They do not stand for climate change. They do not stand for renewable energy. Do they stand for nuclear energy? Who knows?

Amazingly, there were reports in the paper that the LNP state council at the weekend overwhelmingly backed a resolution calling on the federal coalition to oppose a voice in the coming referendum. There were up to 200 state and federal MPs and party officials, and they lost their voice when they came in to say exactly where they stood on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament. It is unbelievable that they stand for nothing. Just look at Victoria: it got them nowhere. The Leader of the Opposition stands for nothing. He was unable to come into this House yesterday and say whether they support a Voice to Parliament. The Uluru statement fits on your phone screen. There it is; read it! They came in here saying, 'I didn't know anything about this.' 'We didn't have enough time.' 'I haven't had enough time to read it.' Yet, as Leader of the Opposition, the state council voted to vote against a voice in the referendum. They know nothing about it yet they are going to oppose a Voice to Parliament. Stand for something!

(Time expired)

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the Premier's last answer. Why did the minister not disclose this conflict to the Premier in accordance with the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

Mrs D'ATH: Let me educate the member for Kawana in relation to how cabinet processes work. There is only a requirement for me to advise the Premier if it relates to a conflict of interest with cabinet, which it does not because cabinet did not consider this matter because it is not a cabinet matter. While I am on my feet, can I say—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. When the member was the attorney-general he did not respect the separation of powers or any other obligation. Those on the opposite side developed their strategy based on a misleading article published today which I have already said is highly defamatory. I know that is their strategy. They cannot think beyond what they read in the paper or online in the morning.

Ms LAUGA: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am struggling to hear the minister's response to the question given the attitude of those blokes over there.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, points of order are not to be used for making personal commentary. I will ask you to withdraw.

Ms LAUGA: I withdraw.

Mrs D'ATH: The story online today arose because I did the appropriate thing and declared the gift under my register, so it is publicly available.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera.

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: Unlike the action I took, I do wonder what the Leader of the Opposition's views are in relation to the member for Whitsunday, who last year did not declare her shareholding interest in a consultancy business run by her husband; or the member for Burnett, who failed to declare his interest in a commercial property; or the member for Mudgeeraba, who, when she was a minister, failed to declare a meeting with lobbyists. What are the views of the Leader of the Opposition when members opposite failed to declare? We are standing here talking about issues I have publicly declared appropriately on my register.

The Department of Health have put out a statement saying that I had no involvement whatsoever in the selection of this site, such that there was no conflict. For those opposite to come in here and say differently is not unusual. It is what they do; it is their modus operandi. That is how they operate. Considering the statement that I have already made this morning, those opposite should reflect on their line of questioning. Mr Speaker, you have previously said that they can rely on a newspaper article as fact, but I have already said that the article is not factually correct and it is highly defamatory. I question whether they can continue to rely on that article based on my statement this morning.

Disability Action Week

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the minister update the House on this week's Disability Action Week and the launch of Queensland's Disability Plan?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. We share a common friend out in Ipswich—that is Peter Tully, and the member for Ipswich knows Peter quite well. Peter is an amazing Queenslander. He is in a motorised chair. He is a passionate QDN advocate. He spends his time advocating for Queenslanders. He teaches Queenslanders who are in motorised chairs how to get on and off buses and trains and everything, and he does all of this in his own time. He has sat beside people who have fought the NDIA around cuts to plans and things. He is an amazing Queenslander.

This is why as a government we co-designed Queensland's Disability Plan with Queenslanders who live with disability. This is a plan for one in five Queenslanders—over 900,000 Queenslanders—who live with disability, including those who are on the NDIS. It is about encouraging employers to recruit more people with disability into the workforce. This is why Dylan Alcott, Australian of the Year, has championed this cause. It is the No. 1 thing he does.

Ms Farmer: That's right.

Mr CRAWFORD: I know Minister Farmer has been working with Dylan and his team as well.

Yesterday I heard the inspirational story of Queenslander Ashleigh DoRozario. Up until the age of 23, litigation lawyer Ashleigh had normal vision until she was struck down by a rare autoimmune condition and within two years was legally blind. With the love and support of her employers at Potts Lawyers on the Gold Coast, Ashleigh, who is now 36, has become a champion of ability equality. Under the banner of Blind Lady Justice, Ashleigh promotes inclusion and diversity in the workplace and the benefits of employing people with disability. Her bosses say Ashleigh has become a highly respected personal injuries lawyer because of her lived experience, her resilience and her empathy. She understands the difficulties people face when their lives are turned upside down, whether by accident, a tragic twist of fate or the ticking time bomb of a medical condition. That is why the new Queensland

Disability Plan was co-designed by people with disability—because the Palaszczuk government recognises the contributions and the valuable insights of people with lived experience of disability and their right to be able to positively contribute to the workforce and society.

Who can remember the debacle of Queensland LNP minister Stuart Robert who, when he was minister for NDIS, thought up independent assessments? Thousands of Australians had to fight Mr Robert. It was only through, unusually, a Western Australian senator, being Linda Reynolds, that it was turned around. That is the shame that the Queensland LNP have. The independent assessments were their thought and their idea.

(Time expired)

Weapons Licensing

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. In Queensland, the processing time for new firearm applications is 32.4 weeks, while permits to acquire take around 27 days. In New South Wales, licences are issued in six to eight weeks, with PTAs in just a few days. These delays create completely unsustainable conditions for Queensland businesses. Can the minister advise whether these delays are due to incompetency or deliberate attempts to discriminate against licensed firearm owners?

Mr RYAN: I can give a very quick and blunt answer to the member for Traeger. No, it is not due to any incompetency on the part of the hardworking officers of the Queensland Police Service Weapons Licensing branch and, no, it is not any particular campaign from the Queensland Police Service Weapons Licensing branch because they process applications in accordance with the law, without fear or favour, and impartially. They are working very hard at the moment as a result of heavy workloads. The government is supporting them in their work. In the budget, we announced extra resourcing for the Weapons Licensing branch. As a result of that additional resourcing, we have seen processing times decrease, but it is a fact that there is more work to be done. The Queensland Police Service Weapons Licensing branch is working alongside stakeholders. In fact we had a round table last week at the firearms advisory forum around other ways we can enhance efficiencies and the effectiveness of the Weapons Licensing branch.

I want to take the opportunity to commend those officers and staff of the Weapons Licensing branch for their diligence and their hard work, because ultimately their diligence and hard work keeps Queensland a safer place. They have to be thorough when it comes to processing applications for weapons because weapons can be dangerous in the hands of the wrong people. We should be commending them for being thorough, we should be commending them for being diligent and we should be commending them for acting in accordance with the legislation.

Ultimately, a robust weapons licensing framework keeps the community safe. That is the framework that was set up decades ago by John Howard with the National Firearms Agreement. That had bipartisan support because the community demanded a robust weapons licensing framework. When we have a robust weapons licensing framework, people have to be diligent when they assess applications. They have to make sure that people have firearms only for lawful purposes. We do not want firearms to end up in the hands of other people for unlawful purposes. The Weapons Licensing branch has responsibility not only for that work but also auditing firearms dealers and armourers and doing spot checks on firearms owners to ensure the law is being complied with because that is in the interests of community safety and the interests of the community.

I take this opportunity to commend Weapons Licensing. I note once again that the government is supporting Weapons Licensing with additional resources so they can get through the backlog.

Brands Act, Reform

Mr SKELTON: My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Can the minister outline what changes are being proposed for the Brands Act and how graziers can have their views heard?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Nicklin for his question. It has been a long time coming for this act. It is almost 100 years old. That is almost as old as the ideas coming from the LNP. Sorry, I should correct *Hansard*. There are no ideas, old or new, coming from that side of the House so I do correct the record. How is that policy group going, by the way? Are there any ideas yet? There are no policies, no ideas, just the same old, same old. Who would have predicted that we would get to the end of 2022 and the ideas on the other side of the House would look the same as they did in 2021? They

have come up with nothing; they have brought nothing to the House. Their 2022 ideas are the same as their 2021 ideas, and I expect 2023 will be the same as well. That is 'Bleijie-ja vu' all over again, but I digress. The Brands Act is more than 100 years old. Technology has changed, unlike the LNP, and biosecurity has changed as well so it is time we modernised this Brands Act.

Many years ago, about the time that the LNP had their last policy idea, branding was a traditional way of identifying cattle. A branding iron was all you needed to trace your animal. However, things have moved on. We know what has occurred in the agriculture sector and that is why we will modernise this act. The world has moved on as well and with advancements in technology, there are now more effective ways of tracing your cattle, your herd, should you wish to do so. Electronic systems of tracing have been available for many years. It is time we worked with the graziers and gave them a choice of how they brand. Queensland and the Northern Territory are the only jurisdictions in Australia to mandate the use of livestock brands.

A review of the brands is underway. We want to hear from our community, we want to hear from our farmers, as the Palaszczuk government always does. They will have ideas about the choices they would like to have. I encourage people with those ideas—no doubt there might be some from those opposite, but I doubt very much; I will not be holding my breath—to go online to the survey at daf.engagementhub.com.au. I look forward to reading and implementing the views of Queenslanders and will update the House in 2023. Should the other side of the House have any ideas, I encourage them to go to the engagement hub to make sure they have some input. I am not holding my breath that they will know how to press the button on their laptop to find that engagement hub.

(Time expired)

Renewable Energy, Public Ownership

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. What overall percentage of renewable energy planned for Queensland will be owned and operated by the state?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. Significantly more would be owned under this government than those opposite because we know the only plan the LNP has is to sell Queensland's energy assets. They spent tens of millions of dollars in office getting Queensland's energy assets ready for sale, just like they did with the publicly owned buildings. They have not seen a publicly owned asset that they did not want to flog off. It is in their DNA. We know they have no plan. Those opposite have zero plan for Queensland's energy future, other than to sell off those publicly owned assets. They have no plan for renewables. In fact, all we see from those opposite is talking down Queensland's renewable energy opportunities.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will create 100,000 jobs. Let the record show that those opposite are opposed to that plan. The most significant policy initiative of the Morrison government was to veto a renewable energy project in North Queensland. Australians will never forget that. In and around North Queensland, where the member for Mirani is from, the LNP vetoed a renewable energy project. Our Energy and Jobs Plan is incredibly clear. I hope those opposite have taken the time to read it, perhaps today—

Mr ANDREW: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). It was a percentage of what is going to be owned and operated by the state.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I have given you about 1½ minute's worth of context. I believe you need to come back to the question as asked.

Mr de BRENNI: Very well, Mr Speaker, thank you for your guidance. Our plan is very clear: we will maintain 100 per cent ownership of the distribution networks that those opposite wanted to sell off. Our commitment is 100 per cent of transmission, the transmission networks that those opposite wanted to sell off. Our commitment is 100 per cent of deep storage, 100 per cent of the world's largest pumped hydro storage that we will build in the electorate of Mirani, the world's largest pumped hydro storage that will guarantee reliability of energy for generations to come in this state. We have committed to majority public ownership of generation in this state. Our commitment is incredibly clear because we have released the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. What is not clear is the position of those opposite. Queenslanders know that their only policy has been—

Mr ANDREW: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under the standing order 118(b). I specifically asked for the percentage owned and operated of renewable projects. It was nothing to do with the distribution.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe what the minister is doing is talking about the percentages of existing assets, as I hear the answer. Minister, I do ask you to direct your answer to the question as asked. There were specific elements to the question.

Mr de BRENNI: Our commitment has been 100 per cent ownership of transmission, distribution, deep storage, and when it comes to generation, the wind, solar energy, battery storage et cetera, our commitment is to maintain the level of public ownership. Their policy is to—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! Before calling the next member, member for Theodore, member for Currumbin, member for Toowoomba North, you consistently interjected on the minister during that answer after I had given you some guidance. You are all warned under the standing orders. Member for Maryborough, you were quarrelling across the chamber—I am not sure who with; I am assuming with the member for Gregory—but, member for Maryborough, on the odd occasion you will be quarrelling on your own outside the chamber. You are warned under the standing orders.

Social Housing

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver more social housing and more housing support for vulnerable Queenslanders sooner?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Jordan for the question and for her continued commitment to seeing more social and affordable housing being built. She knows that that is exactly what we are doing right across Queensland. In fact, we are building more social and affordable housing supply and, as I have said in this House before, since coming to office we have built over 4,000 new social homes in this state as a result of our policy mechanisms. We are supporting more Queenslanders in housing need.

Recently, I was able to turn the sod on a \$19 million, 40-unit youth foyer in Townsville. I particularly want to mention the member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra, who were there with me at that time. I know the member for Thuringowa has been very supportive of that project, as has the member for Mundingburra. That project will look to support young people aged between 16 and 25 who are at risk of homelessness.

I also joined the member for Stafford to open 10 new social housing apartments in Kedron, delivering a roof over the head of more Queensland families. We got to meet some fantastic local residents there. The member for Stafford had a homemade sausage roll, so he enjoyed that! I also want to announce—

Mr Dick: He will do anything for Stafford.

Ms ENOCH: I know, anything for Stafford. I am very proud to announce that this week I was in South Brisbane announcing a brand new, purpose-built complex for families and young children. This will be an 18-unit social housing complex with additional space for support services and will provide stable homes for local families at a time when Queenslanders need it the most. We continue to partner with community housing providers to deliver more social and affordable homes in Bribie, in Lutwyche, on the Sunshine Coast, in Townsville—right across Queensland.

What do we see from those opposite when it comes to providing more supply into the sector? We know that when they were in office, the member for Everton oversaw a 90 per cent cut to the construction of new social and affordable homes in this state. He tried to off-load 90 per cent of the social homes from the public sector. On top of that, we saw zero commencements in a number of locations—did not even start social housing properties—in places like Logan, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, at the height of their power.

On top of that, in 2017, the member for Everton was part of a petition opposing more housing in his own electorate, including changing zoning to allow more high density to provide more homes for Queensland. He was very proud of this petition. He petitioned asking Brisbane City Council to say no to 139 dwellings in Everton. He was very proud of it. He had it all over his Facebook page, encouraging people to sign the petition. This is what we get from those opposite. They say they want more housing, but just not in their own backyard.

Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. It has been 203 days since legislation for the Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board was passed. Has the board been established? If not, when will the Attorney establish it?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. A thorough recruitment process has now been completed and the board will be announced very shortly.

Rookwood Weir

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Would the minister update the House on the status of Rookwood Weir?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for the question. I know how passionate the member for Rockhampton is about this absolutely fantastic project that is coming out of the ground as we speak. He understands the social and economic importance of water security and jobs for regional Queensland, particularly Central Queensland, and how critical it is to plan for that infrastructure moving forward.

When it comes to water security and job opportunities, this government, the Palaszczuk government, has a proven track record in planning for the future for water. I rise proudly today to update the House that more than half of the concrete that is needed for Rookwood Weir has officially been poured. We are over halfway in terms of the amount of concrete. That is more than 65,000 cubic metres of a total of 130,000 cubic metres of concrete going into that amazing project.

Rookwood Weir is the biggest weir that has been built since World War II. It will ensure a secure future for water in Central Queensland supporting our farmers while also creating those great jobs and those better services that Central Queenslanders deserve. The flow-on benefits for the broader community—not only in Rockhampton—will be absolutely enormous. As a boost to the agriculture sector, it will result in more jobs and growth in that sector as well.

We often hear a lot of noise in this chamber from those opposite about water and this government is building that infrastructure. We have the track record to show it. I hope that the member for Nanango is listening to this today. The Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered over \$3.4 billion of record investment in infrastructure and planning in water in this great state, and I look forward to watching many more of these projects continue to come out of the ground.

How nice is it to finally be working with a federal government that cares about Queensland and about water infrastructure? Those on the other side of this House must agree that their former federal colleagues were useless. I do not recall one member of the LNP from that side of the chamber ever going to them to get the funding that we needed to kick off this project in Rockhampton. We had to drag the former federal LNP government kicking and screaming to match our funding for this fantastic water infrastructure project near Rockhampton.

We know that all those on that side of the House are good for is cutting, sacking and selling. Let's not forget their record when they were in government: one dam that they sacked. That was their record. There was not one cent of investment in water infrastructure in Queensland—

(Time expired)

Crime and Corruption Commission

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Attorney-General. Legislation requires the CCC to have four commissioners to adopt reports. For almost a year the CCC has only had a maximum of three commissioners and, for a time, just two. Can the Attorney guarantee the failure to appoint a fourth commissioner during this time has not prejudiced any CCC work?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. I have been briefed by the CCC on this and I understand that there are some questions before them. They have said they will undertake to answer those questions, but it has not affected any of their work to date.

Fire and Emergency Services

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on some of the investments the Palaszczuk government is making in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services across the state to support community safety?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. It was an outstanding question because he knows that this government is investing directly in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services right across the state. In fact, we had a very visual example of that investment just last week when the member for Maryborough officially opened the brand new Maryborough Fire and Rescue Station and north coast headquarters. That is an outstanding facility and an iconic facility because it is made from Maryborough timber. It is timber grown in Maryborough, milled in Maryborough and built by Maryborough workers for firefighters. What an outstanding example of not only support for local industry but also support by this government for Fire and Emergency Services.

This is further proof of the investment that this government is making in Fire and Emergency Services. As a result of our budget boost for Fire and Emergency Services we are seeing upgrades of facilities right across the state. In fact, in the Maryborough electorate we are seeing another facility built for our Rural Fire Service, a headquarter facility. Also across the state we are providing uplifts in places like Moore-Linville, Mount Alford, Irongate-Rossvale, Ogmoo, Weipa, Blenheim, Fordsdale, Oman Ama, Silver Spur, Gowrie Little Plain, Bluewater and Heronvale. This is a significant boost right across the state.

Mr Speaker, I know that you have been missing this moment because usually when we are working out comparisons I need a little bit of help. Of course, the LNP calculator is all very negative.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, please put that down or table it.

Mr RYAN: Of course, when we turn their favourite number upside down it says 'sell'. When we are talking about the budget boost it actually reminds me that the answer on the Labor calculator—

Mr SPEAKER: Do not pick up the other one, member. The member will put it down.

Mr RYAN:—and we do not even have to turn it upside down.

Mr SPEAKER: The member will put down the props.

Mr RYAN: But our favourite number—

Mr SPEAKER: I warn the member.

Mr RYAN:—is 80057.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, I am giving you instructions. You are continuing to speak over those instructions. I have told you not to use the props. You utilised a second one. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: Our favourite number is 80057, which spells 'boost'. It is the answer to every single Labor equation. Is it any wonder that there are plus signs all over our calculator, because we are boosting Fire and Emergency Services, we are boosting the Police Service, we are boosting our health service, we are boosting our education services, we are boosting jobs and we are boosting economic outcomes. Is it any wonder that our favourite number is 80057?


The Labor calculator shows that we are delivering for Queenslanders. We are certainly delivering in the area of Fire and Emergency Services. It is a proud record that we have.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. I ask members to leave the chamber quietly if you are doing so. I will allow the minister to catch his breath.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (JACK'S LAW) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.17 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Support and Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[2000\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[2001\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[2002\]](#).

I rise today to introduce the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022. As announced by the Premier recently, we are introducing Jack's Law. The proposed laws are named in honour of 17-year-old Jack Beasley, who was tragically killed in an incident involving a knife in Surfers Paradise in 2019. The laws are named in honour of Jack and they reflect the heartfelt and sincere efforts of Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda, for Jack's legacy to be a safer community. Jack's Law extends the Gold Coast knife-wandering trial for another two years and expands the powers for police to cover all 15 safe night precincts as well as public transport infrastructure.

Since Jack's passing, many of his family and friends have banded together, through the Jack Beasley Foundation, to advocate for changes around security and knife detection to help prevent this senseless violence taking place in the future. The foundation's first call to action was to petition the Gold Coast city council and the Queensland government to bring in a scanning system at Helensvale station where Jack's murderer got off the train and boarded a tram bound for Surfers Paradise. That petition attracted overwhelming support with more than 7,500 signatures.

In response to concerns around knife crime, the Palaszczuk government initiated a 12-month wandering trial in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts last year. The primary goal of the trial was to reduce the opportunity for serious violent offending involving knives and other serious weapons and as a means of preventing senseless and violent attacks in public spaces. The success of the trial in removing weapons from our streets has been evident not only in the number of weapons seized but also in the prevention of these offences that devastate the lives of our young people and their families.

Across the state, the unlawful possession of knives and other weapons in public places remains a concern. In fact, in July this year the stabbing homicide of a 24-year-old man just metres from the Fortitude Valley train station shocked us all. The removal of knives and other weapons from people who carry them in high-risk public places such as safe night precincts and transport hubs is an inherently valuable preventive intervention. The expansion of the trial in these high-risk public spaces is about enhancing public safety and hopefully stopping these devastating events.

We welcome the findings of the independent review of the Gold Coast trial conducted by Griffith University. The review, completed after 12 months of the trial, provided several recommendations which have been incorporated into Jack's Law. The expansion of the trial to all 15 safe night precincts and public transport infrastructure supports the notion of the increased risk in certain places. We have large numbers of people attending these locations at certain times, for example on the weekend, at night-time and during large events. We have an obligation to protect the lives of Queenslanders and to make it clear that carrying a knife in these public areas is not acceptable. A large concentration of people in one area, combined with the presence of sometimes intoxicated individuals, elevates the potential for harm to be caused to innocent people by offenders with weapons. The expansion of this trial will make it clear: do not come into these places armed with weapons.

The Queensland Police Service micro-hotspot project has identified several locations across the state where there is sustained offending and demand on police resources. Of the top 20 locations with the highest consistent and sustained reported offences and calls for service, half of those fall within safe night precincts. The Queensland Police Service anticipates that with the expansion of the trial the rate of knife and weapon detections will increase, therefore providing greater safety for the public using these spaces and a future deterrent for offenders bringing weapons into these areas.

I acknowledge that ongoing community support for the wandering expansion must come with a range of safeguards. The proposal includes several legislative safeguards to ensure the appropriate and proportional use of the powers. Continuing legislative safeguards include: the scanning period must not exceed 12 hours; police may detain a person for no longer than is reasonably necessary to conduct a scan; police must conduct the least invasive stop-and-scan power that is practicable in the circumstances; and police must offer the person a notice advising of the reason for the scan and their rights and police powers.

Additional safeguards that have been proposed in response to the Griffith review of the Gold Coast trial include: ensuring the safe night precinct or public transport infrastructure shows evidence of a problem in the past six months; and requiring that there must have been at least one offence committed by a person armed with a knife or other weapon, or at least one offence committed against the Criminal Code involving violence against a person punishable by at least seven years imprisonment, or more than one knife or weapons possession offence. A senior police officer must provide authorisation for wandering in the declared area and consider that the wandering is likely to be effective to

detect or deter the commission of an offence involving the possession or use of a knife or other weapon. A senior police officer must also consider any previous authorisations made with respect to the place and whether those authorisations were successful in identifying people carrying weapons.

These considerations are designed to ensure that the senior police officer turns their mind to balancing the utility of wandering and its potential to interfere with lawful activity. Furthermore, appropriate training is essential and will be provided to Queensland Police Service officers in the use and application of the handheld scanning devices in accordance with the law. The expanded trial will be the subject of a further independent review in two years time.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the outstanding and dedicated work of Brett and Belinda Beasley and the foundation established in Jack Beasley's name for their fierce advocacy around the extension of wandering powers to assist the Queensland Police Service in preventing the type of senseless and unspeakable violence that took Jack's life all too soon. The message from the Jack Beasley Foundation is a simple but effective one: detect knives, save lives. I could not agree more and I commend this bill, Jack's Law, to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.25 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Community Support and Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.25 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [\[2003\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[2004\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[2005\]](#).

Today I introduce the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Community safety is paramount. The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 will further strengthen and improve our laws. The changes proposed in this bill tackle a number of issues of community concern. They include child sex offending, hooning and cybercrime. The protection of our children is of utmost importance to the community. Child sex offenders are amongst the most heinous of all offenders and, as such, they deserve to be subject to the strongest and strictest monitoring and reporting regimes available. That is why the government is introducing new legislation to further toughen laws and crack down on those who prey on our state's most vulnerable: our children.

With these new laws, Queensland will have the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to the monitoring of child sex offenders. In doing so, we will right a wrong of the former Newman LNP government, which in government reduced the monitoring periods of child sex offenders. This

government will now double the periods for the monitoring and reporting of child sex offenders. With this amendment, any predator convicted of a child sex offence will be required to report to and be monitored by police for periods of 10 years, up from five years, and for repeat offenders for periods of 20 years, up from 10 years. The most serious recidivist child sex offenders will be monitored for their entire lives. These reforms will reinforce the strongest, most comprehensive monitoring laws in relation to child sex offenders in the nation.

This is important legislation. It allows our dedicated law enforcement agencies to keep convicted child sex offenders under their watchful and ever-present eye for far longer than they previously could. This week we rewrite the record and further crack down on child sex offenders. The Palaszczuk government will always crack down on child sex offenders, because it is about putting the community first and child safety first.

Recent legislative amendments to extend the reporting obligations for dangerous sex offenders are expected to increase the number of reportable offenders under Queensland Police Service management. To assist the Queensland Police Service in carrying out its monitoring obligations, amendments are contained in this bill to provide an avenue for police to apply for a surveillance device warrant when intelligence indicates that a reportable offender is in breach of their conditions.

In relation to hooning, this bill proposes amendments to continue our pursuit of participants in hooning activities and widens the net to target spectators and distributors of online material that seeks to promote hooning. The encouragement of hooning activities through social media and attendance at clandestine events glorifies this antisocial behaviour and fuels its continuation. The proposed amendments seek to specifically target the encouragement of hooning activities by spectators and the recording and promotion of these behaviours by organised groups on social media. The frustration for authorities lies not only in detecting and identifying the offenders but also in deterring the audience this antisocial behaviour attracts.

This is why the bill proposes to insert new provisions in the Summary Offences Act prohibiting the encouragement and complicity in hooning offences, including the possession of items for the purpose of committing a type 1 offence—for example, numberplates, spare wheels and hydraulic jacks. Police inquiries are often made difficult by offenders removing or altering registration plates to avoid detection. Although the vehicle registration regulation comprehensively outlines the various ways numberplates can be inappropriately used, the offence provision does not appropriately penalise offenders who commit this offence when hooning. That is why the bill proposes to increase the maximum penalty to 40 penalty units where the circumstance of aggravation of a type 1 vehicle offence is involved.

Offenders performing burnouts have also exposed a loophole under section 29 of the Queensland Road Rules that requires the vehicle to make unnecessary noise or smoke. Offenders are exploiting this wording by using substances on roads to reduce friction and therefore eliminate noise or smoke whilst still driving in a manner which is reckless. They are also hooning in public parks and public areas that would not be defined as a road or road related area and which does not necessarily generate the noise or smoke required by the offence provision.

This reckless behaviour has the potential to cause great harm or injury to spectators and participants alike. To address this, the bill will include a new offence in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act to prohibit a person from wilfully operating a motor vehicle in a manner that causes the vehicle to undergo a sustained loss of traction by one or more of the vehicle's wheels. The offence will apply in a public place as well as on a road. These amendments tighten the screws on hooners and further demonstrate this government's resolve to rid our communities of this type of dangerous and antisocial behaviour. These tough but targeted legislative measures come on top of additional funding that the government has provided for anti-hoon strategies of the Queensland Police Service, including the use of new technologies.

Cybercrime is costing victims as both individuals and businesses over \$7 million a month—a cost that has been growing exponentially since 2019. This growth of internet and online activities has seen great improvements in our daily lives. However, there are those who choose to exploit this for their own personal and financial gain. Queenslanders are being targeted through internet scams and extortion, losing not only their hard-earned money but also their confidence and trust in the ability to use modern technology. This bill will assist in combating the significant financial and social impacts that cybercrime has on the community by giving police the ability to use controlled operations as a strategy for investigating cyber related fraud, computer hacking, identity theft and revenge porn type offending.

Most cyber offences committed fall into four main categories under the Criminal Code—computer hacking, fraud, dealing with identity information and the distribution of intimate images. The primary way in which many of these offences are being committed involve darknet marketplaces and organised crime entities where offenders can hide behind the relative anonymity of the dark web and trade in the business of identity documents. Traditional methodologies to detect and investigate these offences are failing owing to the evolving and sophisticated manner of offending. The most effective method for the Queensland Police Service to investigate these cybercrimes is through online engagement. The proposed amendments involve the extension of powers relating to controlled operations to include the offences I have outlined. Police use controlled operations to investigate and gather evidence of crimes that would ordinarily be difficult to detect, thus providing a greater level of protection for Queenslanders from the effects of cybercrime.

The bill also provides for the participation of a civilian in a controlled activity. The law currently only allows for the participation of a civilian in a controlled operation but not a controlled activity. A controlled activity undertaken by an officer relates to engagement in a specific act to obtain evidence which in ordinary circumstances would be illegal. The purpose of extending the provisions allows for the protection of the civilian from prosecution for assisting an investigation to obtain evidence—for example, an informant making an introduction between a covert police officer and a suspect of an offence. The focus of this amendment is on improving the capability to identify offenders and gather evidence to protect our community from vulnerability.

There is a common thread in the suite of legislative amendments contained in this bill, and that is keeping Queenslanders safe—safe on our roads, safe from sexual predators and safe online. I commend the bill to the House and encourage all members to support it.

First Reading

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.35 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL


PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 29 November (see p. 3705), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before calling the member for Nicklin, I want to advise the following members who are still on warnings: the members for Nanango, Southern Downs, Mudgeeraba, Whitsunday, Broadwater, Buderim, Coomera, Maryborough, Toowoomba North, Currumbin, Theodore and Morayfield.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (11.36 am): I rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and also support the Public Sector Bill. This bill is the latest in a long succession of integrity bills passed by the Queensland Labor government. This is the first tranche of legislation that will be implementing the recommendations of Professor Peter Coaldrake from his 2021 *Let the sunshine in* report as well as those of Kevin Yearbury's 2021 *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions* report. The main purpose of the integrity bill is to strengthen the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Audit Office and the Integrity Commissioner.

Earlier this year Professor Peter Coaldrake delivered his review into culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector. The report made 14 direct recommendations as well as an array of other recommendations from former inquiries, all of which were purposed for strengthening the integrity of our great public sector and, by extension, the public's faith in government. Following the release of this report, the Palaszczuk Labor government did something that may appear somewhat alien to those opposite—we acted on the recommendations. Barely a week after the Coaldrake report was delivered, the Premier and Deputy Premier announced the creation of a task force within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to implement all 14 of the recommendations in the Coaldrake report.

One of the biggest changes we will be making is the release of cabinet documents after 30 days instead of the current 30 years. Additionally, we will also be banning lobbyists from working as political consultants during campaigns. As the Premier has previously stated, these reforms will be setting a benchmark for the rest of Australia to follow. They will make the Queensland government by far the most transparent in the country. Furthermore, these reforms are very non-intrusive and uncontroversial, and the proposed amendments are largely supported by the respective integrity bodies they impact and either have no or very minor funding or policy implications for the government.

In relation to the Auditor-General, one of the chief recommendations of the Coaldrake report was for the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General to be strengthened and extending its scope. The report also made the following specific recommendations about the Auditor-General: that the Auditor-General become an independent officer of the parliament; that the Auditor-General Act 2009 be amended to allow for the Auditor-General's employment of QAO staff under that act rather than under the Public Service Act 2008; that the Auditor-General be allowed to independently set basic rates for audit fees without the Treasurer's approval; that the Auditor-General be given the discretion to undertake performance audits on government owned corporations; and that other outstanding recommendations from the 2013 Finance and Administration Committee inquiry and the 2017 strategic review be implemented.

In relation to the Integrity Act 2009, the Yearbury review made recommendations to amend the Integrity Act 2009 to enhance the independence of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, including that the Integrity Commissioner is not subject to direction about the way in which they perform their functions or give priority to integrity issues. I will note that in 2013, upon assuming government, the previous premier and his chief of staff got into quite a stoush with that Integrity Commissioner. This is designed to stop that sort of thing from happening, which is great. The bill will create the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner which will be under the control of the Integrity Commissioner. The bill also provides for a Deputy Integrity Commissioner. Both the Integrity Commissioner and Deputy Integrity Commissioner will not be subject to any direction about the way in which they perform their duties, including from the Premier's chief of staff.

Unlike the Audit Office, staff of the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner will remain as public sector employees under the new Public Sector Act but cannot be directed by anyone outside the office about the way functions are performed or the priority given to ethics or integrity issues. This is in recognition that the Integrity Commissioner's office is quite small, and to exclude the Integrity Commissioner from the new Public Sector Act would mean they would need to create employment arrangements and an employment framework which would be resource intensive for such a small office. These amendments to the Integrity Act will empower the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner to be more independent and well resourced, meaning they will be better equipped to deal with matters of government integrity.

In response to concerns expressed in the Yearbury review that too many people can directly seek Integrity Commissioner advice, the bill also refines the operations and requirements in relation to the declaration of designated persons. Senior officers, ministerial staff members and assistant ministerial staff members will no longer be able to directly access Integrity Commissioner advice. Alternative pathways already exist for these classes of people to access integrity advice and are intended to be used in the first instance to manage the flow and quantity of persons able to directly access the Integrity Commissioner. These amendments seek to find a balance between controlling the unintended growth of the number of designated persons who can seek advice and the understanding that sometimes integrity advice will be needed for those working in ministerial offices and for a period of time after a person has left working in a ministerial office.

With regard to interest in lobbying, the bill will also remove requirements for stated statutory office holders to provide a copy of their declaration of interests to the Integrity Commissioner and the Integrity Commissioner's requirement to report annually on these. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Yearbury review. The bill also introduces a new offence for unregistered lobbying. Both the

Yearbury review and the Coaldrake report support this measure, which is intended to encourage ethical lobbying. This also recognises the significant impact that lobbying has on the business of government. An offence under this provision will attract a fine of 200 penalty units. This will work as an effective deterrent to prevent unethical and secretive lobbying. The bill also shortens the strategic review of the Ombudsman's office from seven to five years. This is in response to commentary in the Coaldrake report that such a reduction would ensure consistency with the strategic review provisions for other statutory bodies as well as provide the Ombudsman with a more frequent opportunity to raise matters that may require reform.

This bill is another representation of Queensland Labor's history of integrity in public office which has its roots in the landmark Fitzgerald inquiry. That inquiry painted a grim picture of the corruption that was endemic in the party of those opposite. One of the proudest achievements that came out of the Fitzgerald inquiry was the Criminal Justice Commission, which evolved over time into the Crime and Corruption Commission. The CCC is integral in ensuring that corruption and crime within government does not go unpunished. I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone what happened to the CCC the last time those opposite—the LNP—were in power.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SKELTON: They removed the requirement that appointments to the commission had to be bipartisan. They sacked the entire parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee in November 2013. I heard the member for Kawana interjecting just before so I will take that interjection.

Mr Bleijie: What did I say?


Mr SKELTON: I am sure the member for Kawana remembers, because he even overrode a vote at the LNP convention in 2013 to require election candidates to disclose their criminal history—except for the bikies you mentioned. Good.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Nicklin, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr Bleijie: And explain what you are talking about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Kawana!

Mr SKELTON: I will take the interjection. I will go on. This is part of the record of those opposite on crime and corruption in parliament. While those opposite are happy to cut funding and shoehorn potential criminals into state government, the Palaszczuk Labor government is proudly continuing its commendable record on maintaining integrity in the Queensland Public Service. I stand proudly with this government in recommending all these reforms. I am glad that when we have an inquiry or an investigation, irrespective of the outcome we take those recommendations and act on them. As such, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.46 am): Reflecting on the contribution of the honourable member who just spoke, he took many of my interjections and when I challenged him to explain what my interjections were he could not recall. I will tell him what I was talking about. In relation to the CCC, we gave it more funding and we empowered it to do what it was meant to do.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, what is your point of order, given that the honourable member has been speaking for 20 seconds?

Mr POWER: Can he address his contribution through the chair, first of all. Also can he be relevant to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, thank you for your points of order. The member for Kawana is just beginning his address. Member for Kawana, please direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: The honourable member talked about bikies. We empowered the CCC to do their job.

Mr POWER: Relevance.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, we are talking about the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are reflecting on the Chair right now. I will ask you to leave the chamber under the standing orders for one hour. There are methodologies and ways to raise points of order in this House. Shouting at the Chair and waving your hand or gesticulating in any other way is highly disorderly. Please leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Logan withdrew from the chamber at 11.48 am.

Mr BLEIJIE: I have been listening to the broad ranging debate on integrity and accountability, and following the Labor Party's last contribution we have contributed a lot of time talking about the Crime and Corruption Commission. I am responding to those issues.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sorry to interrupt the member for Kawana. On the departure of the member for Logan, he failed to acknowledge the Chair in the appropriate way. I will be raising that with you and asking you to review that as well as a reflection on the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will just give anyone else an opportunity to jump up. This is going well. We empowered the CCC. We told them to do two things: firstly, go after corrupt public officials and politicians and, secondly, go after criminals. That is what the CCC were doing and they were doing a great job of it, hence why there were so many bikies in jail under the laws that we passed at the time. That is what the CCC was empowered to do.

This bill is on integrity and this is a cognate debate with the Public Sector Bill. If you look up the definition of integrity you will not find the words 'Palaszczuk government' or 'Palaszczuk ministers' anywhere near 'integrity'. This is a third-term government that has shown Queenslanders that they have no integrity in their ministerial roles and they accept no responsibility. They have responsibility but they never accept responsibility, they never accept accountability and they certainly do not show transparency in what they do, whether it be Minister Mark Bailey, the transport minister—who could forget the time of mangocube and the CCC investigation—or Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad's ghost still haunts this parliament. Despite the fact that the government have been in for eight years, Jackie Trad is currently in court trying to hide a report that Queenslanders deserve to know about. That is happening as we speak. They are trying to hide reports.

Why do we think Jackie Trad is trying to a report? Because that is the culture of the Palaszczuk government! That is the culture that the Premier has overseen in her leadership, whether it is in her own role and responsibilities or those of her ministers. We saw the issues with Barbagallo, her former chief of staff. Where is he now? Who knows! There is the investigation into the appointment of a former under treasurer. Where is that at? We have not even seen the conclusion of the CCC investigation into the appointment of a former under treasurer which involved ministerial intervention with the appointment just as Jackie Trad did with the school issue.

Mr Nicholls: Port of Gladstone.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Port of Gladstone—I take the interjection—and the investigation into the Labor mates up there. We have seen this time and time again. Now the Labor ministers are saying, 'Oh, the Coaldrake report: look at what we are doing. We're doing all these wonderful things.' The Premier was dragged, kicking and screaming, to have any sort of review. Just like with Mackay health, just like with Caboolture and just like with the DNA lab, the Premier said, 'No, it's not necessary. We don't need a review into my government.' Of course, with pressure, Coaldrake was appointed to review the culture in her government.

As the Leader of the Opposition reflected the other day, Professor Peter Coaldrake has handed down quite an extensive report with respect to culture. In that report some of the allegations he mentioned involved young ministerial staff walking around departments as if they owned the place. 'Little generals', I think they were described as in the Coaldrake report. Little generals are walking around the departments. That is not having respect for the Queensland Public Service. Labor lecture people about the Public Service but the Labor Party do not respect the Queensland Public Service. If they did, they would let them get on and do their jobs. They would empower them to do their jobs and not have ministerial staff walking around as if they are running the Public Service, which is what is happening at the moment.

Let us look at the attacks on the former Queensland integrity commissioner. They drove her out of the job and they have now appointed a new commissioner. Here is a newsflash for Labor members: one would expect the Integrity Commissioner of Queensland to be completely independent of politics because it is not only Labor members of parliament but also opposition and crossbench members who

rely on advice from the Integrity Commissioner and also disclose quite personal information to the Integrity Commissioner. The new Integrity Commissioner whom they have appointed is Linda Waugh. I understand that in 2002 she worked in the political office of the then Labor police minister. If you work in a ministerial office then you have political affiliations with and leanings to that office and you are a true believer in the Labor Party cause. The Integrity Commissioner worked for a former Labor police minister. We are expected to go to the Integrity Commissioner for independent advice knowing that she worked for a former Labor Party minister of this state. That is not independent, but it is what the Labor Party do: they drive out people like the former integrity commissioner who was independent of the Labor Party. They say, 'No, we can't have her. Make sure she doesn't have that job. We will put someone in there whom we trust to do our bidding.' That is disgusting.

Having talked about the Integrity Commissioner and advice, let us look at the embattled health minister and all of the pressures she has been under. What an absolute shambles of an excuse she gave today. The health minister could not even bring herself to advise her boss, the Premier, of the severe conflict of interest that she had.

Mr Hinchliffe: Severe conflict of interest?

Mr BLEIJIE: An absolutely severe conflict of interest. When a minister is storing personal belongings in a commercial property the owner of which gets a government contract, as they did, that is a conflict of interest. There were recurring payments. What did the minister do? She drove through her electorate and, all of a sudden, she saw this vaccine hub site at a spare allotment and said, 'Oh, there's my lounge chair in the back there! What's going on here?' They kept receiving payments. Did she continually disclose—

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that you bring the member back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Bundaberg, for your point of order. Member for Kawana, broadly, you need to be relevant to the long title of the bill, talking about integrity matters. It has been a broad-ranging debate, members. Member for Kawana, I advise you to remain relevant to the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: The essence of the Coaldrake review was about the culture of the Palaszczuk government. I think the culture of the Palaszczuk government is rotten to its core. It is rotten to its foundation. At the head of that rests the Premier. The fish rots from the head. What I am saying in this contribution is that when the fish rots from the head it permeates through the ministerial roles including, clearly, that of the health minister. The health minister should have resigned given all of the other issues in the health crisis, be it at Caboolture, Mackay or the DNA lab.

Today we have revelations that the health minister was storing personal belongings in a commercial property that was being paid for by the Queensland taxpayer for a vaccine hub. The health minister failed to disclose that under the ministerial code of conduct to the Premier. The health minister's excuse to that today was—

Mr Hinchliffe: You don't understand what is required.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Today the health minister's response was, 'You don't understand the code of conduct. It didn't go to cabinet.' Maybe the conflict of interest should have gone to cabinet. Maybe the health minister should have disclosed that her personal belongings were being held at a property the owner of which was being paid by the Queensland taxpayer to deliver a vaccine clinic. Maybe the problem with the Palaszczuk government is that there is not enough disclosure occurring.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You have asked the member to come back to the long title of the bill. I ask that he be brought back to the long title of the bill again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, please remain relevant to the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, when you talk about culture, integrity, accountability and transparency in Queensland, this Palaszczuk government has none of it. They were dragged, kicking and screaming, to these bills today. They promised there will be more reviews, more things happening and more legislation coming. There comes a point in time when you have a government that is so out of touch, so arrogant and so full of hubris that they stop listening. That is what has happened with the Palaszczuk government. No amount of law changes and no amount of reviews will change the culture of the Palaszczuk government because they have stopped listening to Queenslanders. They have stopped caring for Queenslanders. This government has no compassion on matters now. Their only

interest is self-interest. It is about their jobs. It about politics. It is about making sure they get re-elected time and time again. That is their *modus operandi*. They are not interested in cost-of-living issues. They are not interested in changing accountability and integrity.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments will be put through the chair, please, member for Kawana and member for Sandgate.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister who keeps interjecting is the minister who was forced to resign from his own portfolio because of the rail fail. He could not handle local government so they switched him out of that portfolio.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He interjects. Whatever ministerial portfolio the member for Sandgate goes to, a year or two later they have to shuffle him out because he is hopeless. He is absolutely hopeless, like the rest of them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, comments through the chair, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister is absolutely hopeless. He comes in here and thinks he is the brains trust in relation to the standing orders. This government has no integrity and no accountability and the health minister should resign.

(Time expired)



Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (11.59 am): It is really great to speak in this really important cognate debate. I just remind everyone here—and those who happen to be bothering to listen to the member for Kawana—that this man is the deputy leader of their party. What an embarrassment! He is not fit to be the member for Kawana, let alone the deputy leader.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Lytton, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Ms PEASE: He is not fit to be the deputy leader of the LNP.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, please direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PEASE: I am, Deputy Speaker. Thank you for your guidance.

How disappointing that we have to listen to this. After the terrible morning we have had here, this is the performance we see from the deputy leader. It is 'Bleijie-ja vu' another time. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring the public sector is a fair employer and is responsive to the needs of the community and the government. I acknowledge the many hardworking public servants who live in the bayside. I know firsthand the important work that they are doing, serving the public of Queensland. I know what a difference they make each and every day to all Queenslanders and those in the bayside—from our teachers and school staff to those who work in Transport and Main Roads, Maritime Safety Queensland, RoadTek, QBuild, Fisheries, TAFE, Energex, Fair Trading, QFES and QPWS to health workers and paramedics.

These people are also important to the running of the state. What would they think if they had to listen to that ridiculous tirade from the member for Kawana? They would be shaking their heads. They would be dismayed to hear that absolute debacle of a speech. We want to protect and make things better for our public servants, who do so much each and every day for our communities. Public servants come and speak to me and say that they still have no trust for the LNP because of what it did to them, their families and their communities. Everyone in my community knows someone given the sack by members of the LNP, and they have long memories. Some 85 residents of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit lost their home due to this opposition. They had to find somewhere else to live because the opposition decided, 'We'll just close that; we don't care about those people.'

Mr CRANDON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not believe that the member is speaking to the bills that are on the *Notice Paper*. She has been going everywhere else. I ask you to bring her back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Thank you, member. I think the debate has been relatively broad from both sides. I remind the member to stay relevant to the bill.

Ms PEASE: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker; I appreciate your guidance. Perhaps the reason the member is trying to stifle my debate is that he does not like what I have to say. Perhaps the member for Coomera does not like what I am saying because it is the truth and it hurts. What about

constituents in his electorate who lost their jobs under the LNP government? He was a member of a government that sacked 14,000 public servants. Healthcare workers and others—you name it—were all gone with the flick of a pen. This bill introduces security, recognition and support for public servants.

Not only were 14,000 people sacked but also my electorate lost Child Safety, Housing, Wynnum Hospital, mental health services and the human resource services that ran out of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. Not only did people lose their jobs—they had no job security—but it sucked out a whole group of people who used to shop locally. All of my businesses were impacted because of the number of people they got rid of in my community. My bayside constituents have very long memories and they will never forgive you for what you have done. No matter what you say, do or try to hide, you will constantly be remembered. This fight will constantly be remembered, because—

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On multiple occasions the member for Lytton has directed her comments at members directly and not through the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Member for Lytton, I would ask if you—

Ms PEASE: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. My dad, Jack, was the assistant state secretary of the state public service union. He proudly represented corrective services workers back in the bad old days of the Bjelke-Petersen era. This opposition is providing a reflection of those days. Let's not forget what they did during their tenure. What about the member for Warrego, the only person in our parliament to be admonished for lying and misleading?

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Unparliamentary language was used. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, the use of that word is unparliamentary. I ask that you withdraw.

Ms PEASE: I withdraw. I remind everyone: the member for Warrego was admonished for misleading the House. The member for Warrego was admonished because she leaked information from the PCCC. Let us not forget what actually took place there. The member for Warrego is the only member of our parliament to be admonished—absolutely disgraceful. I find it an absolute joke that members of the opposition stand up here and engage in virtue signalling about how great they are and how terrible we are. Will we go back and talk about all of the terrible things they have done? I know that the member for Bulimba spoke about that yesterday. I can run through them again if they have forgotten. Shall we do that?

We have heard about the sacking of 14,000 government workers, including 4½ thousand health workers, and about how they slashed \$288 million in unemployment programs, including the incredibly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work. They axed \$368 million in grants through the department of communities to supported Queenslanders in need of assessments. They removed \$120 million in funding to community groups—

Mr MICKELBERG: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Under standing order 236(1), the member is being tedious and repetitious. She herself has acknowledged that this has already been contributed to the debate by the member for Bulimba. She is simply repeating another list that the member for Bulimba contributed yesterday.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is no point of order.

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek guidance on your ruling. Earlier today in question time the member for Buderim was warned for raising frivolous points of order. You have now ruled against one of his points of order. I ask whether or not that predicates your acting on the previous warning from the Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not agree that this was a frivolous point of order.

Ms PEASE: I would like to correct the member for Buderim. The member for Bulimba was listing another list. I am talking about the cuts. I am happy to talk about the lack of integrity of those on the other side of the House. I have already spoken about the member for Warrego and her claim to fame. Let's not forget about the member for Mudgeeraba, who was appointed the minister for the arts and who could not even manage to write her own maiden speech. She had to get someone to do that. That is not the worst in her history. Her son was actually—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PEASE: No. I am reading from a list which is easily accessible, and it is my speech so I do not have to table it. The list reads: Michael Caltabiano—he needs no explanation; Bruce Flegg; Mark Brodie; Karreman Quarries; Sibelco; the Newman gagging orders; condensing estimates—that was a

disgrace; failure to declare meetings with lobbyists; attacks on the judiciary—it goes on and on. Here we go, we can do another ‘Bleijie-ja vu’ moment: the member for Kawana, the power to determine prison time.

Let us not forget what Minister Ryan spoke about today in terms of their cutting of funding when it comes to child sex offenders. How disgraceful it was to release them early so that they could go out and again be predators on the most vulnerable in our community.

I grew up during the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era. What a terrible time that was. My family were unionists. It was a corrupt, horrible time. These people opposite are a product of that. That is in their DNA. They are members of a party that lie—sorry, mislead—


An opposition member: Withdraw.

Ms PEASE: I withdrew.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Member for Lytton, I would ask that you withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Ms PEASE: I withdraw. They mislead on a regular basis. Russ Hinze was the minister for everything. That must be in their DNA because we have the former prime minister who was the minister for everything. This is their quality. The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition are not fit to be in this place, nor are they fit to stand up and debate these bills as they did. What an embarrassment for their backbenchers. They must be feeling embarrassed. I see that they are shaking their heads in dismay that this is the best they have.

I am proud of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am incredibly proud of my Labor family. My father was a proud union man. My mother was a proud activist. My great-grandfather was a deputy premier of Queensland. We care about people. We care about public servants. We know how valuable they are. We care about integrity. We fight every day for each and every Queenslanders. We look after people. We care for people. We are as honest as the day is long. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.11 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate of the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Both bills originate from reviews of the Public Service. The Public Sector Bill results from Peter Bridgman’s report titled *A fair and responsive Public Service for all*. Peter Coaldrake’s review report titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in Queensland public sector* influences both bills.

Professor Coaldrake found a public service culture defined by an ‘atmosphere of fear’—fear of unwanted career impacts and a loss of employment status for unwelcome advice. He found ministerial staffers pressured public servants to provide responses that minimise problems. Public servants were discouraged from providing written advice on difficult topics and they were directed to sanitise advice and alter recommendations to align with what was presumed to be the minister’s position. He found a director-general stopped a minister seeing a report so the minister could plausibly deny knowledge of an issue. He found attempts to suppress public records and subverting right to information processes. He said—

... important operational reports which previously had been the subject of RTI requests by other political parties were now given a different name and sent to different recipients in order to avoid those reports being captured in future. That same submission referred to a practice of including information in ‘dashboard’ format because these are, apparently, difficult to access through RTI. All these indicate worrying patterns.

The explanatory notes outline that the Bridgman review’s primary recommendation was to provide a modern, simplified and employee focused framework as part of the government’s commitment to being fair, responsive and a leader in public administration. Under the cloak of ensuring integrity, transparency and accountability, the government has given little time for the bill’s scrutiny and regulated scrutiny to a tight, monitored cognate debate. That is not scrutiny; that is irony at best. It has been four years since the Bridgman review was commissioned. It has been 42 months since the government was handed the report. It appears the government is only acting now to be seen to be addressing the Coaldrake review.

The Public Sector Bill does not address the significant and systemic cultural issues within the Public Service which have been festering for seven years under this government. The government is only interested in addressing the issues when bad publicity and political imperatives force them to. For the last seven years we have seen the government’s love of tampering with our electoral laws to skew

the balance. This bill threatened the independence of the state Electoral Commission, subjecting it to reviews ordered by ministers. The ECQ commissioner warned that changes would 'present a real or perceived threat to the ECQ's independence' and result in a 'chilling effect' which would undermine public confidence in their ability to conduct fair and free elections. Its submission stated—

... the review powers under the bill are significantly more intrusive than current provisions, and ... could present a real or perceived threat to the ECQ's independence.

The commissioner said there was a real possibility of ministers misusing review powers to access information about political rivals. He advised the committee—

The ability of the executive to initiate a review at any time also raises concerns with regard to the real or perceived motivation for the timing of a review. An example of this would be a review initiated by an incoming government immediately following an election which could give rise to access to the electoral material of stakeholders, including candidates and political parties.

The government proposed allowing a minister to commission a wideranging review into the ECQ while integrity bodies such as the Crime and Corruption Commission and Audit Office were excluded. In effect, bureaucrats could walk into the ECQ demanding the production of sensitive and confidential records and documents. The ECQ submission said—

The significant powers granted to a reviewing entity in a public sector review, such as entering official premises, requiring production of documents and conducting employee interviews could have unintended consequences.

The ECQ commissioner advised the committee—

... this review function ... may have consequences on its operation by providing the executive arm of government with potentially intrusive powers to review or access sensitive and confidential information collected in the course of performing our duties.

Following bad publicity, the government will now move an amendment to its own proposal. The fact that the government tried to bring in these changes to the ECQ goes to the true intentions of this government. They were only removed because of bad publicity. There is no guarantee that the government will not try again.

The integrity bill amendments deal with the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. These respond to the Coaldrake review and the Yearbury review into the functions of the QIC. It will reduce from seven years to five years the strategic review period for the Ombudsman's office. It will ensure the Integrity Commissioner is not subject to direction in the way its functions are performed, the priority given to integrity issues, the making of changes to staff appointments and the government setting its budget. While it creates an offence for unregistered lobbying, the Integrity Commissioner will not be able to investigate any identified lobbying issues.

There is a stench with this government and lobbying. Professor Coaldrake said confidence that governments are making the best decisions rather decisions influenced by those with the most effective voice was declining. He said that in Queensland this has been accentuated by the dual roles of some lobbyists—acting for clients to influence government, then acting for political parties to help them win elections. This leaves the public sceptical about even the strongest protection against conflict. The same applies to the practice of professional firms lobbying governments on behalf of clients while acting through a different arm as consultants on policy.

Amendments will make the Auditor-General a parliamentary officer and remove the Legislative Assembly's ability to direct the QAO to undertake an audit. Professor Coaldrake supports removing the Treasurer's current power to approve the fees charged by the QAO. Amendments propose giving that power to a parliamentary committee which may consider the government's indexation and advice received by the Treasurer. Retaining the Treasurer's significant influence over the fees set by the QAO diminishes its independence. It makes a mockery of the Premier's lock, stock and barrel commitment to Coaldrake's recommendations. It is lip-service. For instance, where are the government's promised release of cabinet documents within 30 days? The Premier's commitment was clearly cynical and made to bury a political problem, a media problem and an image problem.


A genuine commitment would mean that the opposition would not need to introduce our amendments to bring the QAO fees in line with the Coaldrake recommendations. Nothing makes it clearer that this is simply about appearances than the government's refusal to provide a timetable to fully implement Coaldrake's recommendations. It does not have a time line because it does not want to be accountable. If it took 42 months to finalise the Bridgman review's recommendations, it will take years before Coaldrake's recommendations are fully implemented.

Professor Coaldrake found 'an integrity system under stress trying to keep check on a culture that, from the top down, is not meeting public expectations'. He said—

In every case, whether the trivialising of parliamentary committees, lack of independence needed by integrity bodies or lack of clarity about decision making, this can be reversed by a commitment to openness, supported by accountability. Any good government, clear in purpose and open and accountable in approach, should have fewer integrity issues.

This government runs from integrity. Integrity is a nuisance, a word used to bat away questions, to claim self-virtue. It does not understand or deliberately ignores that integrity issues require transparent action. The government has been defined by endless integrity crises engulfing it. Minister Bailey's use of a private email account—mangocube—for official business and altering reports to remove comments damaging to ministers is defined as an integrity crisis. Former deputy premier Jackie Trad's purchase of a property near a Cross River Rail station was an integrity crisis, as is her use of public funds to fight the release of a CCC investigation. Granting \$267,500 to a company associated with the Premier's former chief of staff is an integrity crisis. Changing the electoral system to only benefit themselves lacks integrity. Employing Labor-aligned lobbyists to work out of the taxpayers' building at 1 William Street during an election campaign lacks integrity.

The complete lack of integrity is integral. It is systemic to the government's culture. These bills show the government has not changed: it is consumed by maintaining power. It shows why Queenslanders need and deserve a full commission of inquiry into the integrity crisis that permeates this government.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I start by thanking the hardworking public servants of Queensland. I put on record how valued and appreciated they are by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Both my mother and father were public servants during their career. I know just how hard they worked and what a vital contribution they made to our community and to the state of Queensland. There is one party that will look after public servants in the state of Queensland, and that is the Australian Labor Party.

The LNP in opposition have had no change to the approach they took to the Public Service through their very short tenure in government when 14,000 public servants were cut without apology and without remorse. We see election after election that this is still the policy they are taking to the people of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition got up here yesterday and, upon reflection of their own record, said he grieves about losing his own job, his own position, being booted out of the seat of Mundingburra and having to scurry down to the coast to find a safe seat that he displaced a woman to take! I think it is absolutely outrageous and it speaks to how tone deaf this opposition is here in Queensland.

We saw in 2014, under a Newman government, seven estimates hearings over two days. Peter Wellington, an Independent member of this House at the time, called it a 'sham', a 'total waste of time', a 'deliberate attempt to stifle scrutiny' of the Newman government. There is faux outrage here over a 10-minute speech, but the voting record of this parliament on a Friday while we have been sitting demonstrates the commitment that those opposite have when in fact they are not even here to vote on divisions in the House.

I felt so sorry for the member for Condamine last week when there were no divisions despite opposition. The LNP claims that they want to be valued and respected, that they want frank and fearless advice, but we did not see that when they were in government and we have not seen that today. When they were in government, Campbell Newman's chief of staff was accused of phoning the then integrity commissioner David Solomon in a conversation that was described by the integrity commissioner as an 'ill-informed, abusive rant'. In a report the integrity commissioner state—

Several days later, on a Sunday, I received an extraordinary phone call from the Premier's chief of staff, Mr Ben Myers, attacking me of having criticised the Government and saying 'we' could no longer have faith in my integrity.

I also pick up on the points that the deputy opposition leader, the member for Kawana, has made today around the integrity commissioner Linda Waugh, who is a well-respected independent officer. The appointment was only made after consultation with the committee as dictated under the act. The appointment the Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to took place almost two decades ago. It was for a period of three months. Since then, Ms Waugh has worked in a number of integrity positions across state and federal governments, and they include the Victorian assistant ombudsman, the New South Wales deputy ombudsman and the executive director of the Independent Commission Against

Corruption. She has served under a federal coalition government. Her credentials are beyond reproach. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is unfit to hold his position, and the Leader of the Opposition will not pull him into line.

The opposition absolutely have no integrity when it comes to things like this. We saw them gagging community groups during their term in government. That was likened to the Joh goon squad of the Special Branch era. We have seen a bullyboy culture that is not just contained to when the LNP are in government; their party unit is also rife with it. In September 2021 the *Courier-Mail* reported on the toxic culture claims that put Queensland LNP headquarters in turmoil as an election was looming. Allegations of a toxic workplace culture at LNP headquarters saw some leave after 48 hours of walking in the door. The article states—

One senior LNP source said the situation at the organisation's headquarters was like a "slow train wreck".

It reminds me of Lawrence Springborg's comments when he was the health minister saying, 'Get on the train or get under it,' when referring to the staff sackings there. Another *Courier-Mail* source said the loss of staff was a 'massive failure of the party's leadership'. A high-ranking source said, 'Letting this happen is unforgivable and a massive failure of the party's leadership.' The article states—

The LNP did not address questions about alleged workplace culture issues or if formal complaints had been made to the party's leadership including Mr Springborg.

This culture that we see from the LNP is not just contained to attacking the Public Service when they are in government; it is obvious that it is just how they do business. It is how they operate. We see it day to day, and we are seeing it within their party unit at the moment.

I also want to talk to the points raised around ministerial integrity, having open data and having ministerial accountability. We did not see that through the individual donation scandals that the LNP had while in government—whether it was Sibelco, the Maroochy River Caravan Park, the Airlie Beach Marina, the boot camp contract or the New Hope Coal mine. There were a number of integrity scandals in terms of the donations the LNP had that were tied to key decisions they made while in government that have huge question marks around them. To come in here and lecture the Palaszczuk government over our performance in government is really quite rich because we know that they in fact do not hold integrity when it comes to these things. They were there for three years and they have a list of individual scandals that goes on and on and on.

I also reflect on—because it was an astonishing moment in time—the admonishment that happened to the member for Warrego here in this place when she was found guilty of misleading two parliamentary committees after disclosing confidential committee details over a documents bungle that she blew the whistle on. How is this? You want to be a whistleblower but you are going to do yourselves in to do it! I think it is outrageous that that member of parliament is currently sitting on the front bench of the opposition and hopes to be a minister of the Crown when this is the record that she has in this place.

When it comes to failing to declare their meetings with lobbyists, there is a long list as well. I do not think it was a very strong choice when the member for Clayfield failed to declare a meeting with Singapore Power before it was later revealed he met with them during a trade mission to discuss the possible sale of Queensland's energy assets. That is not a strong choice. It is certainly not a strong choice committing \$80 million of Queensland taxpayers' money to a campaign. The member for Clayfield has form on this too—Crosby Textor. Also looking to have the privatisation message to sell the government's assets, he had staff embedded in his own office.

Let's not talk about having things at arm's length, because that is not the record of the LNP. If you want to throw stones about it, let's be really clear about your own record too. Let's reflect on Bruce Flegg's resignation over an undeclared contract with his lobbyist son.

Mr Mander: He resigned!

Ms BOYD: He did resign. I take the interjection from the member for Everton. He resigned on the issue, unlike the member for Mundingburra—no, hang on, what's her name? Mudgeeraba—

A government member interjected.

Ms BOYD: Yes, she was quite sick. Thanks for reflecting on that.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Through the chair, please.

Ms BOYD: The member for Mudgeeraba resigned over ill health issues in the midst of a scandal. Oh, I wonder what was going on there. I think everyone sees through that. It was also revealed at the 2013 estimates that the member for Kawana—

Debate, on motion of Ms Boyd, adjourned.

PETROLEUM AND GAS (PRODUCTION AND SAFETY) (ROYALTIES AND COST OF LIVING RELIEF) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (12.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to establish a scheme to provide cost-of-living relief for individuals and to increase rates of petroleum royalty payable by petroleum producers. I table the bill and explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) (Royalties and Cost of Living Relief) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[2006\]](#).

Tabled paper: Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) (Royalties and Cost of Living Relief) Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[2007\]](#).

Tabled paper: Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) (Royalties and Cost of Living Relief) Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[2008\]](#).


As we head into Christmas Queenslanders are doing it tough. While wages have stagnated, the cost of food, energy and housing is putting sickening pressure on low-income households, older Queenslanders, people who are renting and households with mortgages. They are facing some of the highest cost-of-living pressures in the state. The cost of rent and mortgage repayments has skyrocketed, putting tens of thousands of Queensland families into dire straits. Rents are going up by \$50, \$60 or \$100 per week, forcing people out of their homes and into a cutthroat rental market. More and more owner-occupiers are pushed into mortgage stress. Nationwide, over a million households are at high risk of mortgage stress and hundreds of thousands of households could lose their homes. The cost of health care, gas, electricity, internet and phones has gone up. Things like toilet paper, tissues and toiletries have gone up. If you go to any grocery store or market across the state you will see that the cost of vegetables, fruit, pet food, bread, meat and dairy is going up.

After a tough few years and with inflation hitting hard, we think that Queenslanders deserve a great Christmas with a Christmas bonus: a \$500 cost-of-living payment provided by rich gas companies by tripling gas royalties in Queensland. While everyday Queenslanders are doing it tough, not everyone has been struggling. While everyday Queenslanders are struggling to pay rent and afford groceries, gas corporations have been laughing all the way to the bank. Gas companies have made almost \$40 billion in profits over the past year off the back of soaring energy prices. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said that, despite increasing prices to record highs, gas corporations have had virtually no increase in the cost of gas production over the last year. In fact, if the government wants to tackle inflation in a way that does not make everyday Queenslanders suffer even more, it would hike up royalties on super high gas prices to discourage blatant price gouging by multinational gas corporations.

This month the RBA admitted that inflation is not happening because people are buying more things. Retail volumes grew by 0.2 per cent in the September quarter. Instead, higher prices are being driven by war, climate fuelled floods and corporate profiteering. The ABS and European Central Bank—

SPEAKER'S RULING

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) (Royalties and Cost of Living Relief) Amendment Bill, Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, I am going to interrupt you. Please resume your seat. Member, I note that the explanatory notes to the bill titled Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) (Royalties and Cost of Living Relief) Amendment Bill commit the government to giving every adult aged 18 and above residing in Queensland as at 30 November 2022 a \$500 cost-of-living payment funded by tripling the top tier of gas royalties during 2023.

It is clear that the bill is a revenue bill. On 17 November 2021 and 26 October 2022 I ruled private members' bills introduced by you out of order. The first ruling was upheld by the House. This bill is not only a revenue bill but also an appropriation bill, as any money from royalties goes into the Consolidated Fund, in accordance with section 64 of the Constitution Act 2001, and a message is required for the appropriation from that fund pursuant to section 68 of that act. Do you have a message for the appropriation as required by section 68 of the Constitution of Queensland Act? I think not.

Dr MacMAHON: No, Mr Speaker, but I note that—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I am still giving a ruling. Rules do mean something in this House. The bill is out of order on two bases: firstly, it is a revenue bill introduced by a private member; and, secondly, it is an appropriation bill that does not have a message and thus is contrary to section 68 of the Constitution. Section 68 states, 'The Legislative Assembly must not originate or pass a vote, resolution or Bill' without a message. The presentation of this bill cannot proceed any further and it is out of order.

I also note this is not the first and not the second but the third time you have wilfully and deliberately ignored the standing orders of the House and the rules of this parliament. I reserve my right in future to consider whether this may warrant the Ethics Committee's consideration, as certainly it could be deemed a deliberate contempt of the House.


INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

PUBLIC SECTOR BILL


Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 3748, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.35 pm), continuing: Third time is not a charm, it would seem. Can I just pick up where I left off in terms of the member for Mudgeeraba—and I will get the title right—who failed to disclose a lunch with lobbyists, saying that she was there to address a keynote speech. We saw the form demonstrated by members opposite time and time again when they were on the government benches, but what is worse is the mudslinging that continues now that they are on the opposition benches. The LNP ran a long, concerted campaign attacking the government, claiming that the Integrity Commissioner's office was raided, that her laptop was seized and that there was improper disclosure of information by an officer working in the integrity office. Do you know what? That did not stack up either.

The CCC released a report on 4 July which showed there was no evidence of improper disclosure, the circumstances in which the laptops were taken was entirely ordinary, and that there was no evidence to suggest these arrangements led to any improper access of confidential information from the Integrity Commissioner. Has there been an apology? You want to have a shadow minister for integrity, but I do not see any integrity in the behaviour that exists when the LNP throws out spurious claims like this—in fact, they are accusations—that are unfounded and found to be completely untrue, yet it stands by them. They do not correct the public record, they do not apologise and they have no integrity at all. I think their record demonstrates that. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to speak on the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As other members have mentioned, it will repeal and replace the Public Service Act and introduce a new public sector employment framework as recommended by the Bridgman review. There are a raft of measures the bill aims to implement. Under 'Achievement of policy objectives', amongst other things the explanatory notes state that the bill will—

- support the Government's commitment to reframing its relationship with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples ... primarily through recognising the role of public sector entities and other entities in supporting a reframed relationship and legislating a new planning regime for developing the cultural capability of particular entities;

As we had a debate about these sorts of issues yesterday, I think it is important to note that this issue of treaty has supposedly been progressing since 2019. The government certainly could be acting with more haste in terms of reframing this relationship, as we discussed yesterday.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: Well, I am happy to speak about integrity. We had a debate yesterday about something that is not relevant to this parliament. The government could be doing a lot more practical things for Indigenous people but they have been refusing to do them—whether it is to do with the Cape York Partnership or the treaty itself. Mick Gooda and Dr Jackie Huggins have said they are disappointed about whether the government is progressing actions it said it was going to by bringing in legislation by the end of the year. All of that goes to the heart of integrity—whether people are doing what they said they were going to do.

The bill also aims to create a framework to promote equity, diversity, respect and inclusion amongst public sector entities and the Police Service. Whilst the opposition supported stage 1 reforms in 2020—and I note the member for McConnell and Minister for Education has mentioned those stage 1 reforms—the bill will not deal with the cultural issues the Coaldrake report identified. The review highlighted an atmosphere of fear, loss of employment status for unwelcome advice, pressure from some ministerial staffers for responses that minimise problems and senior public servants directing employees to sanitise advice and align it with the minister's position.

While I have been advised there is scattered cloud in my electorate of Surfers Paradise today, sunshine is what we are best known for here in Queensland—sunshine that is welcomed by this side of the chamber. Professor Peter Coaldrake recommends this government could do with a good dose of sunshine and, importantly, the good people of Queensland deserve sunshine and transparency when it comes to government integrity.

The objectives of this bill are to better promote the independence and authority of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The bill will establish the Queensland Auditor-General as an officer of the parliament; allow the appointing of staff under the Auditor-General Act 2009 rather than the Public Sector Act 2022; and prevent an Auditor-General from holding office or being employed by a public sector entity within two years of leaving office. Lastly, I note that the ability of the Legislative Assembly to direct the Auditor-General to undertake an audit will be restored in the consideration in detail stage. The member for McConnell and I were on the Public Accounts Committee some years ago, and we certainly appreciated the independence of the Auditor-General when we worked on that committee together. In the report on the bill, the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee commented in his foreword—

This bill would define the Auditor-General as an Officer of the Parliament, yet at the same time provides the Auditor-General with the capacity to ignore an audit request by the Queensland Parliament. This seems at odds with the primary democratic sovereignty and role of the Parliament and should be further considered.


I note that a policy objective during consideration in detail is to remove clause 15 from the bill in response to the chair's concerns.

The bill also introduces an offence for unregistered lobbying. With the dual roles of some Labor lobbyists and their influence on the government well documented, this measure is welcomed by the opposition and will empower the Integrity Commissioner to issue fines of up to \$28,700 for breaches. The bill also amends the Ombudsman Act 2001 to reduce the review period for the Ombudsman's Office from seven years to five years, which was suggested in the Coaldrake report and is in line with other integrity bodies.

We have heard of so many integrity issues that this government has faced. I am not going to go through them here, but it is important that we welcome the Coaldrake report, *Let the sunshine in*, and its recommendations to government. The concern is how long it will take this government to implement the reforms, given the parliament is only just finalising the recommendations of the Bridgman review that was handed down in 2017.

Professor Coaldrake pointed out seven times in his *Let the sunshine in* report that tone from the top matters. Our concern from the opposition is that the government is walking away from its commitment to implement the report's recommendations lock, stock and barrel. For example, Professor Coaldrake recommends removing the power of the Treasurer to approve the fees of the Queensland Audit Office. Currently, this bill relegates that authority to a parliamentary committee that the Treasurer can advise. Putting it bluntly, the Treasurer still has significant influence over the fees set by the Queensland Audit Office and therefore diminishes its independence. The shadow minister for integrity will be introducing an amendment to the approval process for the Auditor-General's fees to bring the legislation in line with the Coaldrake recommendations.

It is of concern that there is declining confidence in governments across the board and an integrity system that is under stress here in Queensland. These issues are constantly arising and this must be improved.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I am proud to be part of a government that is moving ahead with implementing milestone reforms that will strengthen the integrity of the Queensland government and make it fit for purpose in a rapidly changing world. These bills implement recommendations that have come out of the three recent reviews into Queensland's public sector and the state's integrity bodies. The Public Sector Bill implements the recommendations made in Peter Bridgman's public sector review titled *A fair and responsive Public Service for all*. Primarily, it puts into

place the new Public Sector Act which will provide all Queensland public sector employees with a modern, simplified and employee focused legislative framework that will be more fair, inclusive and responsive to the needs of Queenslanders.

The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill implements recommendations that were made in Peter Coaldrake's report titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector* and Kevin Yearbury's report titled *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*. The recommendations this bill introduces include amendments to promote the independence and the authority of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

Queensland's public sector employees do an incredible job every day keeping the vast machinery of government running smoothly. Whether they are firefighters, health staff at our local hospitals, teachers, customer service officers or police officers, they all have a crucial role to play in delivering public services that will help make the lives of Queenslanders better. I have been reminded, like many in this House, of the fantastic work they did in response to the extraordinary events over the past few years, like the COVID-19 pandemic and the floods earlier this year. They have shown agility and resilience in the face of some of the toughest situations we have seen. In fact, their performance leaves us in no doubt that they are quite the opposite of how the member for Mudgeeraba described them, when she referred to these regional public servants as 'duds'.

A government member: Shame.

Ms HOWARD: It was very shameful. In February and March this year, Ipswich faced devastating floods that caused damage to some 500 homes and left many people homeless. When the floods hit, our public servants were on the ground immediately—operating the community recovery hotline and setting up community recovery hubs in flood devastated areas like the one we had in Bell Street in Ipswich. The community recovery team were fantastic in helping Ipswich people apply for emergency grants and source emergency housing, and they worked together with local non-government organisations to deliver wraparound support services to help some of the most vulnerable members in our community get through what was a very traumatic experience. All of the people who were evacuated to our evacuation centre found homes after the floods, thanks to the great work of the public servants in the department of housing.

Earlier in the year, Queensland experienced its first biggest COVID wave and our public health workers were ready to go—helping patients admitted to emergency wards, testing thousands of people at our fever clinics and running community vaccination hubs. There have been other challenges this year—like the housing and homelessness crisis which has seen the department of housing staff in Ipswich do an incredible job helping people and getting on top of many of the issues they are dealing with. There are other public sector employees in Ipswich—too numerous to mention here—who are also doing an amazing job serving the Ipswich community. I thank them for all of the good work they do. When I was standing for election in 2014, people were running across the street to tell me they were going to vote for me because the LNP had sacked them and they were looking forward to returning the favour.

The Palaszczuk government appreciates and respects the important work that public sector employees do in Queensland, and that is why we are implementing this Public Sector Bill. We accepted all 99 of the Bridgman review's recommendations in full or in principle because we are committed to a responsive and high-performing public sector, focused on integrity and improving the lives of Queenslanders. The bill extends the scope of the public employment legislation to include all public sector entities and to ensure that the principles of fairness and responsiveness are consistently applied to Queensland's broader public sector, not just its Public Service. This will ensure consistent application of public sector employment arrangements as well as include conversion mechanisms to maximise permanent employment in the public sector. It is so important to people who are dealing with cost-of-living pressures to have that certainty.

This government has a strong commitment to increasing employment security for all workers, including our public sector employees. Public sector employees who are secure in their jobs are better placed to innovate and give full and frank advice to government which helps maintain the integrity and responsiveness of government. Further, public sector employees are better able to serve Queenslanders knowing that the government of the day is not going to sack them or undermine them. Public sector employees want to go to work every day without having to worry whether or not their job is safe, and they want to go to work confident that the Queenslanders they help will be able to continue getting the services and support they need.

I would like to remind the House—I think quite a few people have reminded the House about this—that when the LNP were last in government under Campbell Newman they sacked 14,000 public servants across Queensland. You may not know that—14,000! Eighty-four of them were staff from the West Moreton Health Service. They also dismantled the Crime and Misconduct Commission, axing 26 staff, which weakened the CMC's capacity to pursue major crimes. It is not surprising that they did this, given the LNP has never appreciated the vital work our public sector workers do, and it is why you cannot trust the LNP when it comes to protecting public sector jobs. Maybe it is because they believe that public sector jobs are expendable and they can outsource the jobs to their private sector mates, or maybe they do not appreciate the frank and fearless advice that goes against their ideology. In any case, a diminished public sector is far less responsive to the needs of the public which leads to the people losing confidence in the government overall. We saw this really clearly when, after just one term, the government was kicked out in no uncertain terms.

In extraordinary times, like those we have experienced over the last few years, it is imperative that we have that responsive public sector that can pivot quickly and adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. One of the important lessons during the COVID-19 response was that need for increased mobility in the public sector. This bill recognises that by creating a more flexible framework for temporarily mobilising public sector employees to other entities within and beyond the public sector.

We will ensure that strengthened measures are put in place to embed a culture of respect and inclusion in our public sector. It is important that these people feel safe and respected in their workplace. We know that mental ill health is a big issue and that many of the people who are experiencing it are people who work on the front line, and it is important that we honour that.

This bill will also support the statement of commitment to a reframed relationship to recognise the important role that public sector entities and employees have in supporting the government in reframing its relationship with First Nations people and improving cultural capability across the public sector.


The Coaldrake report informed part of not only the Public Sector Bill but also the integrity bill presented here today, along with Kevin Yearbury's 2021 *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*. Primarily the integrity bill's purpose is to strengthen and enhance the independence of our state's integrity bodies—the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. Queenslanders must have the assurance that their government and public sector entities are working in the state's best interest and not for their own private gain.

It reminds me—and it is worth mentioning—that a lot of Ipswich people saw what happened in the former Ipswich City Council when a workplace culture became riddled with corruption risks and was allowed to operate unchecked for far too long. Several councillors and their staff used their positions of power for their own personal gain and, as a result, the community's confidence in their own council collapsed.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms HOWARD: I am talking about Ipswich people and what we have been through and what happens when integrity and transparency are left to fall by the wayside. Failures of integrity and accountability by the former Ipswich City Council resulted in numerous failures in governance, such as the council's disastrous attempt at the Ipswich CBD redevelopment, extravagant spending of ratepayers' money by councillors and staff on overseas junkets, and inappropriate relationships between the council and property developers. It is precisely why we need good integrity in government—and it is why it is imperative that we shine a light on our government and public sector entities—to ensure they remain fair, open, accountable and fit for purpose in a rapidly changing world.

Queenslanders rightly expect that the government and the public sector are working in their best interests all the time. While there is some cynicism of government these days, the fact remains that most of us still need government support in some form, especially during challenging times when people are at their most vulnerable. I am really proud that the Palaszczuk government and the public sector have always had Queenslanders' backs, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.54 pm): That is interesting. Those opposite have talked about debate time today but they are not even organised enough to get their next speaker up on their feet. Honestly, it is shocking.

Ms Grace: All talk, no action.

Ms RICHARDS: Exactly. I take that interjection from the Minister for Education. I rise to speak in the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and Public Sector Bill 2022 cognate debate. I have listened to the contributions of those on the other side of the House. Quite frankly, the audaciousness and hypocrisy is absolutely rife. They are trying to lecture us, but their track record is really embarrassing. Queenslanders know what that looks like. They have experienced it and they have not forgotten it.

The Leader of the Opposition, who was a member of the Newman government cabinet, the member for Kawana and quite a number of other members opposite talk about integrity, accountability and supporting the public sector. Goodness gracious me! Queenslanders know what they did when they were in government. They will not talk about sacking the PCCC in the middle of the night and that fundamental attack on democracy. They will not talk about axing 26 staff from the Crime and Misconduct Commission. They will not talk about cutting the estimates schedule back to two days. I remember the member for Broadwater's contribution criticising the estimates process and the scrutiny process. He was at the cabinet table when the Newman government brought it back to two days. You cannot make this up. It is unbelievable.

They will not talk about the 14,000 public servants. I still go up to the Redlands Research Facility and talk to Larry and the guys up there. They have not forgotten. The staff at the Alexandra Hills TAFE have not forgotten. The nurses have not forgotten. They talk about having the backs of the workers in the public sector, but their track record is very clear.

Those opposite have form when they talk about attacks on the Integrity Commissioner. They have just replayed that live and large here today in the chamber with the attack on the appointment of the new Integrity Commissioner. In the light of her CV, that behaviour from those opposite is embarrassing and they should be ashamed of themselves. Their form continues. Let's talk about Mr Solomon. Honestly, it is embarrassing. They do not want to talk about the Newman gag orders, but they have the audacity to speak of fear in this place. My goodness gracious me! Again, I point to their track order and form.

The member for Gympie said, 'Oh, the stench of lobbyists.' Goodness gracious me! They do not want to talk about the involvement with lobbyists of ex-Liberal leader Bruce Flegg, the then minister for housing and public works. They will not talk about the Carmody appointment. They will not talk about the relaxed donation laws. They want to talk about integrity, but they do not want to talk about what they did whilst they were in government. That is very clear.

They do not want to talk about the misinformation they spread when it comes to the laptop. There is a report here that is very clear. They know what they have done. They just tried to whip up an insane media frenzy on misinformation. They should apologise to Queenslanders for that. It diminishes confidence in our democracy and our parliament. They really should apologise for that. Instead, they try to rewrite history and rewrite their track record. It is interesting that the Newman government never had a minister for integrity back in the day. I wonder why that is. When you talk about the 17 members who sit on that side of the chamber—honestly!

In stark contrast is the Palaszczuk government, which is consistently working to improve and deliver on reforms that promote transparency, accountability and integrity. Queenslanders know what is inherently in the LNP's DNA. Let's talk about their debt reduction strategy. God help us if that was ever to play out, because I think every Queenslander knows what that means. It is absolutely frightening. We can talk about the Joh Bjelke-Petersen days, the Borbidge days or the Newman days. Heaven forbid we forget about the Morrison government! The former prime minister has been sanctioned for creating all of these special positions for himself. That is what is in the LNP's DNA. Those opposite talk about ICACs and integrity—well, gee-whiz! I am talking about the LNP's DNA. As I said, I think the track record of all of those governments tells a very clear story. I think they should feel quite embarrassed.

We on this side of the House will not let Queenslanders down. We know that Queenslanders expect and deserve their government to provide public services in a transparent and accountable way. Our Palaszczuk government is committed to strengthening our integrity and oversight frameworks so that they are contemporary and maintain and improve the culture of accountability. The bill is the first tranche of amendments that demonstrate our commitment to these reforms. They will implement some of the recommendations of Professor Coaldrake's report titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*—

Debate, on motion of Ms Richards, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.00 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, with respect to the Public Sector Bill 2022, standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended to allow any amendments circulated by the minister to be moved and considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 3754, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (2.01 pm), continuing: I am quick to my feet, unlike those opposite today. This bill is the first tranche of amendments that demonstrates our commitment. These reforms implement some of the recommendations of Professor Peter Coaldrake's report titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector* and Kevin Yearbury's *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*. Let me tell honourable members again that this legislation and the work done by Professor Coaldrake and Mr Yearbury to let the sunshine in are in stark contrast to those on the other sides, whose track record was to let the storm clouds roll in during their time in government and to bring down the roller shutter door on government.

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

The bill makes the Auditor-General an independent officer of the parliament. As such, the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General will be required to take an oath administered by the Speaker or the Clerk. It also gives the Auditor-General greater control over the resources utilised by the Queensland Audit Office. The bill will allow the Auditor-General to perform an audit of government owned corporations. The Auditor-General may also audit the financial administration of public sector entities if requested by the Legislative Assembly.

As has been articulated by many others in their contributions to this debate, this bill represents a significant effort to develop and modernise our public sector employment legislation, implementing the recommendations of the Bridgman review of the public sector employment laws, *A fair and responsive public service for all*. It discharges the primary Bridgman review recommendation of a new public sector act with broad application to the public sector. This includes the core Public Service as well as statutory bodies and other entities not currently captured by the Public Service Act. The bill is also informed by recent developments in public administration and other developments post the Bridgman review that include consideration of the recent public sector legislative reforms in other jurisdictions such as New Zealand and the lessons they have learnt in the way in which the Public Service can be supported.

With regard to the workplace health and safety considerations in terms of recruitment and selection, the bill requires the chief executives to promote and support a culture of respect and inclusion. This includes a culture where all employees feel safe in their workplace. It also provides that managers must undertake best practice human resource management. Public sector employees work in a broad range of roles and in some very challenging work environments, from frontline responders to fires and natural disasters, security guards, as we saw today in this chamber—and what a disgrace it was for all of us to witness what went on in the gallery today.

Mrs Gilbert: Shame!

Ms RICHARDS: It was a shame. Public sector employees include our emergency department workers in our hospitals, rangers and Boating and Fisheries Patrol inspectors who face a range of physical hazards and demands on the job as well as those who deal with significant emotional trauma such as in child safety. In framing the recruitment and selection process as choosing the person best suited to the position, it is important to understand the requirements of the position and the ability of each applicant to meet those requirements and to perform the role in a way that keeps them and their co-workers safe. That will be a requirement of the person who is responsible for managing the recruitment process.

The passage of these bills will support the extension of principles of fairness and responsiveness beyond the Public Service to employees within Queensland's broader public sector and it is critical to meeting the government's commitment to reforming the state's public sector employment laws. Our Palaszczuk government will always work hard for Queenslanders, and our track record on this side absolutely demonstrates that. When we talk about integrity, we know who is working on the side of delivering integrity, transparency and accountability across Queensland for all Queenslanders. As I said earlier in my contribution, that is in very stark contrast to the LNP governments that we have seen previously here in Queensland and also the Morrison government. Again, I hope members have had a chance to review the news articles on that today. It is shameful that the LNP have backed in that type of deception. How do you appoint yourself—

Mr McCallum: The first PM in history.

Ms RICHARDS: He was the first PM in history to be censured. It is in the LNP's DNA to act in that way. It is absolutely shameful. As I said, it does not matter if it was the Joh Bjelke-Petersen days, the Borbidge days, the Newman days or the Morrison days; it is in the LNP's DNA to behave in a way that does not support all Queenslanders. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.06 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate of the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I know there has been a fair bit of latitude regarding history and timing in relation to the contributions I have listened to thus far in this debate. I would like to state pretty clearly up-front these words: I think the Public Service has been used as a political football by both sides of the chamber for many, many years, and I note with interest that it is 30 November today. In 48 hours time it will be the 34th anniversary of the election of the Goss government, on 2 December 1989. I want to go back to the Goss government when they were first elected in 1989 and I also want to talk about Mr Peter Coaldrake, who obviously figures prominently in this debate by virtue of the report that he handed down. I want to go back and start talking from that point in time in Queensland's history.

Peter Coaldrake was the chairman of the Goss government Public Sector Management Commission in the early 1990s. He was also joined in that work by a gentleman by the name of Glyn Davis, who worked on the Public Sector Management Commission. There was another gentleman as well, a former prime minister, one Kevin Rudd, who was the chief of staff. I believe that a lot of the issues with the Public Service started back then. I heard evidence of this from a former member for Chatsworth, the late great Bill Hewitt. I am going to bring two former members for Chatsworth into my contribution today because I think what both of them told me is telling.

Bill Hewitt told me that when the Goss government was first elected it had what I would call a gulag at North Quay. A lot of the senior public servants were actually rounded up, taken there, given a very thick White Pages and told that their job thereafter was to literally get a pen or pencil and fill in the zeros in the White Pages until they stopped and then they could start on the Yellow Pages. New members may or may not know that back then the White Pages and the Yellow Pages were very thick. It was basically a task to get them to resign.

We have gone from the very genesis, I believe, of the Westminster model of public sector professionalism to starting to see where there has been—

Mr Power: Is that your argument, that we need to go back there?

Mr MINNIKIN: I will not take the interjection. I will continue with my contribution. We were then seeing that public servants were treated appallingly.

We can then roll the tape forward to successive governments. I am now talking about history on both sides of the chamber. It saddens me, having read the Coaldrake report, that there has not been a great deal learned. We seem to have come full circle when it comes to the Public Service being treated

as a political football. I am honoured to have worked the first part of my career in the public sector, in the Redland shire council as it was then. Some of the best minds I have ever worked with have come from the public sector.

On election day 2015 there were storm clouds brewing—literally and metaphorically. It bucketed down with rain at the end of election day, and I knew that it would be a testing night. I knew there was probably a good chance, with the way we had treated the Public Service, that we would be consigned to political history for at least three terms. We will see what happens in two years time, but the reality is that public servants were treated in many cases appallingly. Professionally and personally, it is something that still embarrasses me to this day. I will say that there is a way you conduct yourself professionally, and that should echo the way you treat people politically as well.

I do not care about the interjections, because I have heard all of the examples toing and froing. The simple fact of the matter is that we need to get back to the Westminster model of treating the Public Service decently whereby you listen, but the minister makes decisions in concert with cabinet. At the end of the day, we need to snap back to ministerial accountability. That starts with ministers taking on board the old chestnut phrase which I think still stands the test of time—that is, full, frank, fearless advice. Whether the minister chooses to accept that or not is completely up to them, politically. We have seen the Public Service used as a political football over the last 30 years, since the early 1990s—when the Goss government first came in and with every subsequent government.


In my remaining four minutes I could quote everything that has been lifted from the Coaldrake review, but there is no need; it is on the public record. The simple fact of the matter is that Queensland works best as a state economically, because if you do not have the economic oomph going forward you will not be able to deliver all of the essential social services. One begets the other. A strong economy gives the government of the day choice to do things for the betterment of the people of Queensland. The best way to achieve that is to use the public sector and the Public Service with respect. When you do that, you give yourself the best possible chance of getting the best and brightest advice.

I have said it twice already: whether the government of the day, through their ministers, use that advice is completely up to them. That is okay, because every four years—for many years it was every three years—people will make their decision using the most powerful weapon we have in our western form of democracy here in parliament, even though there was a stain on it with the incident earlier today. Compliments to the Speaker on the way he handled that. The most powerful thing people can do is not storm in here in protest and unfurl banners; the most powerful thing is to pick up that 2B lead pencil and cast judgement on the government of the day.

I have listened with interest to the examples being used. When a government is in its third term there is hubris. There is, I believe, a complete lack of the intensity that was there in the first term or two. I draw parallels with what I saw not from within the chamber but as a keen observer outside the chamber back in 2010 and 2011, the prelude to the 2012 election. It is very simple. I hope that the government would learn from the mistakes they have made because, at the end of the day, we certainly have. We paid a huge price for the way that we went about governing from 2012 to the back end of 2014 at the early 2015 election.

We all know the classic definition of madness: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome. The Leader of the Opposition has made it very clear that, going forward, the Public Service will be treated with absolute respect. It deserves no less because—I repeat my remarks earlier—when the Public Service is able to give fearless and frank advice the decision tree will work to govern Queensland in the best way. We on this side of the chamber know that we will not make those mistakes in the future.

I am proud to be the inaugural shadow minister for customer service. I think the government is sadly lacking in basic customer service delivery. In two years time, if we are given the gift and privilege of government in this state, we will work with the Public Service. As I have said already, some of the best minds I have had the privilege of working with, in both the private and public sectors, have come from the public sector. They do not want to be fearful of losing their jobs if they give certain advice. I again say that Queensland works best when the Public Service works best.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.16 pm): I support the bills. It is rare that I agree with those on the opposite side, but I agree with the member for Chatsworth's comments about things working best when the Public Service works together. I acknowledge that, ever since the address-in-reply speech he

gave in 2015, the member for Chatsworth is the only member of the LNP who has acknowledged the mistakes of the Newman government. While I think he is sincere in what he is saying, I do not think the lessons have been learned.

It is also very rare that I agree with the member for Mermaid Beach, but I am going to do it on this occasion because I, too, would like more time to talk about the differences between the Labor Party and the LNP when it comes to the Public Service and integrity. While I would love more time to do that, I support our government's sensible and efficient running of this chamber and the parliament so I will restrict myself to the time available.

The treatment of the Public Service and integrity are just two of the many issues that clearly show how vast the divide between Labor and the LNP truly is. If we want to know what members opposite think about public servants we need look no further than the commentary from the member for Mudgeeraba when she referred to regional health workers as duds. In yesterday's debate, by way of interjection she tried to clarify that she did not call nurses duds; I can understand she meant that all other health workers are duds. In any case, it is a disgraceful thing to have said.

At its core, this bill is about the culture of the Public Service. I would like to relate a story from the mercifully short time the Newman government was in office to demonstrate the culture of the Public Service that was established by the Newman government that I believe will be re-established by a Crisafulli government. I was at a public venue that anybody could attend. I bumped into a senior public servant whom I knew quite well from the community. I had a lot in common with them; I do not particularly want to go through their details.

As we often did when we bumped into each other in the streets or the supermarkets, we stopped and had a chat about fairly innocuous things—kids, schools, sporting events, those sorts of things. This relatively senior public servant and I were having a chat when all of a sudden this person's partner came up and said, 'We have to leave now,' because the chief of staff of one of the senior Newman government ministers was at this same venue and they were so worried about being seen talking to someone who was a known Labor activist that they felt that that would damage their career moving forward in the Public Service. That happened before I was the preselected candidate. I had run for council. I was a known Labor activist at that time and these people were so fearful of retribution that they walked out of this venue; they fled this venue. It was actually very wise of them to have done that because at that point we were on our way to losing the 14,000 public servants that we would lose. With regard to the culture that was established in the Public Service at that stage, there could be no clearer demonstration than the story that I have just relayed.

This bill establishes the necessary requirements for a modern Public Service that is absolutely capable of providing frank and fearless advice, and I do want to focus on a couple of aspects of this bill.

Mrs Frecklington: Oh, you're going to get to the bill?

Mr KELLY: Yes. I take the member's interjection: I have been talking about the bill, but I would not expect the member opposite to understand anything that I have just said about treating public servants decently and establishing a public service bill that ensures that people are not fearful of being sacked over punitive measures like those that were employed by the previous government. The member clearly does not understand it, did not understand it from 2012 to 2015 and does not understand it now, but I am going to continue talking about the bill for the benefit of the member.

I want to talk about certain aspects of the bill. The aspect of the bill around the relationship with First Nations people is an incredibly important part of this bill and is an extremely important step forward for the Public Service. We all know—and I can tell members this from firsthand experience having been a public sector worker in the health setting—that our Public Service and our public sector, just as all of our society has done over the years, have contributed to the challenges and the problems that First Nations people face in our state. Therefore, it is extremely important that we make it a priority to reset that relationship. This bill certainly makes it very clear that as a government it is our priority that the Public Service does that as a priority. Yesterday in here we had a debate about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and we again demonstrated as a government what our commitments are and what we want to see happening based on what First Nations people have told us that they want to see happening. Sadly, we still do not know where the LNP stands in relation to that issue.

I do support the issues of reporting around equity and taking those matters into account in selection processes. In my opinion there is no better place to stand and deliver a speech and demonstrate the benefits of taking equity matters seriously than the parliament of Queensland, on this side of the House at least. As a party and as a government we have worked extremely hard to make

sure that we address historical imbalances in gender equity—and how much better is our government for that? How much better is our caucus and how much better is our cabinet because we have achieved those things? As many in this House would know, those things have not been achieved easily and they have not been achieved quickly but have been achieved through a whole range of mechanisms, so tackling these issues in the Public Service will achieve similar sorts of outcomes.


I also want to talk about the provisions around temporary employment. It is absolutely essential that we continue to try to offer as many people as we can permanent employment in the public sector. I found yesterday's contribution from the member for South Brisbane fairly nonsensical when she talked about people fleeing interstate. This government has done more in this area than anyone else in this regard, and I have been involved as a public sector union official; I was involved since 2000 and as a union delegate much earlier than that. I have seen very many governments, yet this government has taken numerous steps forward in creating permanency for public servants and public sector workers. For the member for South Brisbane to get up and say that people are fleeing interstate because they cannot get a—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr KELLY: The member for Nanango should go and check the interstate migration figures, because they would suggest that the absolute opposite is happening. People are flocking to Queensland, which is creating challenges for us here which we will acknowledge, because people are coming here to get the jobs that the Palaszczuk Labor government has created. To suggest that people are fleeing interstate is as ridiculous as many other things the member for South Brisbane does in this place.

I also want to talk about the integrity bill. The Palaszczuk government is a government that is not afraid to take on the big issues and the challenging issues. This bill implements the findings of the Coaldrake review and is part of an ongoing process of improving integrity in public administration. Those opposite like to lecture this side of the House on integrity, but they show no respect for those integrity processes. The shadow spokesperson for integrity has had nothing to say about the so-called laptop scandal. Even though the CCC has come out and said that there was no raid, no seized laptop and nothing out of the ordinary, those opposite have continued to peddle a nonsense line about this particular incident, showing zero integrity and led ably by their so-called shadow spokesperson for integrity, who has shown absolutely zero integrity when it comes to this issue.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.26 pm): Today I rise to speak on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill. I start by asking the question: what is in a name, because Labor loves a good name, doesn't it? Have we not seen some absolute pearls in terms of—

Mrs Gerber: Satellite hospitals not hospitals.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin—satellite hospitals that are not hospitals. I would like to reflect on one of my all-time favourite bills, and that was the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill—a bill that promised so much but delivered so little, and that is probably the best way to describe the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill: a bill that makes an attempt to address some of the longstanding issues, a bill that has a fantastic name—it is a very saleable name—but what great—

Mr McDonald: A bit of window-dressing.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer: it is just great window-dressing. William Shakespeare in his play *Romeo and Juliet* asks the question: what is in a name? He made this point: he said that names themselves are a convention to distinguish things or people but in themselves do not have any worth or meaning, and that pretty much sums up the value of so many of the reforms that are identified in this legislation. We heard the member for Greenslopes talk about the Public Sector Bill as being a reset of the relationship with the Public Service—and boy doesn't it need a reset? I am sure the Public Service of Queensland would like to have a government leading it that actually listens to it, that actually does not scare it and create a cloud of cover over it so that it is too afraid to speak up.

I am sure the public servants of Queensland would like some support from their government. Look at the thousands of health workers and police and teachers and ambulance officers and child safety workers in our state right now who are struggling under the mismanagement of this government's ability to run the state and who are crying out for more staff, for more resources and for better support. The member for Greenslopes spoke about the need to improve the culture to create a better feeling of

support and a culture of support within the public sector. I can tell members that when we travelled the state with the mental health inquiry that Labor threw up as a wonderful smokescreen to its own shortcomings in delivering better health services just two years ago, we heard from frontline workers who were disillusioned and frustrated by the amount of red tape and the amount of process that they were burdened with just to try to get the fundamentals of their job done.

We heard health workers say, 'I just want to spend my time seeing patients, not filling out paperwork. I just want to spend more time face to face with people who need me to care for them rather than worrying about covering my back and having to fill out more and more paperwork.' In Hervey Bay we met with a very large group of mental health support workers and we heard from some of them that they were spending 80 per cent of their time pushing pens and filling in forms and only 20 per cent of their time with patients. That is not good enough. That is not the Queensland that Queenslanders deserve. The people of this state deserve better.

We heard members on the other side of the House talk about integrity. Over the last year or two what great integrity we have heard in terms of their excuses for all the reasons why we are seeing failings in the healthcare system and ambulance ramping and all the other challenges we are seeing across the state. The response is that it is unprecedented population growth. On Queensland Treasury's website and on the website of the Deputy Premier under State Development there are population forecasts that are provided so that the government of the day and local governments can actually plan. It might surprise the House to know that currently Treasury forecasts, at a median level of growth, that the population of Queensland will be about 5.4 million. Would anyone like to hazard a guess what the population of Queensland is currently at? It is about 5.4 million. There is no excuse for failing to plan because the government's own Treasury department has been telling it for decades that the population was going to be about 5.4 million.

This culture of secrecy that we have heard about through the Coaldrake report goes to every part of this government. There is a stench over the behaviour and actions of this government. The Coaldrake report states—


In every case, whether the trivialising of parliamentary committees, lack of independence needed by integrity bodies or lack of clarity about decision making, this can be reversed by a commitment to openness, supported by accountability. Any good government, clear in purpose and open and accountable in approach, should have fewer integrity issues.

What a wonderful committee system we have in the parliament! Report after report is presented to the parliament but there is no accountability to respond to the recommendations. They are just recommendations. Ministers of the government do not report back to us on the recommendations and provide advice as to what they will or will not do in response to those recommendations. In relation to the process of openness and scrutiny I was going to say I could not state how many times we have effectively been gagged through the committee process, but I am not supposed to speak about that in the House. The current process of committee meetings is that so many of the meetings are held in private that the people of Queensland would not even know how we get to vote on some issues because we are not allowed to say how we voted. We just have to say 'the committee recommended'. Time and time again we see the government using their numbers, and chairs using their casting vote, to progress forward the government's agenda.

The other concern that has been raised through the course of review of this legislation is around the effective gagging of the Auditor-General. I commend the Auditor-General and the Queensland Audit Office on their courage over the last few years with the many reports that they have produced to expose some of the systemic problems and challenges within government. Again in terms of the Queensland Audit Office we see no accountability by the government to respond to the recommendations because they are recommendations. The government of the day can choose to do whatever it wants and we have seen it on many occasions, whether it be the report into system failings with IT and implementation or whether it be reports into failings and waitlists for elective surgery or the good functioning of health and hospital services. So many recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office and the Auditor-General have simply been ignored.

This government needs to be held to account. The Coaldrake review states that the review could go further. We agree that it should. One senior executive captured the concerns by describing attempts to suppress public records and subvert the RTI process. We have experienced that on our side of the House. Many times members of the opposition have put in RTI requests only to have so many lines of the responses blacked out that it pretty much renders some of those responses almost meaningless. Well may the media ask questions about what the government is trying to cover up; what are they trying to hide. Queenslanders deserve an open and accountable government. As I have seen since my time as a councillor, Labor loves to tinker with the laws. In 2008 they ran inquiries into councils across the

state. Nothing came out of those inquiries. It was a smokescreen to cover up their own shortcomings. How many times have we seen the Labor government tinker with the electoral laws? The list goes on. It is time for a change of government in this state. These laws do not go far enough.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the cognate debate of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill. The Public Sector Bill finalises this government's commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Bridgman review in 2019. The provisions of this legislation will modernise the Queensland Public Service and strengthen support for employees.

The Palaszczuk government has always been a strong supporter of the Queensland Public Service. It works for and on behalf of all Queenslanders. It is committed to this government's focus on providing better services so that the people of this state can continue to enjoy their great lifestyle. As Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities I am humbled and proud of the work that the staff of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has conducted over the last few years, especially during the pandemic. It was during those difficult times that we developed the Agricultural Coordination Officers Working Group who worked closely with our local farmers and stakeholders to navigate those lockdowns, those biosecurity management plans, those border closures and worker shortages. DAF staff worked with industry on overseeing on-farm quarantine of Pacific Island workers, helping move produce from paddock to plate across this country. The work that DAF staff performed was truly inspirational.

This bill backs the wonderful men and women of the Public Service by, among other things, clearly defining the public sector and continuing key existing concepts such as 'public service' where relevant; creating a nation leading framework requiring chief executives of public sector entities, the Police Service and other entities to take steps to promote equity, diversity, respect and inclusion and strengthening accountability for and the oversight of those requirements.

This bill also reflects the government's stance on creating good jobs and job security. Queenslanders have a right to work and feel secure in their work. The provisions of this bill clearly specify that employment in the Public Service should be on a permanent basis unless other acts provide otherwise. It goes without saying that not everyone in the chamber is an ardent supporter of the Public Service. There are many on the opposition benches who were in cabinet when tens of thousands of staff were brutally retrenched, callously consigned to unemployment. Not only did those former employees suffer but also the people of Queensland suffered as the quality of the service dropped. In DAF alone 600 staff were made redundant. Biosecurity were cut by 26 per cent. The opposition speaks so highly about fisheries, but they cut 28 per cent of staff in the fisheries sector in Queensland.

It is good to follow the member for Southport because, in his contribution today, he clearly nailed his position and that of the LNP to the mast when he said that the Public Service needs a reset. That is code. All of us on this side of the chamber know that that is code for more dismissals should they ever end up in government. They are an alternative government. An opposition is known as the alternative government. If they were ever placed in government and given control of the cabinet, we know what that code would stand for: more dismissals from within our great Public Service. By the time the LNP were done in 2015, they had a Public Service that was living in fear. You cannot have integrity in the Public Service when staff are in constant fear of losing their jobs, which is what awaits us if the member for Broadwater becomes premier. We know what he plans to do if he ever governs and that is to cut, sack and sell once again.

Thankfully, we have a government that backs our Public Service and, through this bill, provides a modern and equitable framework for public sector workers. As the Premier said in her introductory speech, the Palaszczuk government 'understands the importance of fairness, inclusion and security in public sector employment to ensure employees are supported in delivering frontline services to the community'. That is why this government commissioned the Bridgman report, which was the first independent review of Public Service laws in over 30 years. The Public Service Commission will be replaced by the Public Sector Commission, which will play a key role as the central human resources agency and, importantly, will drive that ethical Public Service culture.

I thank the Economics and Governance Committee, particularly the chair, the member for Logan, for their report on this bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I note that a couple of the submissions that address both bills are from the Together union. Isn't it great that we have real unions supporting and submitting on bills before the House. By doing so they are advocating on behalf

of workers and fighting for the protection of their rights. I have not heard or seen anything from those other organisations that purport to represent workers. Where are those anti-vax, anti-worker groups when the most significant reforms to the Public Service in a generation are being debated?

I also speak in favour of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The government has always been committed to transparency. Where there is room for improvement we have and will act. This bill implements some of the recommendations of the Coaldrake report by enhancing the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General by making the position an officer of the parliament. It gives the Office of the Auditor-General the same status as other integrity offices such as that of the Ombudsman and the Information Commissioner. It also brings the office in line with other jurisdictions across Australia.

The bill provides for the creation of the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner and ensures that neither the commissioner nor their staff can be directed to perform their work in any other way. This protects the independence of the office and that of the Integrity Commissioner. I note that this provision was supported by the Acting Integrity Commissioner in submissions to the Economics and Governance Committee.


This bill also introduces an offence for unregistered lobbying. This is all about ensuring that any lobbying in Queensland is done ethically and by registered parties. The integrity of the registered lobbyist system needs to be upheld so that information relating to lobbying activities is publicly available and accurate. This is about openness, transparency and giving the people of Queensland confidence that the business of government is done ethically.

I note that the Australian Professional Government Relations Association raised concerns about accidental or inadvertent unregistered lobbying. That involves people who might not understand the new rules and may be caught out as opposed to those who make systematic attempts to subvert the lobbying process. There will, of course, be some time for adjustment for everyone as these new rules are bedded down. I am comforted by the proposal of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, as outlined in the committee report, that they are looking at updating the existing lobbying register.

These bills implement the recommendations from the Coaldrake report to create a transparent and ethical public sector. As the Premier said in her introductory speech to the Public Sector Bill, driving this culture does come from the top. These bills set strong performance frameworks where the premier and the government of the day set clear expectations on performance and accountability. It is up to the chief executives of those departments to implement these expectations and the Public Sector Governance Council and the Public Sector Commission to ensure these standards and frameworks are maintained.

Going hand in hand with that is creating a stable, secure work environment for the hundreds and thousands of staff in the public sector. People are employed based on merit while also recognising the need to support equity, diversity and inclusion within the sector. We want a modern integrated public sector providing good jobs, a public sector committed to providing better services for Queenslanders and a public sector supporting our great Queensland lifestyle.

In the remaining few moments I want to comment on my department. During the lunch break I spent some time with department staff out the front of 43 George Street for a sausage sizzle to fundraise for a domestic and family violence refuge centre. That is the type of work that our honest and hardworking public servants do beyond their normal duties. They go above and beyond. They truly are the salt of the earth. They are the type of employees who need to be respected, which is what the Palaszczuk government does day in, day out. We recognise the importance of our Public Service. We reward them appropriately. We give them encouragement, respect and also acknowledgement for the work they do, not only in their day-to-day jobs, from 8 am to 5 pm, but also in the work they do well beyond that, seven days a week. They are hardworking genuine people who deserve the recognition that only the Palaszczuk government gives them. This evening it gives me great pleasure to commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.46 pm): I follow the member for Ferny Grove who says the Palaszczuk government is committed to integrity. They are committed to integrity so long as it is a story running on the front page of the newspaper or the lead story in the news every night, because this government had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, to introduce legislation. For weeks the Premier denied there was no problem with any integrity issue in her government. She said, 'It's unnecessary.' She said, 'There's nothing to see here.' It was only when public pressure, brought about by the LNP

opposition, drew this government to the conclusion that they had to act that they appointed Peter Coaldrake to conduct the review. Even today, after promising lock, stock and barrel to implement the reforms, we see a measly number of those reforms introduced. It is not lock, stock and barrel; it is 'more to come', 'wait and see' and 'hope everyone forgets about it and see where we go from there'.

Let us deal with the myth of this government's commitment to integrity. They only do it when they are forced to do it. They only do it when there is no other option and they can no longer duck and weave. When the Premier's spin doctors, however many of them there are—30, 40, 50? The number gets higher. They say Dan Andrews has 91. Are we also heading down that path? It is when the spin doctors cannot deal with it any more that legislation finally comes in. Let us deal with that straightaway.

I turn to the Public Sector bill. It has been said that this bill has been a long time coming. What a surprise! The Bridgman review was done three years ago, in 2019. The first stage reforms were implemented in 2020 and now we are another two years down the road. That is the Labor Party fast at work for you. It is no wonder that the dams and the hydro projects that they are talking about are surrounded by doubt and uncertainty and that no-one in the industry believes them. They cannot even get reforms, from a report from two years ago and over which they have total control, into this House in any quick time.

When this bill was put before the committee for investigation, one of the things that came up was the ECQ submission in relation to the oversight by the Public Sector Commission of the operations of the Electoral Commission of Queensland. Mr Vidgen is a well-regarded public servant. What did he say in that submission in relation to the powers? He said that the review powers under the bill are significantly more intrusive than current provisions and, in certain circumstances, granting powers to the minister or the Public Service to commence a public sector review could present a real or perceived threat to the ECQ's democracy.

Mr Vidgen went on to say that the ECQ was consulted by both the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the department of justice during the development of the bill. It was consulted but ignored, which is the normal trend for the Palaszczuk Labor government when they do not get the answer they want. When it was brought into public light and someone of Mr Vidgen's standing gave that evidence to the committee, what did the government do? They have said they have brought in amendments. We will now have to deal with amendments that could have been dealt with already if the arrogant Palaszczuk Labor government had simply listened to the ECQ in the first place. Of course, we will support those amendments.

Having consulted and been ignored, it is only when public pressure is brought to bear that this government acts. It is the story time and time again with respect to this government. That is the only way they work.

I have heard many people speak about the treatment of the Public Service under the LNP government. I valued the public servants in the Treasury department. I valued the work they did and the support they gave. I made it my business every year to speak to them all. Let me tell members who did not respect the work the Public Service did: the Labor Party. I can remember Wendy Edmond, a health minister, coming into this place and saying that nurses were overeducated and complaining about collecting a chunder bucket. That is what the Labor Party think about nurses. They thought it in 2002. Then what did the Labor Party do?

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection from the member for Algeester. It did not pay them for 12 months and then denied that there was any problem—no pay, overpay, underpay, paying dead people. Then what did they do? They sent out the debt collectors. Remember that? They sent the debt collectors out in the dead of night to collect overpayments from people. We had the mealy-mouthed words from the now member for Woodridge, who apologised five years after the event for something that he and the government refused to admit any responsibility for. They tried it all the way through.

What did we do when we first came to office? The first thing we did was pay the nurses. Within 30 days the nurses had secured a 3½ per cent per year pay rise. They had been sitting on a wage negotiation for three years; we fixed it within 30 days. Those opposite cry crocodile tears—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I remember the member for Bulimba. She got the royal order of the boot from the electors there. We remember the university sports rorts affairs and Judy Spence when it comes to integrity—millions of dollars going to the University of Queensland—

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member's comments and ask him to withdraw.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Nanango, I was taking a point of order. From here on in they will be heard in silence. Member for Clayfield, the member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr NICHOLLS: I absolutely withdraw. I remember Judy Spence and the money that was paid. I remember the roles of the officers at the time who were part of it. I can go back further than that—

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice, and I ask the House to come to order while I take that advice. There was no reference to the member personally. There is no point of order.

Mr POWER: With respect, I rise to a point of order. The member is not withdrawing if he continues the same sentence in the same terms. He has failed to withdraw if he continues the same argument about the same situation.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not need the assistance of the member for Bonney to deal with this point of order. I was listening to the contribution carefully. There is no point of order.

Mr NICHOLLS: This has a long history. This goes back to the history of the Labor Party—old 'Red Ted' Theodore and the Mungana mines affair, where he was found guilty of selling mines to the Queensland government at inflated prices. There is more. We remember the integrity of the former member for Bundamba, who had to resign as police minister. We remember the former member for Pumicestone, Rick Williams, whom the Premier held onto right until the dying day. I remember the former member for Bundaberg, a former agriculture minister, who did not pay her rates or car registration. We remember the member for Sandgate resigning as transport minister over the 'rail fail' affair. We remember that the member for Miller had to sit on the backbench for six months over the mangocube affair and only escaped because he did not have the gumption to actually delete things. He could not delete them properly. If he had of deleted them properly, he would have been found guilty of an offence.

I can go on. I remember the member for Bulimba's predecessor, Pat Purcell, who jobbed the fire executives and whom Peter Beattie gave the eyeball test to. Of course, I remember Robert Poole, the former member for Gaven, also known as the 'member for Bangkok' he was there so often. Then we had the granddaddy of them all, Gordon Nuttall. Who can forget?

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Bulimba and member for Mudgeeraba, when you are occupying the positions of Acting Leader of the House and Acting Manager of Opposition Business you are afforded some latitude. You are also expected to hold yourself to a higher standard. You are both warned under the standing orders.

Mr NICHOLLS: The granddaddy of them all was Gordon Nuttall, and Peter Beattie reconvened parliament to change the laws to ensure it was no longer an offence to tell a fib to a parliamentary committee. I remember Keith Wright, the paedophile. Do members opposite remember him? They also held on to Bill D'Arcy until the death. I remember that. Then there was Merri Rose, the former minister for tourism, who was so interested in tourism that she gave her son the keys to the ministerial car so he could drive to Sydney and back again. Then she got punted by Peter Beattie. What did she come back and try to do? She tried to bribe him but got 18 months in the big house for it all.


We sit here listening to the Labor Party tell us about its integrity, but we do not need to look far to see their record. Their record of convictions is all we need to see—the court records of those who have done their time. Then we have the lesser offences: the Deputy Premier and the Lady Cilento name change affair—the minions in the office going 'tap, tap, tap, tap, tap' on the change of name.

When it comes to the Labor Party's record on integrity, I have barely scratched the surface. There was the Labor mayor of Ipswich—they all had their photo with him—Paul Pisasle. We remember Paul Pisasle. There was the Premier's chief of staff, Barbagallo, who escaped by the skin of his teeth. The Premier did not even look at his disclosure statements. Then we have the Premier herself, the only

Premier found to be in contempt of this parliament. Then we have Anacta with Moorhead, Spinks, Milner and the conga line of other people who showed up at the door. I wish I had a lot more time, as we used to in the old days, but they changed the rules on that as well!

We will support this bill and we will support the amendments to be moved in relation to the magistrates as they make sense, but to be lectured to by the Labor Party on integrity is akin to letting Dracula control the blood bank. I will not have a bar of it and I will never let them forget.

(Time expired)

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (2.57 pm): I rise to support the Public Sector Bill and the integrity bill. I will not be lectured to about respect for the Public Service by the member for Clayfield, who sacked 14,000 workers and to this day has not apologised. To be fair to the member—I will give him his due—I think he is a bit confused. He has just pulled out his speech from his campaign in 2017. The member has not learned his lesson from what the people of Queensland said about his view of Queensland. In his speech he claimed that he respects the Public Service and public servants. The only Public Service he respects is what he outsourced to Peter Costello in his report's blueprint for sacking and selling. That is the only work the member for Clayfield respects. The man who had Crosby Textor consultants embedded in his office to try to sell the message—

Mr Nicholls: I remember what your dad used to do, mate. Don't worry, I've got that down there. I'm not done yet.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Clayfield is not going through the chair but speaking directly to the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. I was engaging with the opposition whip so I did not hear the exchange, but all members are reminded to put all commentary through the chair.

Mr SULLIVAN: I will take the interjection and will not take personal offence because if the member thinks for a second that I am anything but proud of my father's service in this House he should take a walk. What a joke.

I am proud to support this legislation because it delivers structural and cultural improvements, benefiting what is our modern, dynamic Public Service. For me personally, my intake has just passed its second anniversary on 31 October when I was proud to be elected to represent the community that I love and the community I live and breathe.

In addressing the Public Sector Bill, I reflect on my values and priorities. As early as my first speech in this House I thanked the many public servants who have impacted my life over a long period of time in quite a wide variety of circumstances. As I said in my first speech, I have tried to build a good working relationship with public servants from my early days working in the courts with registry and support staff who helped me out as a young associate back in the old terrible District Court and Supreme Court building—now of course the W hotel—to those senior public servants whom I was privileged to work with across several portfolios working in state and federal government, including locally in TAFE, education and training and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, to the highest levels of the judiciary. I have been privileged to work with very senior people.

I reflected in my first speech that I would therefore bring to my role a starting point of respect and admiration. I thank the public servants in the Parliamentary Service, across the committee portfolio work we do and across various departments who do such a good job in supporting our work as parliamentarians and as a government more broadly. I am proud to be supporting this legislative change that strengthens our Public Service for a modern Queensland.

That respect extends to the many public servants I have the privilege of working with on a daily basis in the wonderful electorate of Stafford. The local teachers and school staff, the health workers at the Prince Charles Hospital and the RBWH and the fireies, cops and ambos dedicate their skills and hard work to serving the public. I also want to thank a particular Kedron local. She is a respected barrister, prosecutor, public servant. Her name is Carolyn, and I am lucky to call her my wife. I thank her for her many years serving the people of Queensland in public service.

The bills implement important reforms, particularly delivering on recommendations from the Coaldrake report, the Bridgman review and the Yearbury review. Some of the technical but important reforms include establishing the shared public stewardship roles of the PSGC, the Public Service

Commission, the Public Service Commissioner as well as requiring chief executives to support a culture of respect and inclusion in their workplaces. That of course includes a greater focus on encouraging First Nations people and consideration of age, disability and access, to name a few.

The reforms also reflect this government's efforts in reframing the Public Service's and Queensland Police Service's relationship with First Nations people and communities, which is important. I think this is timely after the unbelievably poor and at times outright offensive contributions from those opposite during the debate yesterday about supporting truth, voice and treaty. That was telling for those opposite. They have had 24 hours so I hope they have managed to read the one-page document. The bills recognise the particular role government agencies, including the QPS, have in changing and modernising that relationship. Just as I was proud to support the motion yesterday, I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government's effort to deliver these important reforms.

As a side note, can I associate myself with the comments of the member for Macalister in her speech yesterday afternoon in relation to looking at the inclusion of LGBTIQ issues. I think that is interesting. An example of how some reforms have proceeded across the Public Service is the annual Pride in Law event held last week. I thank Chief Justice Bowskill for hosting the event in the Supreme Court's Banco Court. I particularly thank Justice Sue Brown for her reflections on rising through the ranks of the legal profession as a member of, as she describes it, the rainbow community and now serving as a well-respected justice. I also give a shout-out to northside champion Dean Clifford-Jones, a respected lawyer, who established Pride in Law and is now its national head. That is one example where leadership and changing culture at all levels of the Public Service can make a difference.

In terms of integrity and public service, from the contributions those opposite have made, including the previous speaker, the member for Clayfield, who has still refused to apologise for his actions, they think we are in a version of the movie *Men in Black* and they can zap a button and we will forget what they did. Queenslanders remember what they did. We on this side remember what they did. The nurses at Prince Charles Hospital remember what they did. The teachers and the cops remember what they did. In terms of the 14,000—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: It is hard to take interjections from the member for Nanango when, as I understand it, as an assistant minister she sat around the CBRC table and cut 14,000 workers.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. There is far too much conversation across the chamber. I am going to start warning people. I would like to hear what the member for Stafford has to say.


Mr SULLIVAN: For the 14,000 people cut there is harm for them and their families, but there are the economic flow-on effects when people lose what were otherwise secure jobs. They do not renovate their houses. They do not tour regional areas. They do not have disposable income to visit their cafes. It puts an anchor on the Queensland economy.

In terms of integrity issues and the Public Service, the cutting of 14,000 people holds an axe over the head of every public servant trying to give advice to government. For not just those who have gone but for those who remain it creates fear knowing that at any given point they could be out the door and it kneecaps what should be a modern, open and accountable Public Service. That includes the 1,500 health workers cut across the Metro North HHS alone, including 700 nurses.

Imagine the indignation and hurt for those who had been sacked or even for those fearful of more to come when that mass pain caused by those opposite was described by then premier as taking out the pooper scooper. In terms of their record on integrity, it is hard to be lectured to by the people who raised the threshold for public declaration of public donations so people could literally walk into an MP's office, give them \$12,000 and no-one would know about it. That is not poetic licence or rhetorical flourish; that is literally what their laws were. Seeing the disgraceful questioning today from the member for Mudgeeraba, making imputations on issues of integrity, how dare the member take such a line when she lasted 10 months as a minister, being forced out under a cloud of integrity issues. Their hypocrisy knows no limit.

It went beyond that. It went to gag orders for community groups and community legal centres. They were not able to speak up for the most vulnerable people in our communities right across the state. These are the people who sacked the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, as it was then, in the dead of the night, including the then Independent member for Gladstone, who at the time was serving as chair.

We see how those opposite treat public servants. We continue to see it through their contributions in this House, their behaviour at estimates and their behaviour at committee meetings where they continually attack and undermine senior public servants with no respect at all. We on this side respect public servants, we thank them for what they do and we are proud to be providing a better structure and more modern legislation for them going forward. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.08 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate of the Public Sector Bill and Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am going to try to be super quick because there are still members who wish to speak and from my understanding the debate is going to be guillotined. On the surface the amendments are relatively minor. However, they have the capacity to deliver some important changes. Firstly, the Public Sector Bill 2022 implements stage 2 legislative reforms and gives effect to the 2019 Bridgman review's primary recommendation to provide all public sector employees with a modern, simplified and employee focused legislative framework.

To ensure that public sector employment arrangements are consistent, the bill amends a number of acts that regulate the employment of particular public sector employees. In addition, it establishes public sector employment conditions and arrangements, including those in relation to employment security, with universal application to all public sector employees within the scope of the bill. This is especially important for our teachers, nurses and other frontliners, with sadly a high percentage of our teachers continuing to leave the industry within five years of graduation. However, from my understanding, this bill will not address the reasons they continue to leave.

Submissions to the bill were overall supportive, with concerns, as already outlined and as we have heard, regarding that Queenslanders with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or intersex variations were omitted. However, the department responded that they would ask the Public Sector Commission to collect information to inform future policy directions.

This bill is a welcomed, needed and balanced approach for Queensland's incredible public servants. It gives the opportunity to move into that efficient, innovative space that has been sought. Let's be honest: we do have some issues and we need to be open about that without getting angry so that they can move into that space with the help of the Public Sector Commission.

However, I want to talk about what the benefits, protections and employment security are for similar positions or equal positions in the incredible private and not-for-profit sector, especially given the current disparities that already exist. Our not-for-profits provide a range of essential services including aged, palliative and disability care, and our small to medium businesses are the backbone of our communities. Within the Noosa region, these include tourism and related industries such as retail, accommodation and food and real estate services. These are labour intensive and a major driver of jobs and growth in our communities, contributing to Queensland's visitor economy with over 25 per cent of Noosa's workforce employed predominantly in part-time employment.

Furthermore, aged and disability care are crucial in our region. With the impact of COVID-19 on Noosa's key industries unprecedented, they are continuing to suffer extreme labour shortages through pay scale inequities and lack of affordable housing. Even pre COVID, many considered, and have, switched industries for more secure jobs and higher pay scales which exist in the Queensland Public Service. The question is: how will the increasing disparity between the private and public sectors be resolved? These organisations and our small and medium businesses are left struggling to compete against tax funded positions that offer higher pay, security and benefits that are standard in the Public Service. This is inequitable, unfair and needs to be addressed. Yes, we know this is in the federal realm. However, we now have a federal Labor government, so let's see some further movement in this space.


I turn to the integrity bill, which proposes to implement some of the recommendations from the Coaldrake report, particularly around the independence of the integrity bodies of the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman and the Integrity Commissioner. There were a handful of submissions, all of which were supportive. The role of parliamentary committees in relation to these integrity bodies is a vital one and was highlighted in the Coaldrake report. It recommended that 'the independence of integrity bodies in Queensland be enhanced by aligning responsibility for financial arrangements and management practices with the Speaker of parliament and the appropriate parliamentary committee, rather than the executive government'. This is an appropriate and welcome recommendation to address what has been a number of concerns from Queenslanders and MPs.

However, how would this be implemented? Funding arrangements would need to be coordinated with the budget process, Treasury would need to brief the committees on any relevant budget parameters and the committees would need to investigate and provide advice to the Treasury for incorporation into the budget. Similarly, the appointment of the head of an integrity body should be

referred to the committee. Importantly, committees should be vested with a power to initiate investigations and reviews of integrity bodies as the Public Sector Bill proposes for government to do so they can perform their oversight role properly, as the current arrangements are insufficient to deliver the responsibility and accountability expected.

With the Clerk of the Parliament acknowledging during this year's estimates hearings that we have a long way to go with respect to accountability and the work of the committees, implementing the above, as well as undertaking the requested review of the current committee and estimates processes, will see the desperately needed improvements that have been sought now by Queenslanders and MPs for some years. We have raised this now many times. Yes, all of this requires an increase in resources to parliamentary committees given the burden of existing workloads and rushed time frames for inquiry. However, the outcome will align with community expectations and put to bed any existing concerns.

Thank you to the ministers, committees and their secretariats for their work with these bills, as well as to all submitters. Thank you to all of our public servants because we get to work with them every day. Thank you also to the workers in the private and not-for-profit sector for it is they who make sure Queenslanders have what they need every day. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate bills before us today. I note that it was the Premier who stood up, I think when she first was elected as Premier, on a platform of openness and transparency. What has happened since then? We are now standing in this House and the opposition and the crossbench are unable to talk at full length because we do not have just one bill on integrity but we have two. They have been made cognate, so that means we do not get 10 minutes to speak on each bill like our community members expect we should have. Where is the openness and the transparency? Where is the integrity in relation to these cognate bills?

That is why it is important that the government hear from the opposition because they come in here and carry on about how bad the Newman years were. Sure, but what about the time we have been in here—seven long years, nearly eight years—under the Palaszczuk government? The arrogance and hubris started from day one. The arrogance is unbelievable when they stand in this chamber with not one bill but two bills resulting from the failures of integrity, the failures of accountability, the failures of openness. We are here debating these bills because the Palaszczuk government has failed on all of those accounts. It is completely unacceptable that the members of the Palaszczuk government do not even understand that. They are still blaming the Newman years for their own faults in the last eight years. The hubris is unbelievable.

I want to talk about some of the comments made in the Coaldrake report, starting with the title *Let the sunshine in*. The Premier stands up and says, 'We are going to implement the recommendations lock, stock and barrel.' Where are we today? We are absolutely nowhere near 'lock, stock and barrel' because that is the Palaszczuk way. We know it has already taken three years since the Bridgman report to get even half of these recommendations implemented. We are here today after the Premier committed to the people of Queensland that she was going to implement the Coaldrake report 'lock, stock and barrel'. Where is the openness now? Where is the transparency now? Where is the accountability now? It is absolutely nowhere to be seen because that is the Palaszczuk way.

Remember that the Coaldrake report is about the Palaszczuk government and the public servants who work hard each and every day on our behalf feel under the Palaszczuk government. This is not about any other governments; this is about the Palaszczuk government. The report findings talk about 'an atmosphere of fear' and 'fear of unwanted career impacts and the loss of employment status for unwelcome advice'.

I do want to give credit to two public servants today who are my aunts—one of whom has passed a way—Ruth and Nora. Both of them started their Public Service career right here in this parliament. They spent their entire careers working in the Public Service. They always told me about frank and fearless advice. That is exactly what the good public servants of this state deserve—that they are able to give frank and fearless advice. When one of the findings says that public servants feel 'pressure from some ministerial staffers for responses that minimise problems', how on earth can they give frank and fearless advice with that sort of pressure coming from the Palaszczuk government? They cannot. That is why there is a culture of fear under the Palaszczuk government. Those opposite are so arrogant. The hubris is through the roof. They do not understand it. They refuse to listen.

All they yell out is, 'You sacked them!' Start listening to the public servants who are leaving your offices. Start apologising to the public servants who can no longer give frank and fearless advice. Start apologising to the nurses who are looking for support in regional hospitals because the health minister lacks the integrity to stand down. The health minister knows that she has to go. Her time is up. The

failures of the health minister cannot go on. If she had any integrity she would do the right thing by the patients, nurses, doctors, administrators, cleaners, security—anyone who works in Queensland Health—and she would resign. That would be ministerial accountability, and Coaldrake said that we need to have ministerial accountability back in this state.

Let's remember another finding: 'discouragement from providing written advice on difficult topics' and 'senior public servants directing employees to sanitise advice and alter recommendations to align with what was presumed to be the Minister's position'. We all remember the sanitisation about the poor kids on remand in watch houses. Do you remember that sanitised report? The member for Bulimba was the Minister for Child Safety. No wonder she keeps getting moved sideways. Goodness me, it is unbelievable.

An opposition member: The member for Maryborough said if they speak out they should be named and shamed.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. It was the member for Maryborough who went on local radio, I believe it was, and said they should be named and shamed. He probably wanted to say 'the minister is completely out of control in her department' as well, but I am not sure he went that far.


There were more findings in the Coaldrake review. Do you remember this one, Mr Deputy Speaker: 'a Director-General taking steps to prevent a report from "reaching the Minister's ears" so as to ensure that the Minister could continue to plausibly deny knowledge of the matter'? We are talking about the Palaszczuk government and a culture of fear inside the Public Service. They deserve to give free, frank and fearless advice, and the member for Clayfield only got halfway through the list.

Since Annastacia Palaszczuk has been the Premier of this great state let's remember how many ministers have had to fall on their sword—which is why the people of Queensland genuinely wish the health minister would do the right thing. Let's remember the minister for agriculture, who decided not to pay her rates bills and then not to tell anyone about it. She had to go. Let's remember the former deputy premier Jackie Trad, the member for South Brisbane. We do not have enough time for her integrity issues.

An opposition member: They had to change the law.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They had to change the law. The Ministerial Code of Conduct was changed. We had the ski lodge that the now Attorney-General was at. It even had its own private ski lift. We had the principal who was appointed thanks to the deputy premier because the principal who should have got the job was not in the right faction with the deputy premier at the time, or something, so she intervened there. We had mangocube! He went and sat up there in the back corner. We had the Premier who got done for using her own private emails after she told her ministers not to use them for business. Let's not forget that the Premier of this great state, Annastacia Palaszczuk, the member for Inala, was found in contempt of parliament. She is the first and only premier of this nation to be found in contempt of parliament.

I say to the Premier of Queensland: where is the integrity? Where is the accountability? Where is the openness? If the Premier wanted to stand by those words why have these bills been cognated? We cannot even get a decent amount of time to address the issues. I am not even halfway through the issues we need to talk about in relation to the integrity and accountability of this Palaszczuk government. It is about time the Palaszczuk government understands that the people of Queensland deserve better, and so do our hardworking public servants.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.24 pm): I rise today to speak on the cognate debate on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill. In following the member for Nanango I think it is important to note that today is the day former prime minister Scott Morrison became the first prime minister in Australia's history to be censured by the federal parliament. I find it outrageous that the member for Nanango comes in here and so flippantly refers to the Newman years. They were long, hard, dreadful years where 14,000 public servants—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Southport, member for Kurwongbah and member for Stafford, stop the interchamber conversation.

Ms LAUGA: I find it astounding that the member for Nanango can come in here and speak so flippantly about the Newman years. She said, 'There were the Newman years, sure,' so flippantly it is like she was being asked if she wants caramel in her latte at the Queensland Club or something. 'Sure, it happened.' 'Sure, whatevs.'

The member for Nanango also talked about the health minister and apologies to health workers, which I find astounding as well given that the member for Mudgeeraba still has not apologised to regional healthcare workers after she called them duds and the member for Nanango stood by the member for Mudgeeraba's comments. For many people in this state the Newman years were incredibly dark times. We have heard from members in this place who were personally affected by the Newman government. The member for Nanango sat around the CBRC table and signed off on the sacking of those 14,000 public servants right across the state.


The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that the public sector is a fair employer and responsive to the needs of the community and the government. I acknowledge the many hardworking Queensland public servants who live and work in Queensland. I know firsthand the important work they do serving our state, and I know they make a difference to the lives of Queenslanders. I worked for the department of public works back in the day as a town planner. It was after I moved on to a consulting role that Campbell Newman became premier, and many of my friends who still worked in the department were calling me and telling me just how awful going to work was every day. They talked to me about someone they labelled the 'box man'. The 'box man' was someone they had never seen or met before, but the 'box man' walked into offices on George Street each day—they called him the 'box man' because he ultimately carried boxes around—he tapped people on the shoulder, put a box on their desk and said, 'You're out.' They were asked to pack their things and leave then and there on the spot. That is the reality of the Newman years. Many of my colleagues lost their jobs during those years.

I know that in Central Queensland 197 full-time-equivalent positions—doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers—were cut from the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service. We have had to do a lot of work to undo those years and hire back those important frontline public healthcare staff in Central Queensland. On this side of the House we value our hardworking public servants, unlike those opposite. We all know their opinion of public servants is that they are effectively dispensable.

The Public Service is in my family. I worked in the department, my mum has been a state school teacher for 35 years, my brother and my dad both work in the electricity industry and my partner is a corrective custodial officer. Public Service is in our blood, and I am proud of that fact. It is important that we as a government back our public servants and provide them with the best possible employment laws to ensure fairness and that Queenslanders have the most responsive, consistent and reliable Public Service possible.

For those members opposite, including the member for Broadwater, stage 1 public sector reforms resulted in amendments to the Public Service Act 2008 on 14 September 2020 to ensure the immediate implementation of recommendations relating to, firstly, maximising the government's commitment to employment security, including temporary conversion processes, and providing Public Service employees with access to positive performance management. Stage 2 of the public sector reforms is to replace the Public Service Act 2008 with the Public Sector Bill 2022 to give effect to the primary recommendation to introduce new public sector employment legislation to be drafted in plain language and to be employee focused.

I am extremely proud of a number of the elements of this bill. I will not go into all of the detail of those elements, except to say that the work of public servants right across Queensland is incredibly valued by our government and by me as the local member for Keppel. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.30 pm): I rise to attempt to make a brief contribution on this bill so my crossbench colleague has a chance to speak as well. That speaks to the principle we are discussing here and the risk of governments abusing power. We are always going to fight that. People will always watch and distrust whoever is in government—or there will be an element of that—and we will fight that abuse. The Coaldrake report was the attempt of the government to deal with some integrity issues that were raised around the place, but I think it hopelessly misses the mark.


There are some wonderful people who work in the Public Service and there is a wonderful history of what the Public Service has done in Queensland. I think I can speak on behalf of my crossbench colleagues here when I say that when we talk to members of the police about reporting or we ask people at a hospital how their budget is they run for the hills because they are too scared to talk. They will not tell us the truth. They will say, 'Crikey, I can't talk about that,' because they are worried about their job. It is hard to pin the government down and say that the government will sack them if they talk, but these people might not get the promotion next year. They know what the culture is that is embedded there. It

is implied; it does not have to be something that is said or procured from some investigation or review. It is a sickness. We are certainly convinced that that is heavily embedded. The government have an enormous job to try to turn that around and convince us there are no integrity issues.

As a party, we are entitled to be fairly distrustful of governments having too much power, especially in a unicameral parliament, and I can list what has happened during my short experience here with the members for Hill and Hinchinbrook. When I first came in here, the laws were changed in the dead of the night before an adjournment, and Labor colluded with Liberal that night to make sure we were removed of resources. In that same term, we faced some legislation—and, again, the two major parties voted together—that disadvantaged the Independents in the returns they got from electoral funding laws. That did not affect the KAP so much, but I still objected to the principle of it.


In the federal government, we faced a change in laws that restricted electoral funding—again, to the detriment of anyone trying to break into that political space against major parties. We had the terrible events with the Premier when we lost our staff. As the member for Nanango referred to before, the Premier was found in contempt of parliament. We lost staff again, with another abuse of power. Here we are again with this public sector review and we are recommending better access for ministers into that space of operating in these areas. The government has a hell of a job to turn those things around. This falls hopelessly short, so good luck convincing the public that this will fix things around the place.

A bigger problem the government has is trying to govern the state properly when there are public servants who are too scared to report what they should be reporting in terms of trying to fix youth crime or health issues. We would love to play a more productive role with the government, but it is very hard if public servants do not have the courage to say what they should say to ministers on a regular occasion. I see that all of the time. Ministers say to me, 'We're not picking up what you're hearing at home, Rob. That's not what we're hearing,' and I think, 'No kidding, because they're scared to lose their jobs.' That is the problem the government has to deal with, and it is why we lose great public servants who ran through government after government after government. They are employed and paid for by the people of Queensland. They are their resources; they are not the government's resources to toy around with or manipulate. They are there to feed through advice objectively, fearlessly and frankly. They are strongly inhibited by the integrity issues that have tainted this government, and that is a huge problem that is not covered by this bill. We see very little value in that.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.34 pm): Here we are today debating an integrity bill when we have a Palaszczuk Labor government that is the worst government for integrity in my lifetime that I can think of. These bills are critically important and here we are having them cognated so we do not even have time to debate them. They propose to repeal and replace the Public Service Act following one of the most critical reports done in this state—that being Professor Coaldrake's report *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*. Both of these bills stem from the Coaldrake report, but never has it been more evident that this government does not want to let the sunshine in. The very fact that we are forced to debate these bills cognately with a guillotine time frame completely reduces the scrutiny that members can provide to these bills. For me, it completely illustrates the fact that this state government wants to do everything but let the sunshine in.

Let me turn to the Public Sector Bill. The independent review of the public sector employment laws by Mr Peter Bridgman—the report is called *A fair and responsive Public Service for all*—was commissioned four years ago. That is right; it has taken four years for this state government to do anything about it and only now are we debating it. It is not just this delay that shows the state government do not care about integrity; it is everything that has led up to this. This state government do not care about integrity and they do not care about letting the sunshine in. I think it is incumbent upon us in opposition to stand up and make sure the government are held to account for the fact that they do not care about integrity, and their track record shows it and it shows it in spades. I think Queenslanders deserve a whole heap better than what they are getting right now under this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House earlier this week, I now call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.37 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions during the cognate debate of the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. From the outset, I want to reiterate to this House the Palaszczuk government's deep appreciation and gratitude to our hardworking and dedicated public sector workers, especially those on the front line. COVID has magnified the critical role these workers play in keeping Queenslanders safe each and every day.

In my second reading speech, I spoke about how this debate was an opportunity for those opposite to apologise for their past actions and unfounded claims. I even provided some guidance on two topics: their outrageous and scaremongering comments concerning unfounded integrity allegations, which I might add they kept perpetuating with conspiracy theories that were unfounded and absolutely baseless, and their savage cuts to the Public Service. There was, however, no contrition, no apology, no atonement. Instead, we were subjected to historical revisionism. Like a broken record, everybody kept getting up and saying exactly the same thing in line with the script they were provided. Apparently, those opposite deeply respect and value our Public Service. All I can say is that actions speak louder than words, and the sacking of over 14,000 workers tells a very different story.

No-one was worried about their cost-of-living expenses and how they were going to provide for their families when they were ruthlessly sacked. Then to add insult to injury they indicated that they were actually made redundant, that they did not want them to go. It was, 'No, it wasn't us; it was them. They wanted to go. Nothing to see here. It's all okay.' Public sector workers have a right to safe, secure and dignified work. We are proud of our history in restoring fairness and job security for Queensland's public sector, and these reforms build upon this important work.

The public sector and its workers have a unique and critical role in supporting the government to reframe its relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queensland. This is underpinned by the Path to Treaty and Local Thriving Communities reforms. On this side of the House, we are committed to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart and supporting a Voice to Parliament. On that side of the House, who knows? They voted against it at their state council meeting over the weekend which was reported in the paper, but would not commit to a position yesterday. They all stood up and said that they did not read it or they did not understand it or they did not understand what the detail was, yet they came into this House yesterday with all of the excuses under the sun and failed to take a stand.

Those opposite also continue to peddle and perpetuate integrity claims that have been found demonstrably and beyond doubt—independent reviewers finding beyond doubt—not to be true. They continue to repeat them, and the persons that they continue to speak about have been cleared, every single one of them.

When it comes to integrity issues, those opposite have a long, sordid and disgraceful history. We have seen successive National and LNP governments embroiled in integrity scandals, reducing scrutiny and attacking integrity bodies. I can think of a lot worse things than this Labor government, let me tell you, but maybe the member for Currumbin was not born during the Fitzgerald Inquiry. Don't we all remember that one! It started then and has not subsided.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Ms GRACE: And they still did not learn! Then we had—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was calling the House to order. I will start warning members.

Ms GRACE: Then we turn to the disastrous, short-lived Newman government. It was absolutely amazing what went on in that short period of time of three years. Just like the Borbidge government made attempts to dismantle the CJC through the Connolly-Ryan inquiry, the Newman government followed in their footsteps and gutted the CMC. They sacked 26 staff, effectively hobbling its ability to investigate crime and corruption, subverted the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee until the former attorney-general, the member for Kawana, got sick of its scrutiny and sacked the whole committee, the majority made up of their own members, in the dead of night on 21 November 2013. They are the facts! Who else has sacked an entire committee of the parliament like that? None other than the member for Kawana! At every opportunity he does nothing more than stand with vicious and unprecedented attacks on our very democracy and people. Can I give a word of warning to the backbenchers? It is not working. It did not work in Victoria and it ain't gonna work here. Finally, because the CMC was still too effective at looking at crime and corruption, the LNP, including those now sitting opposite, dismantled it and replaced it with the CCC which had less powers and where the government could appoint its own commissioners.

Let's take a real look at the integrity of the other side. The member for Mudgeeraba had to resign as a minister after an investigation into her son's appointment to a position within disgraced former director-general Michael Caltabiano's department. Michael Caltabiano lobbied for the member for

Mudgeeraba's lobbyist firm. Michael Caltabiano, former Liberal MP and former state party president, was appointed the director-general of Transport in 2012. He was eventually stood down after it was revealed he had misled estimates about the relationship with the member for Mudgeeraba's son, but not until he had collected over \$650,000 from taxpayers.

Bruce Flegg had to resign as minister after he had had undeclared contacts with his lobbyist son. Mark Brodie, a close mate of Campbell Newman and the member for Clayfield, and LNP donor, was appointed to the Gladstone Ports Corporation. Jeff Seeney used his ministerial powers to help the owner of a caravan park in Maroochydore, against the wishes of the local council and his own department. The owner just happened to be an LNP donor who would have millions of dollars added to the value of his property overnight.

The member for Kawana strikes again: he awarded the contract for one of his boot camps—and we all remember the boot camps—to a company which donated \$5,500 to the LNP a week after being awarded the tender. The company's bid was twice the price of rival bidders and ranked 10th on the independent bid process.

The member for Nanango, when opposition leader, was accused of holding five fundraisers attended by prohibited donors in the 2020 election. The LNP head office were so concerned about this they asked the ECQ to investigate. Who could forget the integrity guru, the member for Maroochydore, who, as Speaker, was so afraid of scrutiny in the chamber that she banned TV cameras—twice!

I could go on, but the clock is against me. Those opposite have done nothing to distance themselves from, or call out, the abhorrent behaviour of Scott Morrison who appointed himself secretly to five ministries when prime minister—unprecedented! He did not tell the parliament, he did not tell the public and he did not even tell his own colleagues. How disappointed are they in him? Given the opportunity to condemn his actions, their LNP mates in Canberra instead voted against his parliamentary censure just today. Embarrassing! This is happening right now before our eyes, and they are in here drumming up rubbish. Those opposite have the temerity to come in here and talk about secrecy. This was behaviour that the inquiry by Justice Bell found 'fundamentally undermined'—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Ms GRACE: This is happening right now, members. You might not want to hear, but it is happening right now!

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Theodore, cease your injections.

Ms GRACE:—the principles of responsible government and was 'corrosive of trust in government'. They also have not raised concerns about his conduct as minister for social services as a result of the revelations from the robodebt inquiry or his sorry failure to deliver on a promise to establish a national anti-corruption commission, something that has been left to an Albanese federal Labor government to deliver. Who delivers on integrity? Labor does! Those opposite even go to an election promising it and, 'Oh, we forgot.' They had 10 years to get it done—no, not important. It was great to see this passed in the federal parliament today—delivered today, not after 10 years after promising it and delivered by a Labor government. I find it laughable when the member for Kawana comes in here today, on the same day that the former prime minister was censured by the House of Representatives, to lecture us about integrity in ministerial roles or ministerial transparency and accountability.

I find it interesting that the Greens have also lectured this side of the House about integrity. This is the same political party which, according to the *Courier-Mail*, face accusations from former members that it funnelled JobKeeper payments into the member for Maiwar's own election campaign. If they are not allegedly misusing JobKeeper payments, we all know they are being funded by gambling money which they then talk against. It is extraordinary! As the member for Redlands said in her speech, you could not write it if you wanted to. They also failed to adequately deal with in-house integrity issues, such as a recent scandal surrounding former deputy leader Lidia Thorpe, so I find it a bit rich hearing from them about integrity as well.

At the same time the Greens were in here last night getting on their high horses about integrity, their federal colleagues were actively delaying the passage of Labor's federal integrity bill, threatening to vote for the LNP amendments and jeopardising the passage of the National Anti-Corruption Commission Bill. We pass integrity laws; they play politics with integrity.

When it comes to the Public Sector Bill, I am immensely proud that a central component focuses on reframing its relationship with First Nations people. What a disappointment that the Greens could not even be bothered to turn up to debate our motion about the Uluru Statement yesterday. It is typical of the Greens: virtue signalling galore but never there when it really counts.

As I indicated at the commencement of this debate, these two bills represent significant milestones in delivering the government's commitments. The Public Sector Bill 2022 delivers on the commitment to ensure Queensland's public sector is fair, responsive, inclusive and a leader in public administration. The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 is the first tranche of legislative amendments, just like in the Public Sector Bill this is the second tranche, which they kept saying we had not done. However, I actually was the minister who led the Public Sector Bill reforms before the last election. Get it right, read the bill and understand what you are debating, instead of reading off a pre-prepared script. The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 is the first tranche of legislative amendments arising from Professor Peter Coaldrake's report, *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*.

I now turn to matters raised during the debate concerning the Public Sector Bill. The members for Broadwater and Moggill were critical of the time taken to implement the Bridgman review and suggested the delivery of the stage 2 reforms was only occurring because it is politically beneficial to do so. These are completely false assertions. The stage 1 reforms culminated in priority reforms being progressed quickly through the amendments to the Public Service Act 2008 in 2020, as I said. As foreshadowed at the time, this was the first tranche of the implementation of the Bridgman review. Since then extensive work has occurred on stage 2 reforms, including the development of a comprehensive new, modern public sector act, which is reflected in the bill. Implementing stage 2 reforms has been complex and time intensive. This included reviewing employment arrangements for around 230,000 public sector employees and consideration of the nature of over 200 public sector bodies. An extensive consultation process was also undertaken.

The member for Redlands noted in her speech the different demands on public sector employees and that many of them work in challenging and sometimes dangerous environments. The bill provides that, when deciding the person best suited to a position, the recruitment and selection process must consider each eligible applicant's ability to perform the requirements of the position. This could include the extent to which the person has the abilities, aptitude, skills, qualifications, knowledge, experience and personal qualities relevant to carrying out the duties of the position.

This bill has been the subject of extensive consultation with Queensland government agencies and public sector unions. As previously noted, the Palaszczuk government is committed to an integrated and responsive public sector that acts with purpose and integrity, focused on improving the lives of Queenslanders. That is why this bill replaces existing Public Service legislation with a modern, simplified and employee focused legislative framework that applies beyond the Public Service to the broader public sector.

The bill also introduces new forward-thinking changes to strengthen fairness and responsiveness. This includes recognising the role of the public sector in supporting the government to reframe its relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and establishing a nation-leading equity, diversity, respect and inclusion framework to ensure that the public sector is truly representative of the people it serves. This bill provides the legislative foundation for ensuring the public sector in Queensland is fair, responsive and inclusive and that this government is a leader in public administration. I commend the Public Sector Bill to the House.

I now turn to matters raised during the debate concerning the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Several opposition members criticised the lack of speed with which the Coaldrake report has been implemented. It took the Morrison government 10 years to implement an integrity system federally, and guess what? They got a big fat F because they failed; they did not do it.

The Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced on 14 October 2022—3½ months after the release of the Coaldrake report—and represents the first tranche of legislation.

An opposition member: How much? How much?

Ms GRACE: They cannot sit there and interject when their own federal government could not even establish a national integrity body in 10 years. That is unbelievable.

This bill represents the first tranche of legislation to strengthen the integrity and oversight framework of Queensland. Let me say there is no credibility opposite when it comes to these issues. Only Labor governments deliver.

As previously noted, the bill is the first tranche of amendments that demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to strengthen our integrity and oversight framework so that it remains contemporary and maintains and improves a culture of accountability. The bill continues the delivery of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to implement the reforms outlined in Professor Coaldrake's report. It will improve transparency and accountability of the public sector and its related delivery of services with further reforms building on this foundation to be considered and implemented in 2023.

I also note that the recommendation of the committee that considered both of these bills was that they be passed. I commend the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to the House.

Division: Question put—That the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a second time.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Incident in Public and Speaker's Galleries



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to make some comments related to the disturbance in the Legislative Assembly this morning during question time. The proceedings of the Assembly were intentionally disrupted by protestors. I immediately cleared the public gallery and the protestors were immediately removed from the precinct. The protestors brought protest material into the gallery hidden under clothes—skirts, shawls et cetera. In a particularly despicable act, cameras to film and live-stream the protest were brought in by accomplices using disabled access facilities for a wheelchair, thus avoiding metal detectors. Section 56 of the Criminal Code provides that any person who disturbs the Assembly or commits any disorderly conduct in the immediate view and presence of the Assembly intending to interrupt its proceedings commits a misdemeanour.

The security of the parliamentary precinct is a matter of utmost importance. Parliamentary Security is investigating this matter with all of the means at its disposal to obtain all necessary evidence in this matter. I intend to request that the Queensland Police Service charge the offenders who disturbed the Assembly today.

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Question put—That the Public Sector Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Ms GRACE (4.03 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, line 7, after 'and 56'—

insert—

and part 3A

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

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [\[2009\]](#).

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [\[2010\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



Ms GRACE (4.03 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 15 (Amendment of s 35 (Audits at request of Legislative Assembly))

Page 18, lines 1 to 8—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 15 omitted.

Clauses 16 to 18, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19—



Ms SIMPSON (4.03 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 19 (Amendment of s 56 (Audit fees))

Page 19, lines 7 to 13—

omit, insert—

(1) Section 56(1), after 'charge'—

insert—

reasonable

(2) Section 56(3) and (4)—

omit.

(3) Section 56(5)—

renumber as section 56(3).

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

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Ms Fiona Simpson's amendments [\[2011\]](#).

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Ms Fiona Simpson's amendments [\[2012\]](#).

We have two amendments that are complementary, but I wish to voice my concern regarding the independence of the Auditor-General. While there are other measures in the legislation that we welcome that strengthen the independence of the Auditor-General as an independent officer of the parliament, there is a recommendation of the Coaldrake report that has not been adopted by the government, and that is to truly give an independent means for the Auditor-General to set their own fees.

It was interesting to read the Auditor-General's submission to this legislation. He remarked on the current arrangement whereby there is a requirement for the Treasurer to approve the Auditor-General's basic fee rate. He said that this is unique. We acknowledge the foreshadowed government amendment, but that would still require a parliamentary committee to approve fees and take the advice of the Treasurer. We believe that this is a backdoor way for the treasurer of the day to not take his or her fingers off the Auditor-General's independence and to retain an ability to set audit fees. Our first amendment is to ensure that audit fees are reasonable. As the Auditor-General outlined in his submission, there are a number of matters he takes into consideration when setting audit fees.

For this government not to adopt the Coaldrake report lock, stock and barrel—the way that they said they would—is very disappointing. We want to ensure the Coaldrake recommendation to give the Auditor-General the independence to set their own fee rate is adhered to. What the government is proposing—to put it to a committee that can take the advice of the Treasurer—is in fact a backdoor way

of allowing Labor members, who dominate these committees, to take advice and still implement the will of the government but from the shadows and away from scrutiny. It is far more important that this independent role is respected and given the tools to be independent and not shackled by covert means whereby Labor members can assert the will of the government by using their numbers on the parliamentary committee. We will be endorsing the Coaldrake recommendation to truly allow the Auditor-General to set their own fees, to enable them to act as an independent officer of the parliament. I seek the House's support of this amendment.

(Time expired)

Ms GRACE: We do not support the amendment. Unfortunately, the shadow minister for integrity, who is moving these amendments, has not taken the time to consider the full situation and the integrity landscape. The government has accepted that steps need to be taken to enhance the Auditor-General's independence; however, as a taxpayer funded body itself, doing work for the Queensland taxpayer, there still needs to be some level of oversight and accountability regarding the operations of the entity. The recommendation stated that the Auditor-General be allowed to independently set basic rates for audit fees without the Treasurer's approval, and that is exactly what the bill seeks to achieve, with the added measure of oversight of the parliamentary committee which is charged with overseeing the Auditor-General.

These are important issues and amendments that have been raised, so I will speak in some detail about this crucial part of the bill. Queenslanders would not expect that an entity could go about its business, increasing fees and charges, without some degree of oversight and accountability—especially the Auditor-General, whose purpose is to ensure the correct governance and operations of government. The very person who governs the operations and governance of government would, if these amendments were passed, have no oversight. They would reduce the governance of those who are implementing the governance. It is nonsensical.

While I note that the shadow minister has not had any experience as a minister, I can inform the House that good governance is vital to the operation of any entity, and it is important that proper safeguards and measures are put in place. As such, the legislation before the House today seeks to strike the right balance between allowing the Auditor-General to set basic fees independent of the treasurer of the day and maintaining a degree of oversight.

The legislation also provides for matters which the parliamentary committee 'may' consider. It does not say that it 'must' consider which is a clear distinction which has been lost by those opposite. It is clear that those opposite, in particular the shadow minister for integrity, have not taken the time to sit down and read the legislation before the House to better understand it. I cannot imagine the Auditor-General suggesting that any entity of the government not be subjected to any oversight. I would walk backwards if I ever heard an Auditor-General suggest that, so, member for Maroochydore, do not wave a document around suggesting such nonsense. It is clear that those opposite—

Ms Simpson: I can table it if you want!

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Comments will be directed through the chair, member for Maroochydore, as they will be for you, Minister.

Ms GRACE: If they had it would be clear to them—

Ms Simpson interjected.

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

Ms GRACE:—like it is clear to many, that the legislation enables the Auditor-General to set its own basic fees with the approval of the parliamentary committee, with the parliamentary committee able to take into account a number of factors including, but not limited to, the government rate of indexation for the financial year—a very reasonable part to put into the act. It cannot be simpler. Those opposite propose to remove this section entirely and remove any oversight of the parliamentary committee which would leave open for the Auditor-General to set and increase fees without parliamentary committee involvement. Those opposite want to remove the whole clause or any form of oversight of not only the parliamentary committee but no-one or nobody which is the overall theme of integrity and accountability. That is not very accountable to ultimately the people of Queensland which this position seeks to serve.

In addition, this position, by virtue of this legislation, will become an officer of the parliament. This is a unique role and the position should be answerable to the Queensland parliament. As elected members of parliament we have a duty to serve our constituents and one of the ways we serve them is by ensuring that their government and independent bodies are acting appropriately in accordance

with law, proper governance and in their best interests. I would have thought that a former Speaker would understand the importance of this chamber and the importance of this parliament to respect that an officer of the parliament should be accountable to the parliament and, by that very nature, the people of this great state. It is amazing that a shadow integrity minister is suggesting this.

It is therefore absolutely astonishing that those opposite seek to repeal an element of the bill which charges the parliamentary committee with an oversight function. They do not understand the intent of the bill and the overall policy intent. Have they not discussed it in detail in their shadow cabinet meetings, or have they not met on this issue? In all seriousness, it is highly unusual that a shadow integrity minister would come into this chamber and seek to move amendments that diminish the accountability and integrity framework regarding an independent body. It just beggars belief.

In relation to this element of the bill, we also heard arguments from many opposite that somehow the parliamentary committee would get its riding instructions from the executive government and off it would go and implement them without any thought. It is like they are saying that parliamentary committees are mere mindless drones which take instructions and then action them blindly and without consideration. This is an absolute joke of an argument and an affront to the many hardworking committee members in this chamber who do their work on behalf of the people of Queensland day in and day out and get paid well for it.

I was thinking about these statements by those opposite mooting that somehow the executive would infiltrate parliamentary committees with instructions and it dawned on me: is that the way they operated when they were in government? We know that those opposite have no respect for the committee system as they trashed it when they were in government. They sacked the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in the dead of night. Who would do that? That is right: they came into this chamber, moved a motion and the next minute it was gone. That is a fact, and guess who was the attorney-general at the time? The worst attorney-general in living history—well, history in fact: the member for Kawana, the most integrity-void member who sits opposite. Those opposite even messed around with the estimates process and put them across just two days instead of two weeks. It is no wonder that they come in here today and seek to move to withdraw an important oversight measure of a committee charged with overseeing one of the most important integrity bodies in Queensland—the Queensland Audit Office—which will now be an officer of the parliament.

I note with interest that, instead of the parliamentary committee overseeing the body in particular for the important function of setting basic fees, the member is proposing to allow the Auditor-General to charge reasonable fees for the audit conducted by the Auditor-General. I ask: what is reasonable? Is \$100 reasonable? Is \$500 reasonable? Is \$1,000 reasonable? It is subjective at the end of the day and that is why we need a strong check and balance system to be put in place, and that is what the parliamentary committee will be charged to do under the bill before the House today. The amendment before us moved by the member for Maroochydore speaks volumes. It is clear from this amendment that those opposite do not understand the broader integrity framework of our integrity bodies, do not understand the importance of oversight of our integrity bodies and do not understand that the bill before the House achieves what the recommendation is seeking—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory!

Ms GRACE:—and that is to remove the Treasurer from the approval process. It is also clear that those opposite have no respect for the parliamentary committee process, in particular the important oversight function it seeks to serve, or otherwise they would not be moving this amendment. It is also clear that the shadow minister for integrity and those opposite have no respect for parliamentary committees to do their job in the parameters set by this House without undue interference by external bodies or people to discharge their duties to the people of Queensland.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory!

Ms GRACE: It is unfortunate that those opposite have moved this amendment, but it is certainly not surprising. For the reasons outlined, the government will not be supporting the amendment moved by the so-called shadow minister for integrity.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Clayfield: member for Cairns, member for Gregory, member for Logan and member for Pine Rivers, you are all warned under the standing orders. I inadvertently warned the member for Maroochydore earlier. I meant to caution her, so she is not on a warning. I hope that lasts, member for Maroochydore.

Mr NICHOLLS: Coming from the worst industrial relations minister in history and the worst racing minister in history and the minister with the record for passing the most amendments on a bill that they introduced themselves in history—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has taken personal offence. Member, will you withdraw?

Mr NICHOLLS: Of course I withdraw, Mr Speaker. Coming from the minister who had the record for speaking longest in relation to amendments to a bill that her own side of parliament introduced to criticise one amendment from the member for Maroochydore really is the height of hypocrisy. Remember, this is the minister who told us the poor would always be with us. Remember that one? I remember that one. That was her answer to the youth unemployment problem: 'They will always be with us.' I simply say to the House that if that is the experience the Labor Party has we want none of it; we will take the member for Maroochydore every day of the week.

In terms of the amendment that has been moved by the member for Maroochydore, that amendment simply conforms with the advice that was given by the Auditor-General to the parliamentary committee. He raised concerns about the mechanism in there to refer to the government indexation rate, the GIR, and the ability to seek advice from the Treasurer in relation to the rate that he sets. The Auditor-General's rate goes two ways: there is the rate per hour that is set and then the actual cost is the number of hours it works at that rate. The actual cost of an audit by the Auditor-General depends on the extent of the job that is agreed to between the audit client and the Auditor-General. If clients say they want it this big, then it is that much; if they want it smaller, then it is smaller. That is clearly set out by the Auditor-General not only in his written submission but also in his testimony to the committee.

I noted with interest the committee report and I noted with interest the foreword to the committee report by the member for Logan. There was one area where I agreed with the member for Logan—which is rare enough, so that is why it stuck out—and that is in relation to the Auditor-General having to comply with a direction from the parliament to carry out an audit, and that is the difference between the words 'may' and 'must', and I agree with that amendment being made.

There is one area where I did not agree with the member for Logan and that is where he uses words to the effect that the Auditor-General indicated that there should be no expansion of the power of committees to oversight independent officers. The member for Logan, as I read the testimony, questioned the Auditor-General seven times in relation to that and the Auditor-General was very clear each time as to his concerns regarding the independence of an officer of the parliament to carry out his job and his concern in relation to the powers of the committee and the committee's oversight. In fact, he says he has no trouble with oversight. Contrary to what the minister says, there has been no argument there should be no oversight. It is who exercises the oversight. That oversight is exercised by the parliamentary committee of a statutory officer. The amendment is entirely appropriate. It accords entirely with what the Auditor-General says and it accords entirely with the role of this parliament and should be supported.

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

AYES, 33:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Watts, Weir.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 50:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Bailey, Camm; Mellish, Stevens.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Simpson) negatived.

Clause 19, as read, agreed to.

Clause 20—



Ms SIMPSON (4.25 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 20 (Insertion of new s 56A)

Page 19, lines 14 to 28 and page 20, lines 1 to 34—

omit.

I wish to address the issues that the minister slandered me for. It is most unfortunate that it was more a personal attack than it was about the issues that the Auditor-General had raised.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I debated the question. I take offence. That was really unparliamentary language.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister takes offence to those comments. Member for Maroochydore, will you withdraw?

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. I want to address the issues that have been raised by the Auditor-General. I thank my colleague the member for Clayfield, who quoted a section from the Auditor-General's submission, in particular the concern that had been raised by the Auditor-General about requirements for a parliamentary committee to give consideration to the GIR. He stated—

Including these requirements in the legislation could be perceived or interpreted as giving the GIR a greater weighting than I believe is appropriate. It could also give rise to a perception that our basic rate of fees should in practice be linked to the GIR (a government policy requirement). This would go against the principle on which Professor Coaldrake's recommendation is based, that is, allowing the Auditor-General to independently set the basic rate of fees.

He continues—

I acknowledge that the Auditor-General must remain accountable for ensuring the fees charged for audit services remain reasonable. In addition to the proposed new requirement for the committee to approve the basic fee rates, this will also be achieved through continuing existing practices including:

- establishing QAO's annual budget
- 5-yearly strategic reviews of QAO which typically includes an assessment of the reasonableness of our audit fees and the efficiency of the QAO
- communicating our proposed audit fees to the chief executives, boards, and audit committees of our clients in the audit plans we provide to them at the commencement of our annual financial audits.

I was quoting from the Auditor-General, but apparently that is anathema for the minister who chose to attack me. I get that it is easy to attack and slander the person rather than look at the issue. I support parliamentary committees continuing to have oversight of the Auditor-General, but what I do not support is the back door way of a Labor Treasurer getting his way by bringing about pressure on Labor members on some committees, which I think is a genuine concern. When I saw the submission of the Auditor-General saying, in respect to the GIR—that is, the government rate—'This would go against the principle on which Professor Coaldrake's recommendation is based, that is, allowing the Auditor-General to independently set the basic rate of fees,' I thought that was a reasonable concern to raise before this House, but apparently the minister's answer is to attack me. That is the easy option, but it is not appropriate when we are standing for the independence of the Auditor-General.

Non-government amendment (Ms Simpson) negatived.

Clause 20, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 59, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Ms GRACE (4.29 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms GRACE: I move the following amendment—

3 After clause 59

Page 42, after line 20—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Magistrates Act 1991

59A Act amended

This part amends the *Magistrates Act 1991*.

59B Insertion of new pt 10, div 11

Part 10—

*insert—***Division 11 Validation provision for particular acting magistrates****74 Validation of purported appointment of particular acting magistrates**

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) during the period from 27 June 2019 to 1 July 2022 a person was purportedly appointed to act as a magistrate under section 6(1)(b); and
 - (b) on the day of the purported appointment the person was 70 years or more.
- (2) It is declared that the purported appointment of the person is, was and always has been, as valid as it would be or would have been had the person been less than 70 years throughout the period of the purported appointment.
- (3) It is also declared that—
- (a) a relevant exercise of jurisdiction by the person is, was and always has been as valid as it would be or would have been had the person been less than 70 years throughout the period of the purported appointment; and
 - (b) the person did not cease to act as a magistrate under section 42(d) only because the person was 70 years or more while purportedly acting as a magistrate.
- (4) In this section—
- relevant exercise of jurisdiction**, by a person, means an exercise of the jurisdiction, powers and functions conferred on a magistrate, or on 2 justices, by or under any law of the State (including the making of any decision or order), by the person, during the period of the purported appointment of the person to act as a magistrate.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 60 to 69, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Public Sector Bill

Clauses 1 to 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—

**Ms GRACE** (4.30 pm): I move the following amendment—**1****Clause 12 (Who is a public sector employee)**

Page 31, line 25, 'subsection (2)'—

omit, insert—

subsection (1) or (2)

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

Tabled paper: Public Sector Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [2013].

Tabled paper: Public Sector Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [2014].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 24, as read, agreed to.

Clause 25—

**Dr MacMAHON** (4.31 pm): I move the following amendment—**1****Clause 25 (Definitions for chapter)**

Page 40, after line 23—

insert—

- (da) people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or intersex variations;

This amendment would include LGBTIQ+ people in the bill's diversity target groups alongside women, First Nations people, disabled people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. A schoolteacher, via the Queensland Teachers' Union, submitted the following to the committee—

I had applied for a job as a principal and won the position. As soon as my sexuality was divulged, the college took that position away from me. There were community discussions held without me being present, and I was compared to being a paedophile.

It is ludicrous to suggest that LGBTIQ+ people do not face discrimination in the public sector or that they are fairly treated and represented in the Public Service.

The Queensland Teachers' Union raised in their submission that the disadvantage experienced by members of the LGBTIQ+ community warrants their inclusion as a fifth diversity target group. They noted the government's assertion that there is no evidence base to suggest that LGBTIQ+ people require a targeted response, but they reject it. The Human Rights Commission also agrees that this government should be including LGBTIQ+ people in the diversity target groups as does the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, the Queensland Council of Unions and the Australian Services Union.

It is so important for young people that the identities and experiences of their mentors correlate with their own. This is true not only for young LGBTIQ+ people but also for young people who are women, disabled, First Nations or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The benefits to the public when the Public Service is representative of the people they serve and represent is not limited to teaching. It is essential that our Public Service is representative of the people it serves for it to operate effectively, efficiently and with compassion and fairness. I am calling on the government, in this chamber, to stand up for queer rights, for trans rights, for the rights of intersex people and for the rights of the entire LGBTIQ+ community.

Ms GRACE: We do not support this amendment. I am very supportive of the LGBT-queer-plus community. The visibility of this cohort is enhanced under the bill by requiring entities to promote a culture of respect and inclusion, including for people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or intersex variations. Expressing this as a target group—and we have had discussions with some of those—in a way, and as the parent of a non-binary child, is asking them to disclose their gender orientation, their sexuality or whether they are a member of the LGBT-queer-plus community. In many cases workers may not want to do that. They may choose not to disclose whether they are a member of those communities.

By making this a target group somehow there will be a need to report. The Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity, will use data collected through the Working for Queensland survey to inform future policy directions, but that is where somebody decides, of their own accord, to offer that information. To have this as a group and somehow want to have a target and ask people these questions—sometimes they may be very comfortable in answering those questions; in other cases they may not. They may still be transitioning, they may still be on a journey and they may still be trying to find their niche in this world. My child is one of them and I am sure many others in this place know people on a similar journey. That is the main reason we have all of the protections.

This is not about discrimination. What the member outlined is direct discrimination. That is completely separate to this area in the bill. Read it. Understand it. For that reason, we do not support it.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage having now expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

The House is considering the Public Sector Bill. I note the minister's amendments Nos 7 and 8 are outside the long title of the bill and, therefore, require leave of the House.

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 2 to 9, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

2 Clause 81 (Basis of employment—generally on permanent basis)

Page 72, lines 5 to 7, from 'under this Act' to 'another basis'—

omit, insert—

on a non-permanent basis under this Act or another Act that enables the person to be employed on a non-permanent basis

3 Clause 81 (Basis of employment—generally on permanent basis)

Page 72, line 12, 'a person'—

omit, insert—

the employee

4 Clause 112 (Application of division)

Page 98, after line 22—

insert—

- (3) Also, if the chief executive of a public sector employee mentioned in subsection (1)(b) is permitted or required to offer to convert the employee's employment to a permanent basis under this division, despite anything in another Act, the employee may be employed on a permanent basis.

5 Clause 254 (Minister or council may ask for public sector review)

Page 176, after line 22—

insert—

- (ea) the Electoral Commission of Queensland established under the *Electoral Act 1992*;
 (eb) the Queensland Human Rights Commission established under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*;

6 Clause 268 (Application of part)Page 185, lines 20 and 21, from 'or' to '*Industrial Relations Act 2016*'—*omit, insert—*

, commissioner under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, or judge or member of another court of record

7 After clause 336

Page 218, after line 6—

*insert—***Part 2A Amendment of Anti-Discrimination Act 1991****336A Act amended**This part amends the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*.*Note—*

See also the amendments in schedule 3.

336B Insertion of new ch 9, pt 2

Chapter 9—

*insert—***Part 2 Strategic reviews****247 Strategic review of commission**

- (1) Strategic reviews of the commission are to be conducted under this part.
- (2) A strategic review is to be conducted at least every 5 years, counting from when the report (the **earlier report**) for the most recent earlier strategic review was given to the Minister and the commissioner under section 249(4), up to when the reviewer is appointed under subsection (4) to undertake the latest strategic review.
- (3) However, if the parliamentary committee reported to the Legislative Assembly about the earlier report, and the committee's report made recommendations to which a Minister was required to respond under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 107, the 5 years is counted from when the Minister's response was tabled under that section.
- (4) Each strategic review is to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified person (**reviewer**), appointed by the Governor in Council, who is to give a report on the review under section 249.
- (5) For subsection (4), a corporation is an appropriately qualified person if a director, employee or other staff member of the corporation is appropriately qualified to undertake the review.
- (6) The terms of reference for a strategic review are to be decided by the Governor in Council.
- (7) Before a reviewer is appointed to conduct a strategic review, the Minister must consult with the parliamentary committee and the commissioner about—
- (a) the appointment of the reviewer; and
- (b) the terms of reference for the review.
- (8) The remuneration and other terms of appointment of the reviewer are as decided by the Governor in Council.
- (9) In this section—
- strategic review** includes—
- (a) a review of the commission's functions; and
- (b) a review of the commission's performance of the functions to assess whether they are being performed economically, effectively and efficiently.

248 Conduct of strategic review

In conducting a strategic review—

- (a) the reviewer has the powers an authorised auditor has under the *Auditor-General Act 2009* for an audit of an entity; and
- (b) that Act and other Acts apply to the reviewer as if the reviewer were an authorised auditor conducting an audit of an entity.

249 Report of strategic review

- (1) The reviewer for a strategic review must give a copy of the proposed report on the review to the Minister and the commissioner.
- (2) The commissioner may, within 21 days after receiving the proposed report, give the reviewer written comments on anything in the proposed report.
- (3) If the commissioner comments under subsection (2), the reviewer must—
 - (a) if the reviewer and commissioner can agree about how to dispose of a comment—incorporate into the report any agreed amendment necessary to dispose of the comment; or
 - (b) if the reviewer and commissioner can not agree about how to dispose of a comment—include the comment, in full, in the report.
- (4) After complying with subsections (1) and (3), the reviewer must give the report (**review report**) to the Minister and the commissioner.
- (5) The review report must be the same as the proposed report given to the Minister and the commissioner under subsection (1), apart from the changes made under subsection (3).
- (6) The Minister must table the review report in the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after the Minister receives the report.
- (7) For the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 92(2), the report is referred to the parliamentary committee.

336C Insertion of new ch 11, pt 8

Chapter 11—

insert—

Part 8 Transitional provision for Public Sector Act 2022**280 First strategic review of commission after commencement**

Despite section 247(2), the first strategic review of the commission under chapter 9, part 2 is to be conducted within 4 years after the commencement.

336D Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)

Schedule 1—

insert—

parliamentary committee means—

- (a) if the Legislative Assembly resolves that a particular committee of the Assembly is to be the parliamentary committee under this Act—that committee; or
- (b) if paragraph (a) does not apply and the standing rules and orders state that the portfolio area of a portfolio committee includes the commissioner—that committee; or
- (c) otherwise—the portfolio committee whose portfolio area includes the department, or the part of a department, in which this Act is administered.

8 After clause 341

Page 220, after line 28—

insert—

Part 4A Amendment of Electoral Act 1992**341A Act amended**

This part amends the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Note—

See also the amendments in schedule 3.

341B Insertion of new pt 2, div 4

Part 2—

*insert—***Division 4 Strategic reviews****33A Strategic review of commission and commissioners**

- (1) Strategic reviews of the commission and commissioners are to be conducted under this division.
- (2) A strategic review is to be conducted at least every 5 years, counting from when the report (the **earlier report**) for the most recent earlier strategic review was given to the Minister and the electoral commissioner under section 33C(4), up to when the reviewer is appointed under subsection (4) to undertake the latest strategic review.
- (3) However, if the parliamentary committee reported to the Legislative Assembly about the earlier report, and the committee's report made recommendations to which a Minister was required to respond under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 107, the 5 years is counted from when the Minister's response was tabled under that section.
- (4) Each strategic review is to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified person (**reviewer**), appointed by the Governor in Council, who is to give a report on the review under section 33C.
- (5) For subsection (4), a corporation is an appropriately qualified person if a director, employee or other staff member of the corporation is appropriately qualified to undertake the review.
- (6) The terms of reference for a strategic review are to be decided by the Governor in Council.
- (7) Before a reviewer is appointed to conduct a strategic review, the Minister must consult with the parliamentary committee and the electoral commissioner about—
 - (a) the appointment of the reviewer; and
 - (b) the terms of reference for the review.
- (8) The remuneration and other terms of appointment of the reviewer are as decided by the Governor in Council.
- (9) In this section—

strategic review includes—

 - (a) a review of the functions of the commission and commissioners; and
 - (b) a review of the performance of the functions of the commission and commissioners to assess whether they are being performed economically, effectively and efficiently.

33B Conduct of strategic review

In conducting a strategic review—

- (a) the reviewer has the powers an authorised auditor has under the *Auditor-General Act 2009* for an audit of an entity; and
- (b) that Act and other Acts apply to the reviewer as if the reviewer were an authorised auditor conducting an audit of an entity.

33C Report of strategic review

- (1) The reviewer for a strategic review must give a copy of the proposed report on the review to the Minister and the electoral commissioner.
- (2) The electoral commissioner may, within 21 days after receiving the proposed report, give the reviewer written comments on anything in the proposed report.
- (3) If the electoral commissioner comments under subsection (2), the reviewer must—
 - (a) if the reviewer and electoral commissioner can agree about how to dispose of a comment—incorporate into the report any agreed amendment necessary to dispose of the comment; or
 - (b) if the reviewer and electoral commissioner can not agree about how to dispose of a comment—include the comment, in full, in the report.
- (4) After complying with subsections (1) and (3), the reviewer must give the report (**review report**) to the Minister and the electoral commissioner.
- (5) The review report must be the same as the proposed report given to the Minister and the electoral commissioner under subsection (1), apart from the changes made under subsection (3).
- (6) The Minister must table the review report in the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after the Minister receives the report.
- (7) For the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 92(2), the report is referred to the parliamentary committee.

33D Power of Minister to postpone strategic review

- (1) The Minister may postpone a strategic review to be conducted under this division by not more than 2 years starting at the end of the 5-year period counted under section 33A(2) or (3).
- (2) The Minister may exercise the power under subsection (1) only if the Minister—
 - (a) is satisfied the postponement is necessary having regard to the commission's functions in conducting a general election or a quadrennial election; and
 - (b) has consulted with, and had regard to the views of, the electoral commissioner and the parliamentary committee about the postponement and the length of the postponement.
- (3) The Minister may exercise the power under subsection (1) only once in each 5-year period counted under section 33A(2) or (3).
- (4) If the Minister exercises the power under subsection (1), the Minister must table a notice stating—
 - (a) the length of the postponement; and
 - (b) the reasons for the postponement.
- (5) The Minister must table the notice before the end of the 5-year period counted under section 33A(2) or (3).
- (6) In this section—

quadrennial election see the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, schedule 2.

341C Insertion of new pt 13, div 12

Part 13—

insert—

Division 12 Transitional provision for Public Sector Act 2022**450 First strategic review of commission and commissioners after commencement**

- (1) Despite section 33A(2), the first strategic review of the commission and commissioners under part 2, division 4 is to be conducted within 12 months after the day the writ is returned for the first general election after the commencement.
- (2) The power of the Minister to postpone a strategic review under section 33D applies to the first strategic review mentioned in subsection (1).

9 Schedule 1 (Public service entities under section 9(b))

Page 233, after entry for Family Responsibilities Commission Registry—

insert—

Gasfields Commission

chief executive officer under the *Gasfields Commission Act 2013*

Question put—That clauses 25 to 365 and schedules 1 to 3, as amended, agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 25 to 365 and schedules 1 to 3, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)**Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill**

Question put—That the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Public Sector Bill

Question put—That the Public Sector Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 4 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

4 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Integrity Act 2009*,'—
insert—

the *Magistrates Act 1991*,

Question put—That the long title of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Public Sector Bill

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 10 to 12 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

10 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*,'—
insert—

the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*,

11 Long title

Long title, before 'the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*,'—
insert—

the *Corrective Services Act 2006*,

12 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*,'—
insert—

the *Electoral Act 1992*,

Question put—That the long title of the Public Sector Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 12 May (see p. 1141).

Second Reading



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (4.38 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to speak to the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 that I introduced into the Queensland parliament on 12 May this year. The bill before the House reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring Queensland's high standard of animal welfare is upheld in legislation whilst having regard to contemporary community expectations, scientific understanding and practices.

The bill will strengthen the framework of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, introducing new penalties and enhancing inspectors' powers. The Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals Queensland, other key stakeholders and the committee were engaged and consulted in a review of the act in 2021 led by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The bill amends the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936, the Racing Integrity Act 2016 and the Disability Services Act 2006 to: facilitate the ethical use of animals for scientific purposes while protecting their welfare; strengthen enforcement powers to address risks to animal welfare by clarifying or prescribing new offences; prohibit inhumane practices such as the firing or blistering of legs of dogs or horses, the use of prong collars and the use of certain poisons on pest animals; create an approved accreditation scheme which allows a non-veterinarian to perform certain procedures on cattle, including lay pregnancy testing; clarify legislation and remove redundant provisions; and implement recommendations of the Martin inquiry, including those related to the monitoring of livestock slaughter facilities.

I wish to highlight the introduction of an aggravated breach of duty of care offence, intended for circumstances where an animal has died or suffered prolonged suffering as a result of a person's failure to fulfil their duty of care. The offence now carries a significant penalty to reflect Queenslanders' expectations of how animal neglect should be managed. That is, an aggravated breach of duty of care will be equivalent to the penalty for animal cruelty.

The bill also implements recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office to strengthen oversight of RSPCA Queensland's provision of inspectorate services for the state. These amendments represent major improvements to the accountability of inspectors and will build greater public confidence in the delivery of animal welfare services.

Queenslanders are passionate about their animals. They form close bonds with their pet dogs or cats, they care for the animals they farm and they are caring towards the diverse wildlife that calls our state home. This legislation should reflect that passion and that level of care, not out of some ideological position but as a reflection of who we are as a community.

This bill is the result of significant consultation with Queenslanders. My Department of Agriculture and Fisheries put out a discussion paper last year and sought public views. A total of 914 written submissions and another 1,439 survey responses helped to inform the shape of the bill that I introduce into this chamber. I have heard passionate pleas for the legislation to include or exclude certain provisions. I believe that the legislation we have put forward takes as much of that feedback into account as possible and is a fair and true representation of what Queenslanders expect from their animal welfare laws.

I had the pleasure of catching up with a passionate group of dog lovers, Tiny Barks Big Hearts, at Stackpole Street dog park, Wishart, in the electorate of the member for Mansfield just the other week. We had a great chat about the additional protections afforded to Queensland animals via this bill. I know there has been plenty of discussion and debate across the state, with a range of views expressed on the individual provisions of this bill. One measure that has come under particular close scrutiny is the ban on prong collars. The previous federal government oversaw the laws that maintained a prohibition on the importation of prong collars. The ban was put in place because of the risk these collars pose to dogs. While there was strong advocacy against a ban from certain animal trainers, the advocacy did not outweigh the concerns that exist over these collars that cause pain and fear in animals made to wear them and that pain and fear is used as a punishment in a training setting.

The advocacy also did not outweigh the research showing that the use of aversive training methods—including the use of prong collars—causes pain and distress and can compromise animal welfare. Much of the advocacy for allowing prong collars centred on the notion the collars are effective and safe for animals if they are used correctly by a trained person who understands the risks of improper use. It is not practical to establish an expensive and bureaucratic regime of licensing for the use of prong collars when the risk of harm from improper use would remain high. The costs of such misuse include physical injuries such as bruising, scratching and punctures of the skin around the neck of the animal and, over time, the build-up of scar tissue in the areas affected by the collar. In extreme but rare cases, prong collars have been associated with spinal cord injuries and other severe injuries.

The argument was made that removing access to prong collars removes an option for the training of dogs that might otherwise be dangerous. Significant support for the banning of prong collars, however, shows that Queenslanders expect our dog owners and trainers to do better than putting animals at risk of this kind of injury.

This bill would insert a new section 37A into the Animal Care and Protection Act to prohibit the possession or use of a prong collar or other prescribed restraint device. The inclusion of 'other prescribed device' in the new provision makes it possible for any new device which is not a prong collar but which could cause similar levels of harm or risk to an animal to also be prohibited through regulation.

The bill inserts a new section 37B enabling certain types of tree netting used in protecting fruit trees to be prescribed. This aligns Queensland with recent provisions in Victorian regulations designed to minimise the harm to animals.

There has been public commentary around the role and powers of inspectors when doing their job supporting animal welfare. I welcome the recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office, which made constructive suggestions about how this system could work better by clarifying the powers of inspectors. We have a system that involves some inspectors working for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and some who work for RSPCA Queensland. The system has served us well; however, this bill will provide the clarity that was recommended by the QAO and make roles and responsibilities more clear.

Under this bill, the chief executive will have oversight of recommendations from inspectors for prosecutions and related proposals for charge and plea negotiations between defendants and prosecutors before cases reach court. It will give the chief executive access to all information collected by inspectors via investigations and prosecutions. The amendments put forward include requirements for managing any conflicts of interest and will require a publicly available fee schedule for reasonable costs in relation to animals that are seized and subsequently cared for.

I want to put on record that RSPCA Queensland does a remarkable job in contributing to the welfare of animals in this state, especially in our cities and major regional centres. These new measures will support the RSPCA and ensure that the standing and level of respect in which that organisation is already held is enhanced. The bill provides clarity on the power of inspectors to enter a premises to relieve the suffering of an animal that has been left in distress. Imagine a dog left tied up in the hot sun for hours with no access to water and suffering clear signs of heat stress and possible severe injury. These provisions clarify the entry powers for inspectors to provide relief to such an animal.

The Animal Care and Protection Act already contains provisions for significant penalties for cruel and damaging acts against animals. We know that deliberate acts of harm against animals occur. These acts are deplored by the vast majority of Queenslanders. The severe penalties available to courts in these circumstances are both appropriate and supported by Queenslanders. We also know that harm can be caused to animals through neglect and disregard, with just as much impact as deliberate acts of cruelty. As minister I have been made aware of cases where more than a dozen horses have passed away on a Queensland property—not through deliberate abuse but through neglect and failure.

The bill before parliament creates a new offence of aggravated breach of duty of care to make it absolutely clear under the act that, where a duty of care for an animal exists, the responsible person has an obligation to ensure that duty is carried out and faces potentially severe consequences if they do not. Under these amended provisions to section 17, the aggravated offence will attract a penalty of up to three years imprisonment and fines of up to 2,000 penalty units, which right now equates to \$287,500.

The penalties are equivalent to the maximum penalties for aggravated cruelty to an animal, and for good reason. That reason is the impact on the animal. The aggravated offence provision which attracts the harsher penalty is in recognition that an animal suffers significant pain and distress when they die or are at risk of dying because they are starving, dehydrated or not being provided veterinary care. This new offence reflects the community's expectations that offences which subject animals to gross neglect should draw higher penalties. The maximum penalty is justified because of the seriousness of the offence and is consistent with the cruelty offence under section 18, 'Animal cruelty prohibited', which provides for the equivalent maximum penalty.

The maximum monetary penalty is higher than that imposed in most Australian states, while the three-year prison sentence is comparable with prison sentences for aggravated cruelty in other Australian jurisdictions and in New Zealand. The message to animal owners is clear: if you leave your animal to starve, if you fail to provide your animal with urgently needed veterinary care, if you knowingly fail to prevent the neglect of your animals and your animal suffers severe pain, disability or death as a result of your neglect, you will face serious consequences under these new, tougher laws.

Queensland's multibillion dollar cattle industry has advocated for some time for the government to allow laypeople to carry out certain procedures on cattle, including pregnancy testing. This bill makes provision for accredited people who are not veterinary surgeons to carry out procedures for the spaying or pregnancy testing of cattle. It gives the chief executive oversight of accreditation processes to ensure that only suitably trained and qualified people are allowed to carry out those procedures. The bill will make it an offence for a person who is neither a veterinary surgeon nor a suitably accredited person to carry out such a procedure, with a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment or a fine of 300 penalty units.

Through the consultation process, the Australian Veterinary Association raised concerns about proposals to allow laypersons in scientific research settings to conduct procedures otherwise restricted to veterinary surgeons, and acts of veterinary science and accreditation of laypersons spaying and pregnancy testing cattle. Their concerns centred around the capacity of non-veterinary surgeons to carry out procedures safely and respond to any emergencies that arise during the procedure.

With regard to lay spaying and pregnancy testing of cattle, it is considered that these concerns can be addressed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries working with accreditation scheme owners to ensure adequate input from veterinary surgeons into the training and assessment of lay spayers and pregnancy testers and encouraging the provision of on-call veterinary advice to lay spayers and pregnancy testers. There are significant benefits to industry in reduced veterinary travel costs and avoiding the opportunity costs of delays in accessing appropriately qualified pregnancy testing in a dynamic market.

The image of a farmer driving across the landscape with their loyal dog on the back of the ute is iconic, and a part of everyday life. Despite what some may have claimed when the review of the Animal Care and Protection Act was first announced, there was never any intention to stop people in our primary industries from having dogs on the back of their utes. There are many stories, however, of dogs suffering horrific injuries because they have not been safely secured to the back of a vehicle. Nobody wants that to happen to their dogs. The duty of care to our animals, therefore, dictates that we do what is required to keep them safe.

This bill inserts a new section 33 in the Animal Care and Protection Act prohibiting the transportation of an unsecured dog on the back or the tray of a vehicle or in a trailer attached to a vehicle. This also applies to situations where a dog is travelling inside a vehicle with more than just its head protruding through the window. The bill establishes a maximum penalty of 60 penalty units, underlining the potential for serious harm that this behaviour exposes our animals to. The maximum penalty will act as a deterrent for a person to transport an unsecured dog, and the provision is directed at minimising the risks to a dog's welfare, and meeting community expectations that animal welfare risks are being appropriately managed. This provision explicitly provides an exemption for dogs participating in the movement of livestock.

New section 37C prohibits a person from applying extreme heat or cold, acid or caustic chemicals to the leg of a horse or a dog for the purposes of causing tissue damage or scar tissue around the tendons and ligaments of the leg. These procedures have long been considered by veterinarians and horse owners to cause unnecessary pain, and to be an obsolete practice. This bill will help to consign these procedures to history.

The bill also amends section 42 of the Animal Care and Protection Act to ban the use of a poison that includes ingredients such as those used in the poison CSSP. These ingredients are toxic to a wide range of bird and animal species, are generally slow acting and inhumane, and cause a long and painful death. They can cause secondary poisoning from the vomit or carcasses of poisoned animals. The poison has been used in Australia to control feral pig populations, but more humane alternatives are now available for controlling pigs.

The bill was referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for consideration on 12 May 2022. I want to thank the committee for its comprehensive review of the bill and for listening to the views of many animal welfare stakeholders and members of the community. I especially want to thank the committee chair, the member for Bancroft. The committee's inquiry into the bill included a call for public submissions, a public hearing and a public briefing. I acknowledge all stakeholders who provided submissions to the committee and those who took the time to appear before the committee. Close to 1,500 submissions were made to the committee, and I know this high number reflects the importance of animals to many Queenslanders. Many submissions largely supported the proposals in the bill. However, this was balanced by some submissions that raised concerns about particular amendments and their potential impacts on some stakeholders and industries.

The committee tabled its report on 1 July this year. The committee made three recommendations. The first recommendation was that the bill be passed. I would like to thank the committee for its bipartisan support of the bill. I note that this support reflected the tone of submissions to the committee, which were generally supportive of the bill.

The second recommendation was that my department continues to work with the Australian government in relation to the prohibition on the import of dog collars that have protrusions designed to puncture or bruise an animal's skin. The third recommendation was that my department continue to implement the Queensland Audit Office recommendations in full, and actively monitor and assess the

performance of RSPCA Queensland in meeting its obligations under any activity agreement for delivering inspectorate services for the state. I table a copy of the government's response to the report, which accepts the recommendations made by the committee in full.

Tabled paper: State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022, government response [2015].

I note there was some stakeholder opposition and committee member reservations around particular inclusions of the bill—for example, the prohibition of yellow phosphorus pig poison and prong dog collars. I acknowledge the mixed views presented to the committee in relation to the bill's prohibition of prong collars. Many stakeholders and members of the community are in favour of the prohibition while some oppose it.

I further note the statements of reservation by three committee members—the member for Traeger, the member for Burleigh and the member for Lockyer—in relation to prong collars. The member for Traeger strongly opposed the prong collar ban. In their statement, the member for Burleigh and the member for Lockyer recommended that prong collars be prohibited, with the exception of trained users. Providing exemptions dilutes the effectiveness of the provisions, makes them vulnerable to loopholes and opens the door to more exemptions.

I thank the committee for their resolution that the drafting of the bill with respect to prong collars is appropriate. Allowing the use of a device that has been banned from importation by the federal government would be inconsistent and wrong. On the committee's second recommendation, my department will work with the Australian government, as appropriate, in relation to the prohibition of prong collar possession and use, and engage with stakeholders on implementation.

I note the statements of reservation by three committee members—the member for Traeger and from the opposition, the member for Burleigh and the member for Lockyer—that CSSP pig poison is a cost-effective tool to manage feral pig populations, particularly in the face of exotic disease incursions which threaten livestock productivity. As I have outlined, however, the cost of this poison to the welfare of pest and non-target species is too great when more humane alternatives are available. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring effective feral pest management and consideration of animal welfare in the management of invasive animals is essential. Effective alternatives to CSSP include 1080, sodium nitrite and ground and aerial shooting. The National Feral Pig Action Plan 2021-2031 emphasises integrated, best practice management of feral pigs, including the minimisation of animal suffering and use of the most humane methods of control. Australian Pork Ltd and the Queensland Farmers' Federation support the banning of CSSP.

The bill will implement the regulatory recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office's report No. 6 of 2021-22 titled *Regulating animal welfare services*. I also wish to put on the record that the department has also made a number of administrative improvements to implement the recommendations. The committee's third and final recommendation is for the department to continue to implement the Queensland Audit Office recommendations in full, and actively monitor and assess the performance of RSPCA Queensland in meeting its obligations under any activity agreement for delivering inspectorate services for the state. The department agreed to all recommendations in November 2021 and will continue to implement these. I note that the committee will maintain a watching brief over the implementation by the department and will report its findings to the Legislative Assembly in the future.

The committee, while making no recommendation on the matter, encouraged the department to review the drafting of the firing and blistering provisions to ensure any unintended consequences are avoided. I can reassure the House that, in drafting these provisions, my department sought advice directly from the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and the Queensland division of the Australian Veterinary Association. The wording of the provision distinguishes from cauterising during surgery while an animal is under anaesthesia and would be insensitive to pain. It is, therefore, considered very low risk that these provisions would be misinterpreted.

I again thank the committee for its detailed examination of this bill, the report it produced and its recommendation that the bill be passed. I would also like to put on the record my heartfelt thanks to my Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and its many members who put their heart and soul into the first review of the Animal Care and Protection Act in a generation—thank you.

I encourage members to support the bill. These reforms represent a significant step forward for Queensland's animal care and protection laws. It will enable inspectors to manage animal welfare incidents more effectively with strengthened enforcement powers. It will better protect the welfare of animals used in research and education. It will drive improvements to the government's partnership

with RSPCA Queensland and greater consistency with the regulation and enforcement of the act. It will make it easier for primary producers to access cattle pregnancy and spaying services whilst still protecting the welfare of their cattle.

The introduction of an accreditation scheme with appropriate monitoring, accountability mechanisms, animal tracing and training will offer significant benefits to accuracy, market access, animal welfare and biosecurity awareness and practices. It will implement key recommendations from the Martin inquiry, improving the regulatory and oversight arrangements for abattoirs and knackeries and the horses at those facilities, and clarify the jurisdiction and powers of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission. Importantly, the bill prohibits inhumane practices such as the firing or blistering of the legs of dogs or horses, the use of prong collars and the use of inhumane feral pig poison.

This bill is an opportunity for our parliament to maintain Queensland's high standard of welfare and reflect contemporary community expectations, scientific understanding and practices. I commend the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Furner, adjourned.

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cost of Living



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House notes the increasing financial pressures on Queensland families arising from the policies of the Palaszczuk government as evidenced by:

- (i) young learner drivers being required to pay the highest licence fees in the country;
- (ii) a 25 per cent increase in vehicle registration fees since 2015;
- (iii) increasing domestic and business power bills;
- (iv) increasing water bills resulting from government imposed bulk water charges;
- (v) record pressure on housing affordability and a growing unavailability of private and social housing stock making it increasingly difficult for Queenslanders to put a roof over their heads;

and calls on the government to ease this cost-of-living crisis and reduce the financial burden it has imposed on Queenslanders.

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked a number of cost-of-living questions at the beginning of question time. They were important questions because the people of Queensland are feeling the stress and pressures of cost of living.

After the first Dixier from the government side, the Treasurer interjected to the effect of 'finally, something that matters'. I would have thought if you were the Treasurer of Queensland cost of living matters. Cost of living matters—whether it be fuel or another \$900 on the mortgage since May when the cash rate started increasing. Far beyond that, I would have thought the issues that are in the control of the state government would matter. Cost of living from the state government's perspective would matter to a Treasurer who was serious about delivering a better economy and a stronger Queensland.

You need only turn to the motion to see some of those areas where the state government could bring some downward pressure on cost of living, whether it be learner driver's licences, power prices, car rego or water bills. There are areas listed in this motion that you would expect would matter to the Treasurer of the day. Mr Deputy Speaker, you would expect me as shadow Treasurer to say that now, wouldn't you? We hear a lot from the government about the Murdoch press. Today the health minister went rogue on the ABC. You would expect me to say what I am saying. You would expect the *Courier-Mail* and the ABC to say what they are saying.

However, there is a new publication on the block. It was being handed out yesterday in front of 1 William Street. It is a new edition to the fourth estate. The new publication on the block is called the *Dick Daily Echo*. There are some amazing couple of pieces in this new publication. There are three in particular that I want to draw attention to. The first one is 'Dick's tips for managing your household budget'. The next one—and I know the member for Chatsworth is going to really enjoy this one—is 'Insider secrets: how to blow an entire budget surplus on just one rail project'. What a story! It is not the *Courier-Mail*. It is not the ABC. It is the *Dick Daily Echo*.

Mr Minnikin: Sign me up.


Mr JANETZKI: It is all here. I think all of us on this side of the House should go and get a subscription immediately. The third piece I want to draw the attention to in the *Dick Daily Echo*—and this is my favourite; this is a good one—is ‘Passing the pub test: how to look fair dinkum in the front bar with people who actually work for a living’.

Mr Minnikin: Who wrote it?

Mr JANETZKI: They know. Who are the CFMEU members over there? We know. It was handed out by a couple of guys in high-vis over there. I assume that we all know who wrote this article. I want to encourage all of us to go and get a subscription. I often wonder how the Treasurer fits in. Last week he was out at Moranbah. I often wonder how he fits in out there at Moranbah. He was at Mount Morgan when he should have been at the Queensland Resources Council lunch. I table that publication now. I table it just in time. The Treasurer has proven himself out of touch no matter where he is.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled ‘The Dick Daily Echo: Special Christmas Grinch Edition’ [2016].

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (5.05 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after ‘families’ be omitted and the following inserted:

‘and the Palaszczuk government’s suite of cost-of-living relief measures to support Queenslanders including delivering \$575 of cost-of-living electricity rebates for Queensland households and providing a record \$6.8 billion in concessions to Queensland this year; and

1. notes the ongoing threat to Queensland families from the LNP’s past actions including:
 - (a) when the Leader of the Opposition as minister for local government tried to introduce a \$1 billion levy on Queensland households;
 - (b) the Newman government’s decision to index fees and charges above inflation at 3.5 per cent;
 - (c) the Newman government’s increase to electricity bills of 43 per cent;
 - (d) the Newman government’s attempt to privatise electricity and water assets;

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members! I will hear this in silence.

Mr de BRENNI: I continue—

- (e) the Newman government’s closure of power stations to drive up power prices to prepare assets for sale;
- (f) the Newman government’s decision to increase insurance duty including on the family home of up to \$990 million;

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, I had just brought the House to order. You are warned. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 5.06 pm.

Mr de BRENNI: And—

- (g) the Newman government’s increase to the emergency management levy up \$187.6 million; and
2. notes that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition sat around the Newman LNP government cabinet table when those decisions were made.’

I have moved this amendment in this place because debate should be about truth. When it comes to the cost of living, on today of all days, the LNP are not just about deception; the LNP are about distraction. Their motion today is simply a tactic to distract from the censure motion of their former leader Scott Morrison and to deceive this House on the cost of living—and it will not work. The truth is that the shadow Treasurer knows the LNP has an atrocious record on the cost of living. The truth is that they sacked workers from Queensland publicly owned power stations. The truth is that they massively increased the power bills of Queenslanders. The truth is that it is because they planned to sell them off.

No matter how much those opposite want to deceive and distract, we will not forget the deception. We will not forget the deception on laptops, climate change or health advice during the pandemic. Today they are here to distract from their record on the day when one of the worst abusers of democracy in this nation is censured. This is a distraction from their LNP former leader Scott Morrison—the first prime minister in Australia’s history to be censured by the Commonwealth parliament—their leader who deceived every single Australian on the cost of living. The truth is that their leader secretly changed laws to hide energy prices. That is their record on cost of living. It is all about deception.

Every single serious commentator, analyst or journalist in this nation knows that energy prices are up primarily because of the Liberal National Party—a decade of LNP denial of climate change, LNP delay on renewables and LNP dysfunction on energy policy. Now the LNP want to add deceit and distraction to their record.

They want to criticise us on housing affordability when the LNP is entirely responsible for sending the housing market out of control. They know it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: You can hear they know it. Those opposite heaped a trillion dollars of debt on Australians and delivered not one single new affordable social or affordable home. A trillion dollars of debt and not one affordable home for Queenslanders. Respected economists at CoreLogic called their stimulus policy an ‘abysmal’ policy. That should be embarrassing for every single member opposite. Those opposite will deny and seek to distract from their policy failures, but the fact is that Queenslanders know what they stand for. This is the party that said ‘low wages are a deliberate design feature’ of their economic architecture. That is their record. That is what they stand for—inequality by design. Every single one of them should be ashamed.

The truth is that when the LNP is not whingeing, they are distracting. The truth is that when the LNP is not whining, they are deceiving Queenslanders. Today’s attempted motion may be one of their worst distractions to cover up one of the worst deceptions by a member of the LNP ever. They have no plan, no policy and no idea.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker I will remind the House of those members who are on a warning: the members for Bulimba, Mudgeeraba, Cairns, Logan, Pine Rivers and Gregory.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (5.10 pm): It is another example of the arrogance in this place when we cannot even debate a private members’ motion. It just goes to show that something that stinks to high heaven cannot be the subject of a mature debate in this House. Cost-of-living pressures are real. We are lurching from crisis to crisis in health care and housing. I am glad the member raised it. He spoke about the federal government for five minutes and said nothing about what this government is doing to drive cost-of-living pressures through the roof. A recent survey showed that 76 per cent of working Australians said the cost of living was too high. This is right across the nation, so of course we have real issues. Many people do not have savings to fall back on anymore after all of the issues in the last couple of years, so it is a very big issue.

In many cases cost-of-living pressures are out of control in this country, but many that we should be dealing with are right here on display and we will be talking about them tonight. We cannot accept that fee and tax increases affecting the most vulnerable will be part of the normal regime of the state Labor government. As the cost of living skyrockets we are seeing the Palaszczuk government shift their focus. To try and deal with their increasing debt burden they are slugging us all with increases in registration. What I particularly want to talk about tonight is the 25 per cent increase in registration since they have had control of the government benches.

What stinks is that young Queenslanders are getting slugged when they want to get their driver’s licence or learner’s permit. These learner drivers are feeling the pinch as they are forced to pay up to four times the rate in other states for a minimum three-year licence. This is why this should be debated by the other side, that is why this issue should be acknowledged, and that is why we are calling on the government to show some empathy and dignity for these young Australians who just want a fair go.

This was recently brought to my attention by local advocate and mum Carmen McEneaney. Her son Jack was thrilled to go off and get his driver’s licence. We know that for young adults across the state it is a real milestone. For Jack, it would mean he has greater freedom and independence to move about the region; however, his elation was short-lived when he was slapped with a \$186 fee. Provisional, probationary and open licence drivers can all opt to pay for between one and five years, but learners have no choice. It is clear that this three-year learner licence fee is a blatant tax grab from the state government, which is trying to deal with ever-increasing debt and taxation problems. Make no mistake, we are taking money from the lowest income earners and the most vulnerable.


We all know that right now in these tough times every cent counts. Our school leavers are saving for uni, saving to move out of home and saving to start the next chapter in their lives, and we are asking these 16-year-olds—or their parents—for \$186. Queensland’s learner drivers are getting a raw deal from this government. They are being charged the highest fees in the nation just to get their L-plates. In New South Wales and Victoria we know it is only \$26. It is simply unfair. I would like to thank Carmen

and Jack for standing up for Queenslanders and taking up this fight. When the petition was lodged in this House 800 local people in the Wide Bay region reached out within a couple of days. They were all outraged, and tonight we want the government to at least show these people some respect by having this debate. Carmen said she was shocked when she learned of the fee but there was nothing she could do about it. She could not even debate it, and the letters she received back from the minister were dismissive and rude.

The Palaszczuk government's poor budget management has a big impact on the cost-of-living crisis in Queensland, but let's not slug our learner drivers. I am calling on the minister to show a bit of compassion and reduce licence fees so that our young Queenslanders can get on with the job. There are many examples of Labor's failures and lurching from one crisis to another, including the cost of living, electricity, water, red tape et cetera. I do not have enough time in five minutes to name them all. One thing I do want to put on the record is the new tax on health patients. During the last sitting week we heard that the new payroll tax on health professionals will raise only \$20 million, but it is causing the local GPs in my area to cease bulk-billing. Can you imagine the effect on those most vulnerable? We have received advice from the local GPs in my area that they are now sending out letters to their patients advising that they now have to pay up to \$80 more.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BENNETT: We know that declining health is going to be an issue. We do not have time to talk about the health crisis here tonight and what pressure that is going to put on them. While we are talking about the government's lack of compassion, the other thing I really wanted to get on the record here tonight is the cancellation of the Driver Reviver program coming up to Christmas. I cannot believe that, when we talk about a crisis, somebody would consider that to be acceptable, particularly coming into December. Let's show dignity to our motorists on the road. Let's get our rego back under control. Let's give our learners a dignified way of getting on with getting their licence instead of taxing the most vulnerable people in the state like this Labor government does.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.15 pm): I rise tonight to support the motion as amended. Let me start my contribution with housing, which is a hot topic in my area for reasons I will expand on shortly. The recent Housing Summit—which members of the House, including members of the opposition, were invited to attend as delegates—clearly identified the impact of the recent weather events and the February floods that hit Brisbane along with many other local government areas really hard, particularly in my community. In my community literally overnight we lost somewhere in the vicinity of 500 previously inhabited properties—some for days, but many for months and I expect some for years. That is 500 homes just in my community. That is one electorate here in Queensland, but there are countless other communities like Ipswich and Gympie which were also really badly impacted. We all recall a few years ago the Springfield storms which were declared a major disaster. A good friend of mine, my former EO, lost her house in that storm. It was completely trashed. The roof was ripped off. It took her over a year to move back into her property. In total, I understand around 2,000 homes were impacted by that storm, a single weather event, and those occupants were displaced for varying periods of time. Literally overnight those houses were ripped out of the housing market.

Queensland is a state that I think experiences way more than our fair share of natural disasters. When we experience an event like the February floods we lose hundreds—sometimes thousands—of houses literally overnight. Events like this are really difficult to account and plan for, but we have the mighty Queensland Reconstruction Authority. People deserve to have a secure roof over their heads, and that is why this government has committed \$741 million alongside the federal government—so that is fifty-fifty state and federal funding—for the Resilient Homes Fund, which is helping people rebuild their homes after these horrible natural disasters. I will not reflect on the amount of time it took to get former prime minister Scott Morrison to sign up to this package. We are glad he did. It is helping people get back on their feet.

Under this plan we are helping Queenslanders put a secure roof over their head with a resilient retrofit, raising their property or, in 500 extreme cases, a buyback where the property cannot be raised or made flood resilient. I take this opportunity to remind all flood impacted Queenslanders that if they have not yet applied for the program they should do so now. We want to help every Queenslanders have a safe and secure roof over their head. That is why I am proud that when I go out door knocking in my community I get to speak to some of the home owners who own properties that were raised up after the 2011 floods and made flood resilient. It has made a huge difference. When I spoke to those home owners, they told me that this time their flood recovery was minimal because when they received that grant last time they—

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms PUGH: Let me tell you about the cost of living, member for Burleigh. When your house is flooded, cost of living is absolutely awful. Thank you for that interjection.

These government grants change people's lives for the better forever. If you want to talk about policies affecting housing costs, you need look no further than this huge investment in ensuring Queenslanders have a permanently safe and dry roof over their heads. It is a life-changing grant, not just for these families today but for every family who lives in that house forever after because those houses are going to stay in the property market and they will not be getting repaired every 10 years like they are now.

While we are on the topic of lowering the cost of living, do members know what drives power bills right down? Solar energy. Who put a stop to that? The LNP under Campbell Newman. Under the Newman government, to keep building towards a renewable future, all the Newman government had to do—at least for a while—was to keep the policy settings from previous Labor governments. Queensland in 2012 had only started its journey towards renewable energy. We were barely at five per cent. Under an LNP government, thanks to Campbell Newman, that is exactly where we stayed. That is exactly where we stayed under the Newman government.

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms PUGH: Do not just listen to me, member for Burleigh. Let me quote from the *Courier-Mail* from less than six months after Campbell Newman was elected. I am not going to have time to quote all of this so I will table it as well.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 2 July 2012, titled 'Campbell Newman Government axes Queensland solar energy scheme, nation's largest' [2017].

The article states—

Australia's biggest solar energy scheme is dead in the water, torpedoed by the withdrawal of funding by the Newman Government.

The State Government is pulling \$75 million out of a renewable energy power project, effectively killing off up to 400 jobs.

Shame.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (5.20 pm): I am not sure what motion the member for Mount Ommaney was speaking about; I thought the motion was about cost of living. Let me talk about the double standards of this government when it comes to budgeting. Their approach to Queenslanders is to say that people just need to tighten their belts, they need to have a budget and they need to plan for the challenging economic times we are in, but let us look at their budget performance. Just a few weeks ago in this House we debated the appropriation bills where we approved tens of millions of dollars of over expenditure because of poor budgeting. What could we have done with that money to help Queenslanders?

Mr Lister: Build Emu Swamp Dam.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. What could we have done with that money to provide relief for everyday Queensland families? Government members talk all the time about the battlers and how they are there for the battlers, yet we have seen them squander billions of dollars over the last seven years.

Queensland has never been so awash with extra money. Queensland has been receiving billions of dollars in royalties and profit dividends from the sale of electricity to the southern states. I remember sitting in estimates about four or five years ago when we asked where this \$400 million had come from. We were told, 'It's the surplus dividends we've generated from the sale of electricity to the southern states.' The issue was raised again in the following year and the dividend was about \$1.2 billion. I am not sure where the figure is at now, but it is somewhere in the order of \$2 billion a year of extra income that this government is receiving from the sale of electricity to the southern states. There are a whole lot of double standards in there, and we will not even get into an energy debate. Where is the real relief? I think it was the member for Springwood who said earlier that they had provided \$6.8 million of relief in savings against electricity costs for everyday Queensland families. That is \$6.8 million out of probably \$5 billion or \$6 billion of extra dividends from the sale of power to the southern states.


Then there is the billions of dollars we have received through mining royalties. Where is that money going? I will tell the House where it is going. It is being squandered. The government is asking everyday families in Queensland to tighten their belts and budget better while the Treasurer of this government just spends money at will. He just sprinkles it around all over the place. There is no accountability and no respect for the fact that a budget should be a budget.

We have touched on the issue of drivers' licences and vehicle registration fees that just keep going up. What about the way the SPER system operates? There are billions of dollars in outstanding and unpaid SPER. We talk about everyday Queenslanders who are doing it tough. I spoke to one of those everyday Queenslanders just last week who is struggling to pay off a SPER fine at \$10 a week. Can anyone tell me how much he gets penalised each week if he misses that \$10 payment?

Mr McDonald: How much?

Mr MOLHOEK: It is \$15. It is like a giant Ponzi scheme. Where does the money go? It just keeps feeding the coffers of the state government so they can squander more and more while they stand up here and try to tell us how much they care about the plight of everyday Queenslanders.

Let me talk about public housing for a moment. I have got the figures and I have checked the spreadsheets. The Gold Coast, with 15 per cent of the state's population, gets less than eight per cent of the total capital spend of this government on public and affordable housing, and then we wonder why we have a housing crisis on the Gold Coast. In today's *Courier-Mail* there was an article about smart money conversations. The article talked about some of the cost-of-living pressures on everyday families and raised concerns around the issue of domestic violence. Is there any wonder we are seeing an increase in family breakdown and domestic violence when so many Queensland families are under financial pressure. What is this government doing about it? Absolutely nothing.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.25 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak on the amended motion. I heard the Leader of the Opposition talk yesterday about young apprentice tradies needing a learners permit to do their job. I agree with him, but do members know what is more important to an apprentice tradie? The actual certificate itself. I thought I would go back and look at their track record on TAFE fees during their time in government.

A cert III went from \$239 for a course to \$2,400 overnight. That was a tenfold increase, which beats the sevenfold. Some of the courses went up by 1,266 per cent, and guess what happened. There were 40,000 fewer TAFE enrollees during their time in government. They crushed it because they had secret plans to sell it off, like they did at Alexandra Hills TAFE. Could you imagine what would happen today if these guys were still in government with the amount of trades and skills we need right now with full employment? They smashed TAFE and they smashed it by increasing fees. Let me look at a diploma. They went from \$2,400 to \$6,000. Disability pensioners also got smashed. For a disability pensioner who wanted to do a literacy and numeracy course, it went from \$140 to \$800 overnight. That is a 600 per cent increase.

Guess what we did when we came into government. We introduced free TAFE for under 25s—free. That is a cost-of-living measure. What about apprentices under 25? Free. That is what we did, and guess what happened. The two teachers and 50 students at Alexandra Hills TAFE grew to 30 teachers. We filled up the classrooms. We not only filled the classrooms; we had to build more buildings. We built new plumbing workshops—I will be opening new electrical workshops in a couple of weeks—and there are new nursing facilities which are bigger and better. When the opposition were in government, they took an absolute axe to TAFE fees. They say they are worried about apprentices, but when it comes to what a tradie needs—which is a certificate—they increased the cost tenfold. What did we do? We gave it to them for free.


They are going to do it again. In the dying days of the Morrison government, they took a program of fees to the National Skills Summit which increased a cert III in early childhood from \$316 to between \$1,000 and \$3,000. That is a 950 per cent increase. That is what they will do. It is in their DNA, be it at a state level or a federal level.

I know their motion talked about water. Three years—they were in government for three years! Guess what they did to the bulk water price in Redlands—53 per cent increase in Redlands—jacked it right up! I also noted that the Leader of the Opposition had a time as deputy mayor in Townsville.

Mr Harper: Oh!

Mr BROWN: Yes, one term with Les, and the member for Thuringowa would understand this as well. The deputy mayor and the mayor got together and guess what they did to water—they jacked it right up! Guess what happened at the next election. They got wiped out. It was wall-to-wall Labor up there and it has been wall-to-wall Labor ever since. When he had his chance on the purse strings of Townsville, guess what he did—he jacked up water through the roof. He had to abandon that ship to go from Mundingburra because they all got wiped out.

Our track record when it comes to fighting for cost of living is telling. We go in and bat for tradies, we go in and bat for apprentices and we go in to bat for those wanting to get a Certificate III and a diploma to further their living, but we also go in to bat when it comes to water prices, electricity prices, as per the rebates we are giving right now.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.30 pm): We have to go back eight years to talk about the past because they have no plans right now. Let's have a look at what the member for Capalaba just said about TAFE and Queenslanders and the cost to young people. He conveniently forgets the Certificate 3 Guarantee which, I might add, exists still under this government, which would see people with a disability, 15- to 24-year-olds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders or the long-term unemployed subsidised for a certificate III qualification, not paying the rates that he liked to quote which were federally directed. The member for Capalaba likes to come in here with a revisionist history, but he ignores the facts.

Queensland families and Queensland businesses are drowning under a suffocating tsunami of increased costs. It is choking their hopes, it is choking their dreams and it is putting their very survival at risk. Queensland businesses, like the Mapleton IGA in the electorate of Nicklin, whose annual power bill has increased almost fourfold from \$58,000 a year to more than \$218,000 a year, will fold. As business owner Kelly Anderson stated, this exorbitant increase will cripple his business of 26 years, which is the only supermarket and service station supporting much of the western half of the electorate of Nicklin. Communities like Mapleton, Flaxton, Kenilworth and Montville all rely on Kelly's business, not to mention the many thousands of tourists who visit the Sunshine Coast Hinterland each week. The Mapleton IGA is far from a big business. It is the kind of business that sponsors the local schools, the local community groups and gives local kids a casual job, in a town where, I might add, there are not too many options. Businesses like the Mapleton IGA are the backbone of their community and right now they are hurting. Kelly's story is just one of many of businesses being crippled by increased electricity prices.


Electricity prices are a real and present danger to the viability of Queensland's small and family businesses. Regulated retail electricity prices have already increased significantly and they are expected to increase, according to the federal Labor minister, by another 56 per cent in the not-too-distant future. But those increases pale in comparison to the increases for bulk users like butchers, bakers and community supermarkets like the Mapleton IGA. At a time when businesses are facing cost pressures due to supply chain issues and chronic shortages of labour, the added impost of a massive electricity bill will push otherwise profitable businesses to the wall. What have we heard from the Palaszczuk Labor government? What have we heard from the Minister for Small Business or the member for Nicklin? Nothing! The state government had provided some financial rebates to ease the pressure on residential electricity consumers, which equates to about \$11 a week if we look at what they are saying, but what have they provided for businesses? Nothing! The CCIQ have called for the provision of electricity bill rebates for small businesses which covers the estimated impacts on Queensland's small businesses. What have we heard from the minister? We have heard nothing.

What about water? Businesses and households alike have been battling extortionate water prices for many years. It is a legacy of past flawed decisions by Labor governments, decisions like the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme which is sitting in 'care and maintenance'—absolutely useless—a decision made by those opposite. It makes one wonder what the effect of the government's latest thought bubbles will have on future electricity prices and water prices.

On this side, we have previously called on the state government to alter the price path for bulk water prices. The member for Capalaba seems to agree with that course of action. That would result in an immediate reduction in water bills for businesses in places like the Redlands, for retirees on the Sunshine Coast, and for families right across the south-east. However, the Palaszczuk Labor government have made it clear they are not willing to ease the burden of record high water prices by making that decision to alter the price path for bulk water prices. This is despite the former treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, suggesting that such a proposal had merit. Instead, what are we seeing? Residents right across the south-east paying higher water prices and they will continue to pay high water prices under this Labor state government.

It is not just small businesses, families and retirees paying more under this Labor state government; Queensland learner drivers are also getting a raw deal. This state government are gouging Queensland's learner drivers \$186 for their learner's licence which is the most in the entire country. In New South Wales, Victoria and the NT, it costs \$25. A driver's licence is a ticket to freedom, it is a pathway to independence, but, perhaps most importantly, it is essential for most jobs. This Labor

government, through their actions, is making it harder for young Queenslanders to get a job, to be independent and to start their life on the right foot. Those opposite need to take real action on cost of living and stop ignoring the problem and living in the past.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (5.36 pm): The motion from the member for Toowoomba South tonight should be amended by this chamber because, as it stands at the moment, it is a lot of rubbish. The accusations we hear about the water prices from the member for Toowoomba South in his motion are misleading. They are baseless and wrong.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: Let me deal with a few facts here tonight, particularly for the member for Nanango, seeing as though she is interjecting. South-East Queensland bulk water prices have increased around 2.2 per cent this year and will only go up 2.14 per cent in the next four years. This is one of the lowest increases ever since the establishment of Seqwater. That is a fact. The increase is also well below CPI, which is a fact. That is right, some of the lowest water increases since Seqwater's creation have been under the Palaszczuk Labor government here in Queensland because on this side of the House, we care about the living pressures of people in Queensland.

I have some more facts for you. Under the Newman government, bulk water prices increased on average a whopping 12.5 per cent per year while they were in government. That is right, the opposition sat around with Campbell Newman and his cabinet talking bulk water prices and increased them for the people of South-East Queensland by 12.5 per cent. There is a lot of them sitting over there now who sat at that cabinet table. The 12.5 per cent increase was well above the CPI water price increase under the LNP. Our record of 2.2 per cent is well below the CPI under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Why? Because on this side of the House we take cost-of-living pressures impacting Queensland families extremely seriously.

In addition to some of the lowest water price increases on record—and all the Nats over there should be listening to this—we are providing a \$55 discount as well to eligible customers on the South-East Queensland water grid. This was direct action by this government to reduce the cost-of-living pressures being felt by Queenslanders.


It is not just the bulk water prices that we are keeping low; the Palaszczuk Labor government has also invested \$50 million to slash—where are the Nationals over there—irrigation water bills across the state for 6,000 farmers supplied by Sunwater and Seqwater. That is right—discounted water by this government which is helping reduce the cost to our farmers. Sunwater and Seqwater irrigation prices have been reduced by 50 per cent for eligible horticulture growers, and by 15 per cent for all other irrigators for the last three years, including right now when they need it most.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about supporting Queenslanders with cost-of-living pressures and has several cost-of-living initiatives for Queenslanders doing it tough including pensioners. In my portfolio this includes the South-East Queensland pensioner water subsidy. Under the subsidy eligible pensioners can receive up to \$120 off their water bills each year. It is a Labor government that is doing that. Labor created the pensioner water subsidy for those users. Mr Deputy Speaker, you will not be surprised and nor will any of us on this side: the LNP were desperate to cut it. If they thought taking candy from a baby was bad, it gets a lot worse than that when it comes to the LNP. They wanted to take money off pensioners. That is their track record. In Campbell Newman's 2014 budget the LNP tried to cut the pensioner water subsidy. I say shame on the LNP.

That is right; the LNP also wanted to cut the electricity rebate, cut the pensioner rates subsidy, cut the South-East Queensland pensioner water subsidy, cut the natural gas rebate and cut TransLink transport concessions. That is the record of those opposite. They should be ashamed of themselves. All we ever see from the opposition is cutting, sacking and selling. That is all they know. Speaking of selling, cutting pensioner rebates was not their only water policy. I have a copy of the WaterQ plan they put out—the LNP's nice, glossy water policy or, as I like to call it, a guide of what not to do. That document states—

... new regional bulk water storages will have to be developed by the private sector ...

These are not my words; they are the LNP's words. All they want to do is privatise. All they want to do is cut, sack and sell.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.41 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Toowoomba South. It is an opportunity to provide a reality check for those opposite, to enlighten those opposite and talk about the here and now. They want to stand in here tonight and talk about the past

and talk about the history. However, we are talking about the here and now and the cost of living in Queensland—right here, right now in Queensland. I want to put on my rural and regional affairs hat tonight and enlighten those opposite. The Premier stood up in this place yesterday and would have us believe that the cost of living is not an issue because unemployment is down. It is an issue all right and it is an issue that is causing a lot of concern, a lot of angst and a lot of heartache in rural and regional Queensland.

We have heard about the impact on the learner's permits. Why not add to that? What about the kid who lived at the Belyando Crossing who drives to Clermont, 175 kilometres one way, to get his learner's permit? What about that additional cost on top of the rip-off by this government imposed on our learner drivers, not to mention the roads they are driving on, the roads that are wrecking their vehicles. I saw that firsthand on the weekend when I went to the opening of the bridge on the Bowen River. All I could see for 25 kilometres on that goat track was tyres. A mother told me that she cannot drive into Collinsville without blowing a tyre at least once a week. She is driving with her kids in the car to take them to school and every week she is changing a tyre on the side of the road because of the poor condition of the roads in that patch.

Ms Grace: Rubbish! Rubbish!

Mr LAST: I take that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members. The level of interjection is extreme.

Mr LAST: I take that interjection from the education minister, and what a disgrace that comment was. I can tell the education minister that because of the lack of teachers in my electorate parents are taking their kids out. They are moving to the major centres to give them an education because the subjects are not being offered in the school, and that is another cost they have to wear.

Let's talk about electricity prices. I am glad the energy minister is in the chamber tonight. Let's go back to 2016 when the Productivity Commission recommended to this government that people in regional Queensland should have choice. If people live in Townsville or Cairns they do not have choice in electricity providers. There is no choice. I went onto the federal government's Energy Made Easy website today and I compared two dwellings, one in Ayr and one at New Farm. For the family in Ayr there is one option: the state government owned Ergon Energy, \$1,840 a year. For the family in New Farm there are 216 plans available, the cheapest at \$1,380 a year, a saving of almost \$500 for those people living down here. It eats away the \$575 rebate that this mob will keep talking about and promising. To rub salt into those wounds, they are savings from GloBird Energy who, according to the website, resell for Energex.

I want to talk about insurance because that is the one that is biting in the north. If someone is a motor vehicle owner they can see their insurance premiums going up year on year. They are not just sneaking up; they are doubling and tripling. Why is that? It is because we have a stolen car problem that is absolutely out of control in the north. In Cairns they are on track to reach 1,500 stolen motor vehicles this year. Six cars in Townsville were stolen and burnt in the last month. What does that mean? Let me enlighten those opposite. That means a lot of people out there can no longer afford insurance. When their car gets stolen and burnt, they will be on foot. When families out there lose that vehicle, they do not have any other option. They do not have any other options to get around because we do not have a lot of public transport in the bush, and that is the reality.

If someone owns a four-bedroom home in Townsville they are paying around \$7,000 a year in insurance. I wonder what those opposite are paying at the moment. They should think about that: \$7,000 a year. A pensioner rang me last week and said, 'We can no longer afford that, Dale.' The next disaster in the north will be a disaster of a magnitude we have never seen before. We are going to see home owners who lose their property not have any insurance. If this lot do not realise what that means, they need to get up there. They need to get in their Teslas, drive out to the bush and see what is going on.

(Time expired)



Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (5.46 pm): I rise in support of the amendment to the motion. I say to the member for Burdekin that I am more than happy to talk about the here and now. I will give him a bit of a lesson further on in my speech if he wants to hang around and listen to it.

I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering good jobs, better services and protecting our great Queensland lifestyle and to be part of a government that is taking real action on the cost of living. I am proud to be part of a government that puts people who are struggling, who are at risk and who need extra support into the focus of all decision-making because these are the people who rely on

Labor governments, who need a strong Labor government to protect and support them. That is what Labor governments do. Just like my great-grandfather Percy Pease and his work with the Forgan Smith government, we look after the community and ensure there is opportunity for all. That is why I am so proud to support this year's budget and our government's economic strategy.

Like many Queenslanders, I have known what it is like to be on a minimum wage. I started work at the age of 16 and I earned \$16 a week. I have also run a small business. I know what it is like to feel the cost of every bill cutting close to home. I grew up in a household where we had very little. We had next to nothing. My dad worked two jobs and my mum was an Avon lady. We had nothing, but there was always someone who was worse off than us. That is what my mum and dad did, because they had good core Labor values: they looked after people who were worse off than themselves. They strived every day. Might I add they strived each and every day in their limited capacity to remove the Bjelke-Petersen government and its oppressive regime and thankfully they were alive to see him go. I know the difference that concessions can make—between getting by and falling behind—as do many members of the community.

This year's budget includes \$6.8 billion in concessions for Queenslanders. Last week I hosted a Seniors Morning Tea which 120 of our local seniors attended. Each of them was so thrilled by the access they had to concessions. That made a difference to their life: their registration, their rates, their electricity and their ambulance. Do honourable members know what? They could not have survived if this opposition had cut them, which is what they were intending to do. Imagine a world where they impacted on the elderly in our community—the people who built our economy, who built Queensland, who went to war for us, who went out and fought for our great state—yet you marginalised and were going to punish each and every one of them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Comments will come through the chair.

Ms PEASE: That is not a proud legacy to leave and you should be hanging your head in shame. That is a disgraceful legacy.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PEASE: Our \$6.8 billion in concessions is a more than 10 per cent increase on last year's figure. I have seen the difference that our government's strong action on the cost of living is making on the ground. We are taking real action on power prices, made possible by our public ownership of electricity. Our government has spent over \$1.8 billion since April 2018 to provide householders with \$575 in electricity rebates, with a \$175 cost-of-living rebate coming off Queensland power bills this year alone. A gentleman in my electorate came up and thanked me for that rebate. We are not collecting dividends from government owned electricity providers so that they can invest in new energy and put downward pressure on electricity prices.

I am proud that our government has a strong economic plan to guide Queensland through this difficult inflationary climate, just as it guided Queensland through the challenge of COVID-19. We have seen the results of this plan in Queensland: strong economic performance and ongoing economic recovery. This plan has seen credible, tangible action from our government, in contrast to those in opposition. The LNP have no credibility when talking about the cost of living—none whatsoever. Their plan to reform Queensland devastated communities across the state and devastated my community.

From the shores of my electorate in Moreton Bay to Far North Queensland, their government did not care about Queenslanders and their struggles to make ends meet, and they made that very clear by the sacking of 14,000 public servants. In fact, it felt like the LNP Newman government took every opportunity to impose greater costs. I spoke in the House earlier today about those costs and the impacts the LNP government had on Queensland. I would hang my head in shame before I stood up and spoke about the cost of living and what those opposite are doing, because the LNP has a terrible record in government.



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise to support the shadow Treasurer's motion. This is a government that is out of touch with the average Queenslanders. When it comes to the cost of living, the Premier, the Treasurer and the whole cabinet have no idea what challenges everyday Queenslanders face. They claim to represent the working class in this state, but they are on a different planet when it comes to understanding the pressures that the average Queenslanders has to face.

Let me give an example of this detachment and disconnect. For the last eight years the member for Inala has been the Premier. For the previous three years she was the opposition leader. For the three years prior to that she was a minister of the Bligh government. For the last 16 years, the Premier has enjoyed the privilege of a taxpayer funded car and a taxpayer funded driver. Never in that 16 years

has she had to worry about filling up a tank with petrol. She has never had to worry about paying for tyres, registration or car servicing. While every other Queenslanders travels past a service station and looks at the petrol price to see if they can save \$4, \$5 or \$6, this Premier has not had to worry about that expense for 16 years. The Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe have had the same privilege for a similar period of time—except for a short holiday.

For the past seven or eight years, most ministers have enjoyed salaries of over \$350,000. The longer you live a life of privilege and the longer you have this sense of entitlement, the more you become detached from the reality of living on an average wage and coping with cost-of-living rises. While everyday Queenslanders worry about finding money to pay for groceries, sporting club fees for their kids and school excursions, the big decisions these ministers have to make is what brand of taxpayer funded electric car they will have. They are so out of touch.


If we want to understand the issues causing cost-of-living pressures in this state, we need to look no further than at the housing situation that we have. How can the Premier and her ministers have any idea what it means to scrape to pay the rent? In fact, the Premier and most of her ministers definitely do not pay rent. They collect rent. After taking a quick look at the Register of Members' Interests, you would have to say that the Premier and Deputy Premier are property moguls. There is no doubt about it.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Kawana. They claim to represent the working class. The Premier, the Treasurer and the minister are so far away from understanding the pressures of the working class—as far away as the Treasurer was from the firefighters who found the Binna Burra bell!

Tomorrow will mark six weeks since the Housing Summit was held. What single thing has this government done in those six weeks to ease the pressure on people who are looking for houses? Whether they are trying to buy a house, pay their rent or find a social housing property—there has not been a sense of urgency. Their grand announcement was granny flats. Since they made that announcement, thousands of people have come off the social housing waiting list and flocked into the vacant granny flats across this state! It is an insult to the intelligence of Queenslanders and an insult to those vulnerable Queenslanders who are sleeping in cars, in tents or on the couches of their relatives. This is a government that is out of touch and arrogant and has no understanding of the cost of living.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.56 pm): I am pleased to rise in the House tonight to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Energy. I am also pleased that the entire LNP party room is here this evening, because they are in for a real treat: a speech from me about something that matters.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: What a party the LNP is. It does not matter whether they are in government at a local, state or federal level; they never miss an opportunity to hack into the finances of working families. At the federal level, Scott Morrison rorted and wasted billions of dollars—sending inflation through the roof and forcing the Reserve Bank to respond by jacking up interest rates. Australians are now paying thousands of dollars in penalty interest—a recurring reminder of Liberal waste and profligacy.

At a council level, LNP mayor Adrian Schinner has slugged Brisbane residents with rate increases of up to 7.3 per cent because he is greedy and, as we hear today, he simply cannot manage public money. Another LNP mayor, Karen Williams, has jacked up rates in her community in the Redlands, with an average increase of 4.7 per cent.

At a state level, the Leader of the Opposition is idle. Campbell Newman set ordinary people back years with his attack on working families, and at every step of the way the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table crowing about it. They hurt Queenslanders with a 3½ per cent increase to fees and charges—well above the rate of inflation. No war in Europe, no pandemic—just a government that hated working Queenslanders. They slugged ordinary families with a higher emergency services levy—nearly \$188 million ripped out of the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. They jacked up insurance duty by up to \$900 million, including taxing the family home.

The Leader of the Opposition himself and the crowning glory in the member for Broadwater's campaign to punish working Queenslanders was when he personally tried to introduce a \$1 billion disaster levy on Queensland families. Those opposite closed power stations to drive up power prices,

hitting households and businesses to fatten up the assets for sale, and what happened along the way? They jacked up electricity prices by 43 per cent. It was a government that had total disregard and disrespect for the financials of ordinary Queensland workers.

The contrast with Labor could not be clearer. Labor governments always govern for families who are doing it tough, who are disadvantaged and who are struggling to make ends meet. That is why our government is providing \$6.8 billion in concessions to help with transport, housing, education, water and energy costs. That is a rise of 10 per cent on last year, because the one thing that every member of this House knows is that Labor always supports working families and Labor always keeps taxes low. Under Labor, Queenslanders pay on average \$643 less in tax each year than those in other states and \$1,063 less than the average person in New South Wales whose wallet is being gouged by Dom Perrottet and his Liberal National Party government.

Let me say it again: taxes are always lower under Labor. Along with our fundamental values, there is a strong driver of why we are keeping the cost of living low, and that is because of Labor's superior economic management. What have we heard recently? The lowest unemployment rate in Queensland history delivered by a Labor government. Let us compare that to the 14,000 workers sacked by the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy leader and their LNP cronies. What cost-of-living pressures do the LNP think they were living under when 14,000 people lost their jobs? Let me say this clearly: Queenslanders know that they can trust Labor to manage the budget, to manage state finances, to give them a job and to keep the cost of living low.

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

AYES, 48:

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

NOES, 33:

LNP, 32—Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

Pairs: Bailey, Camm; Mellish, Bates.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr SPEAKER: In future divisions the division bells will ring for one minute.

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

AYES, 48:

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

NOES, 33:

LNP, 32—Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

Pairs: Bailey, Camm; Mellish, Bates.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House notes the increasing financial pressures on Queensland families and the Palaszczyk government's suite of cost-of-living relief measures to support Queenslanders including delivering \$575 of cost-of-living electricity rebates for Queensland households and providing a record \$6.8 billion in concessions to Queensland this year; and


1. notes the ongoing threat to Queensland families from the LNP's past actions including:
 - (a) when the Leader of the Opposition as minister for local government tried to introduce a \$1 billion levy on Queensland households;
 - (b) the Newman government's decision to index fees and charges above inflation at 3.5 per cent;
 - (c) the Newman government's increase to electricity bills of 43 per cent;
 - (d) the Newman government's attempt to privatise electricity and water assets;
 - (e) the Newman government's closure of power stations to drive up power prices to prepare assets for sale;
 - (f) the Newman government's decision to increase insurance duty including on the family home of up to \$990 million;
 - (g) the Newman government's increase to the emergency management levy up \$187.6 million; and
2. notes that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition sat around the Newman LNP government cabinet table when those decisions were made.

ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3792, on motion of Mr Furner—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.09 pm): I rise to speak on the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022. I declare that, in accordance with my register of interests, I am a primary producer. This bill aims to modernise animal welfare laws to reflect changes in contemporary science and community expectations through a range of amendments to the Animal Care and Protection Act. It proposes a wide range of amendments to deal with the use of animals, powers about offences, practices to control animals, accreditation schemes, the welfare of retired racehorses and the RSPCA. According to the explanatory notes, the amendments will facilitate the ethical use of animals for scientific purposes while ensuring animal welfare is not compromised; strengthen enforcement powers to address risks to animal welfare by clarifying or prescribing new offences; prohibit inhumane practices, including the use of CSSP on pest animals, firing the legs of a horse or a dog and using or possessing a prong collar; and provide an accreditation scheme to enable a person to gain accreditation to perform certain procedures on cattle such as spaying and pregnancy testing.

The bill will also implement recommendations from the Martin inquiry into management of retired thoroughbred and standardbred horses in Queensland and the 2021 report of the Queensland Audit Office regulating animal welfare. The Martin inquiry recommendations relate to the monitoring of livestock slaughter facilities by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and safeguards to protect the welfare of retired racehorses by the Racing Integrity Commission. The Audit Office recommendations are aimed at strengthening the legislative framework and the role of DAF in overseeing the functions of the RSPCA Queensland and managing the performance of RSPCA inspectors.

While I and the LNP are broadly supportive of most intentions in this bill, we must remember that good intentions do not always deliver the right outcomes. A significant proportion of the 1,495 submissions on this bill were about the failure of the government to consult. Some industries and stakeholders said changes were sprung on them and there was no acknowledgement or recognition from the government about the adverse impact changes would have. It seems the government has no idea of the practicality and the real-world experience of the impact of changes. Changes look good on paper but can have unforeseen consequences.

Only caring about how things look, not how they are, means the government is failing to get the basics right. The lack of clarity in some definitions leads to ambiguity and uncertainty. There are unintentional consequences from well-meaning sections. We also see repetition of requirements that already exist in other legislation. In several measures this bill will have significant impacts on our biosecurity management and increased risks for our agricultural industries. Animal welfare issues are broad ranging, from dealing with domestic and companion animals to agriculture, teaching, science and research, animals in sport, entertainment and recreation, veterinary science, wildlife and pest animals. Most reasonable people oppose animal cruelty and will be supportive of the measures that protect animal welfare. There are several concerns with elements of the bill that can have incredibly damaging consequences in rural and regional communities. They have been incorporated and masked under the innocent title of animal welfare.

The government's focus on spin over substance means this bill is seen merely as a media opportunity to parade around posing for photos with cute-looking dogs. The Premier's entourage of media spinners has been diligent in creating social media content to make this bill appear to be purely about protecting adorable domestic cats and dogs. That could not be further from the truth. We all want to see our pets protected. Those of us on this side of the House will always stand against animal cruelty. That is why two years ago in 2020 the LNP proposed an amendment to legislation to increase penalties for pet owners who left animals trapped in hot vehicles and tough sentences on people convicted of dog baiting. The government refused to back practical measures to prevent animal cruelty. It was the government that put petty politics before animal protection. Those who commit animal cruelty should have the book thrown at them. However, cruelty can result from failing to recognise the threat from poorly constructed and considered policy. It can have serious and dire ramifications. It can end up being cruel for people, for other animals and for communities.

The bill introduces new offences to deal with inhumane practices. These include using a poison on feral or pest animals that includes the ingredients carbon disulphide and phosphorus, for example CSSP pig poison; possessing or using a prong collar or another prescribed restraint on an animal; the firing or blistering of a horse or dog; and possessing or using prescribed prohibited nets. It is telling that the Labor dominated committee recognised that the full consequences of some proposals have not been considered. It noted in its report that it encourages the Department of Agriculture to review the drafting of blistering provisions to ensure any unintended consequences are avoided. There could be unintended consequences from scrapping CSSP pig poison for feral pig poisoning. The consequences could be dire for our entire livestock industry, the communities they support and the Queensland economy.

Clause 16, section 42, sets out to ban the use of yellow phosphorus pig poison. Let me make it very clear that the LNP will not support this measure. Queensland currently faces one of the largest biosecurity threats in modern history. All options need to be on the table as we fight to protect our agricultural industries and the livelihoods of rural and regional communities. An outbreak of diseases like foot and mouth, lumpy skin and Japanese encephalitis would be catastrophic with wide-reaching effects. It is common knowledge feral pests like feral pigs will spread these diseases even more rapidly if an outbreak occurs. Feral pigs are predators. They are not cute creatures off movies or television shows. Feral pigs not only pose a biosecurity risk but also spread disease like leptospirosis and pestivirus. These not only are a biosecurity risk and spread disease but also do untold damage to the land. They destroy agricultural pastoral land, they damage our national parks and damage native wildlife. Given that all cloven-hoofed animals are susceptible to FMD, it is concerning that the government does not even know how many feral pigs are in Queensland and their geographic spread. Landholders need to be equipped to appropriately manage the threat of feral animals all the time, but even more so at a time when these destructive diseases are quite literally at Australia's doorstep.

Yellow phosphorus or CSSP feral pig poison is one of the most successful methods landholders use to eradicate feral pigs on their properties. It is targeted, efficient and cost effective and it promotes best practice for landholders. It defies logic that when we face one of the largest biosecurity challenges in modern history the government wants to ban one of the most common and successful ways to manage feral and pest animals. Is this simply a short-sighted policy idea, merely a thought bubble, or, more dangerously, is it wilful ignorance or a gesture to activist supporters? It goes to the secrecy of this government that stakeholders such as AgForce were not consulted about banning CSSP. When asked if they were consulted, AgForce livestock director, Michael Allpass said—

No. During the discussion paper phase we were made aware that there was a particular toxin of concern, but we were not told what that toxin was. We asked again in January of this year and again we could not be told what the toxin was. At one point I asked was it CSSP and we did not receive an answer. Regarding the bill, the consultation was very lacking in terms of this particular clause.

It is arrogant and ignorant to fail to consult because the impact could be devastating. Why the secrecy? Is the government trying to simply copy what is happening in other states in a desperate attempt to mask the inadequate legislative agenda? It is suspicious to simply justify banning yellow phosphorus because it is banned in other states. The cattle industry in other states is not the size of ours. The size of the areas that must be managed are not the size of ours. Other states do not have anywhere near the agriculture production that we oversee in Queensland, let alone the export volumes. Using CSSP is not a random baiting exercise; it deals with the actual problem at source. I reiterate, every option must be on the table.

Clause 14 has a new section 37A which aims to ban the use of prong collars. It is important to note that the ban is being created in an environment where the Australian government already bans the sale and import of prong collars. This issue yet again substantiates Peter Coaldrake's criticism

about the government's lack of consultation and transparency. It failed to consult on these measures. The first anyone knew about the ban was in a Facebook post by the Premier. The explanatory notes say it is needed because they are considered inappropriate as a training aid because they cause pain and fear in dogs. Research has shown that using aversive training methods, including the use of prong collars, can cause pain and distress.

Stakeholders said the government's claim about prong collars are factually incorrect and its references unsubstantiated, incomplete or deliberately misquoted research. The government has provided no evidence to support the claims. Professional trainers looked and could not find any evidence. Professional Dog Trainers Australia said there is no evidence to support these claims with most studies being surveys of owners looking at punishment training rather than prong collars.

President Steve Courtney said that references in the reports and studies listed by DAF did not relate to prong collars at all. He said the only reference of a single dog being injured was deliberately misquoted. Despite bringing this to DAF's attention the industry is frustrated there is no acknowledgement and it is being ignored. Steve Courtney advised me that, after the Premier's social media post, DAF was asked to substantiate the claims. It has not. DAF has been evasive. It said there was not enough time and told them to look at DAF's submission.

DAF's submission did not include any references; it used only quotes from references. Everything was provided only after the date submissions had closed. Steve Courtney's position is backed up by others in the industry. The cofounder of Dog Training Queensland, Brittany Young, told the committee—

We wish to highlight that there was no mention of the prong collar or any other dog training equipment, including restraint based devices, in the original discussion paper released by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries ...

Another claim made by the government is that prong collars are designed to bruise or pierce an animal's skin. A leading manufacturer of prong collars, Herm Sprenger, disputes this. It pointed out that the collars have extra rounded prongs that make it impossible to injure a dog's skin as well as a centre plate that protects the larynx from the prongs. The company said it knew of no cases where a dog was injured with a Herm Sprenger prong collar when used as intended. Kirsty Reid, of Dog Training Queensland, provided an email from the RSPCA Queensland confirming that, since 2006, with earlier records yet to be confirmed, there have been zero recorded cases of animal cruelty involving a prong collar or any other restraint-based device.

Compounding the matter, AgForce CEO Michael Guerin said that there is confusion about what a normal collar and lead are, what is acceptable and what is not. How do you describe a collar? There is confusion about the different types of collars for different situations, whether for looking after animals, working dogs, farm animals et cetera. There is also confusion around the different types of restraints and how you describe 'reasonable restraint' during a time of challenge. I ask the minister to clarify whether remote dog training e-collars or similar will be banned by the government.

Clause 13 prohibits transporting an unsecured dog in the tray of a vehicle or a trailer except for dogs assisting in moving livestock. It also prohibits transporting a dog whose body other than its head is protruding from a moving vehicle. Michael Guerin, from AgForce, said that there is confusion about whether 'vehicle' also relates to motorbikes and all-terrain vehicles such as side-by-sides. There is concern from industry that this amendment will have consequences that limit landholders from transporting animals that assist in the care, health and welfare of livestock.

Is there needless duplication? The government has already banned allowing dogs to travel unrestrained in the back of vehicles. It is in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995. For years I have either tethered my dogs or put them in a special cage when transporting them. It has been illegal to have unrestrained dogs in the back of your vehicle. All workers and contractors who have ever come to help me have always secured their working dogs. It seems only the minister does not know this. We have all seen unsecured dogs inside vehicles. If the animal is injured in an accident, will the driver be charged under the Animal Care and Protection Act or the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act? The minister needs to make clear under what act this scenario is relevant.

Amending section 17 of the Animal Care and Protection Act will create unintended consequences. The amendment creates a new aggravated offence regarding breach of duty of care that results in the death, serious deformity, serious disability or prolonged suffering of an animal. It reverses the onus of proof on producers who face extenuating circumstances such as floods and fire that obviously prevent them dealing with and inspecting livestock in a timely manner.

There is no better example of where overreach could occur than the devastation following the 2019 floods in north-west Queensland. Following years of relentless drought, the region was devastated by floods. There were graphic scenes. I went there with Minister Furner and we both saw firsthand what happened. Hundreds of thousands of cattle perished because they were in low condition from the drought and then they were hit with cold and rain. We saw cattle standing on the side of the road or in paddocks, dying in front of our eyes because no-one could get to them. More than 500,000 cattle perished, with stock losses estimated at 50 to 100 per cent per farm. At a minimum, farmers lost an estimated \$300 million to \$500 million worth of stock. We saw hardened and tough locals from generations of farming families with tears in their eyes as they counted the devastation. It was confronting.

We already know the government likes to kowtow to animal activists who have the ear of the government. Those farmers in north-west Queensland were subjected to cruel and vindictive vilification from animal welfare activists who were deliberately blind to the difficulties faced in trying to care for stock. DAF's response to the committee about these types of situations is that it will deal with it at the time but that farmers had better make sure they have a good excuse. It said that in those types of emergency situations consideration as to whether a person had a reasonable excuse would be available. Michael Guerin, from AgForce, said 'the reverse onus of proof suggestion or the "if there is an exception we will consider it at the time" response to that is manifestly inadequate in my view'. The minister needs to clarify whether graziers and property owners will be subject to penalties in these circumstances. We need a clear answer.

Amendments will allow the chief executive or director-general of DAF to approve cattle procedure accreditation schemes under which a person may gain accreditation to perform prescribed procedures on cattle. In effect, it will allow a layperson, a non-veterinarian, to spay and pregnancy test cattle using specific procedures. Pregnancy testing is needed for the export of live cattle to protect the welfare of pregnant cows and as a management tool for cattle producers. This proposal could potentially impact the viability of veterinary practices and undermine our biosecurity surveillance system, which is already under the pump. The minister needs to provide clarity.

I fully understand what is involved in pregnancy testing cattle. Even though I am a qualified lay pregnancy tester and can perform artificial insemination on cattle, every year I use vets to pregnancy test my cattle as a management tool. The report notes—

DAF also advised that recognised training in these procedures is already available through the vocational education and training system, which may form part of accreditation schemes or inform equivalent competency requirements of accreditation schemes.

The use of the word 'may' really means that DAF cannot say or does not even know whether current training will form part of the accreditation schemes. Has this been thought through? The minister needs to clarify how accreditation will happen. Who will do it? Who is going to establish the training? Will the training be provided by the department or is it going to be outsourced? Has the department even budgeted to conduct training?

Vet practices are not just an inner-city industry for domestic pets. Rural and regional areas need sustainable vet practices. Dr Alan Guilfoyle of the Australian Veterinary Association advised the committee—

... if we are going to treat animals and look after animals, we have to have sustainable veterinary practices. We have to have vets on the ground to train staff. We have to have professional staff to go out and recognise biosecurity issues and also to be ready to respond to a government call in the case of an emergency.

Pregnancy testing and spaying is a bread-and-butter issue for practices in regional, rural and remote areas. Removing these procedures from vet practices will impact economic viability as well as remove vets on the ground to give practical experience to trained staff and be part of our biosecurity surveillance system.

Dr Guilfoyle advised the committee—

If you take 20,000 head of pregnancy testing away from a practice, you will lose one veterinary staff member ... With a staff of seven we can respond to a national emergency, having an emergency workforce to look after the welfare of those animals, but I am certain that if we come back to two or three vets in a practice we may not be able to respond ...

Veterinarians are trained in disease recognition and early detection. They have a huge role in detecting biosecurity risks. The federal government knows this, but the state government seems to be ignorant. A federal government press release in October said—

'Veterinarians and stock handlers ... are an important network of people to act as Australia's eyes and ears remaining vigilant against this potentially devastating disease. They would be involved in the investigation and response for any potential FMD outbreaks in Australia,' ...

You can understand why there are serious concerns when we learned in June that the state government reduced the number of field vet staff in animal biosecurity and welfare officers. As I said earlier, we are facing serious risk from foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and Japanese encephalitis. Dr Alan Guilfoyle advised the committee—

The most important thing ... is that we need to maintain veterinary involvement in the production animal areas and pastoral areas. There is the added major benefit—and I think this is a major benefit to the community—of the passive surveillance ... we do in our daily work. Veterinarians are trained in disease recognition and early detection. We see this passive surveillance as part of the job. This is absolutely crucial with the lack of government staff on the ground trained in these areas, the lack of stock inspectors and the lack of government vets. Also, we have Japanese encephalitis setting up on this shore, foot-and-mouth disease is in Bali and lumpy skin disease is probably only two good monsoon seasons away due to the fact that it is carried by mosquitoes and carried on the winds. It is insect borne and it is in Indonesia. I think that is going to be the biggest worry. It is a disease that is easily confused with a lot of diseases that we have in Queensland like rain scald or something like that.

The bill makes a number of amendments implementing the recommendations of the Martin inquiry into animal cruelty in the management of retired thoroughbred and standardbred horses. DAF said that these amendments would provide for more effective monitoring of livestock slaughter facilities. This is another one which is causing confusion. This time it is about definitions and whether the government will expand the legislation to capture other situations.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation is concerned about the definition of 'livestock' and the extent to which these provisions apply. It has also called for further consultation if there is any intention to expand this to other species. It said—

... the wording of the livestock slaughter facilities has been interpreted differently by industry professionals. It is understood that this only applies to horses at this stage with provision to add other species slaughter facilities later. QFF is supportive of this provision if there is consultation with the different industries when/if this is extended to other species. QFF recommends a review of the wording so that it is clearly interpreted by all.

According to the report, DAF says that it will work with stakeholders to clearly communicate the application of the provision. The minister needs to provide clarity on whether this will be extended to other species.

The RSPCA is an unusual body in that it carries out animal welfare investigations on behalf of the state. It is a private charity that has powers of entry and seizure yet is not directly related to government. It can also use SPER to enforce orders and not have to go through the channels that other private organisations use. The special status given to the RSPCA invokes the need for transparency and openness. In 2021 the Queensland Audit Office looked at the effectiveness of DAF's oversight of the RSPCA. Its report *Regulating animal welfare services* raised concerns about oversight of the RSPCA and accountability, accreditation and conflicts of interest of inspectors.

The Queensland Audit Office found that DAF has no oversight mechanisms to ensure RSPCA has implemented procedures and guidelines. It found that DAF has no established codes of practice for the animal types RSPCA regulates. It found that DAF does not have visibility checks which balance RSPCA's investigative powers and demonstrate fair and just process, including applying for and executing warrants, using body worn cameras and seizing personal technology devices.

It also found that DAF is not involved in and does not have oversight of decisions to prosecute people or of plea negotiations. The Queensland Audit Office recommended legislative changes to clarify the accountability and accreditation of inspectors. It also called for regular reports on inspector performance, training and/or independence declarations to manage conflicts of interest.

An activity agreement between DAF and the RSPCA defines the requirements for the two agencies. The committee did not recommend that the agreement be made publicly available. It opted for the diluted suggestion that it only 'encourages' DAF to publish the agreement. A formal recommendation would have prompted a formal response for the minister. Opting only for an encouragement undermines any commitment to transparency and openness as recommended by Professor Peter Coaldrake and, we are told, supported by the Premier.

As I said, good intentions do not always deliver the right outcomes. Changes may look good on paper but can have unforeseen consequences. Failing to consult, springing changes on stakeholders and refusing to acknowledge or even recognise any adverse impact from changes treats those impacted with contempt. It can have significant impacts on our biosecurity management and increase risks for our agricultural industries. Only caring about the media spin—about how things look and not how they are—is not good enough. The minister needs to respond openly and clearly to a litany of concerns with this bill.



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (6.36 pm): I rise to speak on the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill. I start by thanking our secretariat for helping the State Development and Regional Industries Committee with its inquiry. I thank all members of the committee for contributing in a truly collegiate fashion to this report. I know that LNP members often talk about how our committee system does not work. There are a few examples from our committee that demonstrate how well the committee system within this parliament is working.

I learned many things in this inquiry, as we all did, but I want to cover three main issues in my speech. First I will address the issue of prong collars. We will hear a lot about prong collars this evening, but I want to point out the really important fact that these devices are starting to be banned across Australia and across the world. They are banned in Victoria and New Zealand. The issue is coming before the parliament in Tasmania.

A government member interjected.

Mr WHITING: They have? Tasmania has now banned prong collars. They are banned in Austria, Denmark and Sweden. The importation of prong collars to Australia is banned unless there is a ministerial exemption.

The member for Gympie has quoted a response by manufacturer Herm Sprenger about its product, but bear in mind that this company is marketing a product banned by the federal government from being imported into our country. Members of the LNP seem to be really keen on prong collars at the moment. I do not know why. I do not want to go into the reasons. At Christmas time, all I can say is that they really want to be the 'Grinch with the pinch'. Before those opposite stand up and say, 'I cannot see what is wrong with them. I had one on my arm,' we should ask: how did these devices get into the country? We are talking about an item that is banned from importation.

One of the things to come out of this inquiry is that most canine groups in Australia seem to be opposed to prong collars. We should consider that carefully. The groups wanting prong collars seem to be outnumbered. They are in the minority. Those opposed to prong collars that made a submission include the RSPCA, the Pet Industry Association Australia, the Pet Professional Guild Australia and Dogs Queensland. Many proponents of prong collars have said, 'Where is the proof that prong collars are harmful?' We heard the member for Gympie state that as well.

Mr Dametto interjected.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The members for Hinchinbrook and Bundaberg will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr WHITING: In the departmental response they mention three articles for a start that provide evidence of harm. I table those articles.

Tabled paper: Bundle of journal articles, various dates, relating to evidence concerning the risks of using aversive training methods on dogs [2018].

There is an article from the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals which states—

... the use of aversive devices such as choke, pinch, or prong collars are strongly discouraged in favour of more humane alternatives.

A paper from the journal of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society details how a case of permanent damage to a Belgian police dog was 'exacerbated by the disruption of blood flow to the head from the prong collar worn during the episode'. A paper from the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* states—

The results of this study suggest that the use of positive punishment in the form of a pinch collar or an electronic collar can have detrimental effects on dogs' physical and mental welfare ...

The last two are peer reviewed and respected papers. That is fairly conclusive to me. I think they show the reason it is sensible to follow the federal government's lead and ban prong collars.


I also want to talk about the use of CSSP. I mention the very important point that CSSP is banned everywhere in Australia except for Queensland and the Northern Territory. The reason it is banned—and members can read this in the submissions—is that it is very clear that it is dangerous to other species. We heard in our hearings that it lingers in tissue and especially bones. A carcass can pose a long-term threat to the environment.

Secondly, it is very clear that it is the most inhumane thing to use to kill feral pigs. Death from CSSP can take days and up to three weeks. Death is caused by liver failure or heart failure. What we found in this inquiry is that 1080 or warfarin are just as effective and more humane. The banning of CSSP is supported by Australian Pork Ltd, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the Pet Industry Association Australia. Quite simply, it is not needed.

I want to talk about the impact of the QAO report. Firstly, I commend the minister for guiding the implementation and acceptance of the findings of the QAO report on the administration of animal compliance contracts. I also thank the department, led by outstanding public servant Bob Gee, for taking on the role of implementing these findings. I think they should get a lot of kudos for that. This bill will implement all of the findings of the Auditor-General's report. This was welcomed by all members of our committee. This report came about after our committee requested the Auditor-General examine the governance of these contracts administered by the department after we had heard stories from some Queenslanders about being prosecuted by the RSPCA.

The QAO found what we had expected. It found that there needed to be greater oversight by the department of prosecutions launched by the RSPCA, that all information gathered by contracted inspectors should be accessible to the department, that there should be better management of conflicts of interest, that contracted inspectors should be properly trained and their performance checked by the department and that the fee schedule charged by a third party should be reasonable and transparent. Bear in mind, in this inquiry we were informed by Queenslanders that they had to bear tens of thousands of dollars in fees and costs charged by third parties on behalf of the Queensland government. It is very clear that there have been changes made by the department. They are now doing things differently to the way they were done in the past. The here is now. We will be implementing the inquiry findings into the future.

I once again thank the minister and department for taking our recommendations on board. There are many other improvements included in this legislation. We were contacted by and talked to many people. We received submissions from many organisations. The member for Gympie talked about the number of submissions. I point out that we had 850 submissions on the use of glue paper—fly paper. When we talk about submissions, I ask members to bear in mind that this is a bill that everyone wanted to have their say on. I commend the minister, his staff and the department for dealing with a complex range of issues in a very sensitive and comprehensive manner. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.45 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak to the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill. At the outset, I pay tribute to the secretariat who dealt with a lot of submissions to the inquiry. I thank my colleague the member for Burleigh, who joined me in a statement of reservation. I thank all of the submitters to the inquiry as well as those witnesses who attended the committee hearings and those who attended the subcommittee hearings in Roma and Charleville. Although the report had been completed, we heard some very strong and compelling evidence from landholders who deal with the real-life management on their farms of the feral pig population and other biosecurity threats.

In our statement of reservation we talked mainly about two issues—the prong collar and CSSP, which is a feral pig control. Firstly, I will go to the prong collar issue. I encourage people to have a look at the submissions that were made on this bill. There are many pieces of evidence, including videos, that professional dog trainers provided to the committee. These prong collars are not just for controlling large, aggressive or potentially aggressive animals. These prong collars provide very clear communication between the handler and the dog. There is a lovely video of a young blind lady who is leading her coffee-coloured border collie through a market with a prong collar. I table a photocopy of a prong collar.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a prong dog collar [\[2019\]](#).

The importance of tabling this is to see how the prong collar works. It is not a choking collar like many people who gave submissions to the committee outlined. That is the mistaken view of many dog owners who, when questioned about the prong collar, admitted not having used one or seen one. They were talking about something that they had seen on television. I suspect, just like the Premier, they saw a photograph of one and thought it was ghastly.

I have tabled a photograph of a prong collar to show that it is a levered device that applies communication to both sides of the neck and has a plate on the larynx so the dog cannot choke. It provides clear communication to both sides of the neck. As I said, these collars are not just for the control of large or aggressive dogs. They are also for dog owners to keep clear communication with their dog, particularly in a crowded area, as I said with the young blind lady who was able to control her dog and listen to what her dog was saying to her by the impulses through the collar.

Everybody in this House knows my background in the police. I always look for evidence. It is so easy to look at a photo of a prong collar and say, 'That is a bad thing.' As we have heard, the facts show that there has been no evidence of injury to animals by these collars. That was the reason why the bill sees these devices outlawed.

I ask a serious question to the minister about prohibited devices. The bill talks about prohibited devices. I understand that it is actually the federal home affairs minister who allows the importation of some of these prohibited devices and that the federal home affairs minister has to give approval for certain things. Many in my community are concerned that those prohibited devices will extend to boundary fences or perimeter fences or other electronic collars that people may use for barking or control of animals.

In fact, we heard from the CEO of AgForce with regard to sheep dog training. When trying to control a young sheep dog 200 or 300 metres away with a whistle, the owner sometimes loses contact with the dog or the dog is not listening to the whistle. A shot of the collar, a low-energy awareness to the dog, brings them back on course and he can start training the animal again. I ask for clarity from the minister about what these prohibited devices are and whether some other tools of the agricultural industry are going to be outlawed and banned as an unforeseen consequence of this bill.

I move on now to the issue of CSSP. As our statement of reservation says and as those who made submissions on the bill clearly outlined to us, we need to have as many tools available to us as we possibly can. Through my background in local government I oversaw the administration of poisons—in fact, 1080—for dog and feral pig control in the Lockyer area for nine years. It was a very successful program. The issue with 1080 being managed through council is that it is not a timely manner of control.

I will talk about some of the great work of Darren Marshall from Southern Queensland Landscapes who is doing his doctoral study into the effective control of feral pigs. Mr Marshall through his doctorate is collaring many of the feral pigs and is tracking them so he knows their home range at certain times of the year or when they are around water so that he can engage with landholders. Some landholders and collared pigs might be on one property, but it is no good working on two or three properties if those pigs are going across eight or nine properties. Using the information from those collars as to the season and where they are, as well as using shooting control and then poison control and then shooting again, they are achieving a mortality rate of above 80 per cent. They are seeing 85 per cent in many cases from the one set of controls which is outstanding. One shooting alone might only see 20 per cent.

I come back to the issue of CSSP and that being available to our landholders. With the threats of lumpy skin disease, Japanese encephalitis, as well as foot-and-mouth disease, our farmers and the biosecurity controls across Queensland need to have all of those tools available. Overlay that with the work of Mr Marshall, or soon to be Dr Marshall, around collars and his use of poisons, he is able to say to landholders that when a sow is in litter she only moves 200 or 300 yards from a water source, so they know to go straight to that area, conduct some shooting and then make use of some poison and dosed bait. The pigs come back night after night and they get a proper dose of poison into them. There is a very low chance of any animal welfare concerns that some have raised. Then they can do another control with shooting. They are seeing some outstanding results.

Nobody of any reasonable nature will let animals suffer. Some of the feral pigs we are talking about are up to 200 kilos and they are killing lambs and calves. They are even raiding turtle nests and killing young turtles, as they saw when some of the pigs were cut open. They are a big threat not just from diseases but also to our endangered animals.

It is very clear from the evidence and the many hundreds of submissions that the prong collar—I recommend strongly to the minister to consider a level of training that will see prong collars able to be used so people can have sensible control of their dog or even so disabled people are able to maintain that connection and good communication with their animals, not aggressive animals. The Brisbane City Council changed their position on this bill because they found evidence to show that prong collars were very effective in a public setting. I would much rather have a dog under control in a public setting and no-one getting hurt than that dog being out of control and somebody accidentally being bitten. I encourage the minister to see an additional class of trainer included in that exemption.



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.55 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022. On 12 May 2022, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities introduced the bill into the

Queensland parliament. The bill was referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for consideration, with the report due by 1 July 2022. I am pleased to be representing the 57th Parliament as a member of this committee.

The objective of the bill, according to the explanatory notes, is to modernise Queensland's animal welfare laws to reflect modern scientific knowledge, community attitudes and expectations. The bill also implements recommendations from the inquiry into animal cruelty in the management of retired thoroughbred and standardbred horses in Queensland—otherwise known as the Martin inquiry—as well as the Queensland Audit Office's *Regulating animal welfare services*. Former retired District Court judge Terry Martin KC oversaw the Martin inquiry. That inquiry arose from a segment on ABC's 7.30 concerning a Queensland abattoir that dealt with the slaughtering of horses.

The bill proposes to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936, the Racing Integrity Act 2016 and the Disability Services Act 2006 to: facilitate the ethical use of animals for scientific purposes while protecting their welfare; strengthen enforcement powers to address risks to animal welfare by clarifying or prescribing new offences; prohibit inhumane practices, such as the firing or blistering of the legs of dogs or forces, the use of prong collars and the use of certain poisons to control pest animals; create an approved accreditation scheme which will allow a non-veterinarian to perform certain procedures on cattle; clarify legislation to remove redundant decisions; implement recommendations from the Martin inquiry, including those relating to the monitoring of livestock slaughter facilities; and, finally, implement government supported recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office aimed at strengthening the oversight of RSPCA inspectors. As the minister said in his first reading speech—

For many Queenslanders, animals are members of our families; are integral to agricultural production; are involved in sport and recreational activities; and provide valuable assistance to individuals and services in quarantine, detection and inspection. Animals are also important to the economy, international trade and research. The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing standards and legislation that protect the welfare of all animals and meet community expectations.

The Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 is the principal legislative framework for animal welfare in the state and is administered by Biosecurity Queensland. In the 20 years since the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 was introduced there have been significant advances in animal welfare science which has led to a better understanding of animal biology and behaviour, which in turn has assisted in developing improved animal husbandry practices and in general reduced the risks to the welfare of all animals.

Debate, on motion of Mr Madden, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Nanango Electorate, Youth Crime



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (7.00 pm): On Monday evening of this week whilst parked and eating a pizza in his car innocently playing Pokemon GO a young man was pulled from his vehicle by five other people, assaulted and left dazed as they stole his car, his phone and his wallet. This young man was bleeding and hurt, but amazingly he was able to drag himself up a very steep hill. It took him quite a while to get himself home. Can you imagine his parents' shock when they opened their front door to find him bloodied and very shaken? He then spent the night in hospital. This terrible event will change his life and his family's lives forever. There have also been a multitude of break-ins and home invasions around the South Burnett.

The juvenile criminals are known to our local police and the police are doing everything they can to bring these criminals to justice, but they have limited resources. Our local hardworking police are under-resourced and understaffed, and they are screaming out for help, so thanks must go to them. Meanwhile, the mayor of Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Elvie Sandow, has called me in relation to this issue. She was watching these alleged criminals drive around her town in the stolen car. She had been trying to get assistance to get these young thugs put away. She was standing outside council chambers watching them drive by, so I want to speak in this House today to show my support of Mayor Elvie Sandow and the Cherbourg community. Her community is outraged, frustrated, frightened and fed up. Just a few days earlier Elvie sent me photos of two burnt-out cars. These are Elvie's words on the council Facebook page—


Mayor Elvie Sandow, fellow councillors and management wish to make it known we do not in any way condone car theft. We share our community's frustration and disgust at those who are endangering the lives of not just themselves and their friends but our gundoo, elders, uncles, aunties who live with us. You are not a hero or clever stealing cars, speeding and skidding through our streets. When does this stop?

She goes on—

You are not just giving yourself a bad name; you are giving our Cherbourg community a bad name and reputation. What about the people you are stealing from? What happens to them? They work hard and feed their families, pay their bills, raise their families. How much damage and hurt are your actions causing? Just stop and think. You should be ashamed of yourself.

That is from Mayor Sandow. She wants help. Our police are under-resourced, understaffed and they need more help. Bring back breach of bail!

Mansfield Electorate; Lowe, Ms M, AM

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.03 pm): I rise to honour and pay my respects to the late Mary Lowe AM whose life was celebrated at Broadwater Road Uniting Church on 11 November 2022. Mary was a tireless volunteer with Meals on Wheels, which included her formidable roles as Queensland and national president. I express my sincere condolences to the Lowe family.


The Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement visited Hibiscus Stadium to discuss the \$8 million 2022-23 budget commitment to upgrade our local basketball stadium in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is a great local sporting investment that I worked hard to secure. I thank David Derwin and Keith Anthony, president of the Southwest Metro Pirates, for their tireless commitment to our community.

I was delighted to attend the official sod turning of the new Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital with the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services alongside my colleagues the member for Springwood, the member for Toohey and the member for Stretton. I also welcomed the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities to the Stackpole Street Wishart dog park to discuss the biggest animal welfare reforms in 20 years with local residents. My cavoodle Coco, along with her furry friends, was very pleased to meet the minister.

Congratulations to: the Rotary Club of Mount Gravatt for hosting fantastic Christmas markets and carols at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds; LESI Digital Music Education Centre on their spectacular end-of-year concert; and Cloud 8 Karaoke's magnificent Stars Above the Cloud Singing Competition recently held at Festival Hall. It was a pleasure to host my Mansfield electorate Youth Advisory Council's final 2022 meeting at Parliament House, attend the St Peter's and Rochedale State High School academic award ceremonies, and congratulate Mount Gravatt East local swimming star Shayna Jack on her fantastic medal haul at this year's Commonwealth Game.

Finally, I am delighted to announce the winners of my inaugural Mansfield electorate Small Business Awards. Over 1,000 votes were received and the winners are: cafe, Cenzo's; health, wellbeing and fitness, Raw by Bec; trade and services, Grass Action; beauty and hairdressing, Bella Amica; food and beverage, Panini's; retail and sales, Mr Meaty; community organisation, Mothers Connected; all other businesses, Sarah Scott Photography. Congratulations to everyone involved in my Small Business Awards. I look forward to continuing to promote our diverse range of small businesses as the Palaszczuk government delivers good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for my local community.

Coomera Electorate; Air Force Cadets 222 Squadron

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.06 pm): Air Force Cadets 222 Squadron has landed at Foxwell State Secondary College in 2022, 80 years after it was formed on 1 October 1942. They were originally housed at The Southport School, when 15 borders joined the corps and headquarters were established under Commanding Officer Mr CJ Chandler. The first graduate, GAP Ricketts, earned his wings with the Royal Australian Air Force in Canada in early 1944. Many cadets went on to serve in the RAAF and many gained their wings under the Empire Air Training Scheme.


Last Sunday my wife and I took great pleasure in attending Foxwell for the inaugural Banner Blessing, Dedication and Presentation Parade. I must say that it brought back memories for me as a 15-year-old on the parade grounds at HMAS Leeuwin in Fremantle in 1969. The 222 Squadron has seen excellent growth over the past two years with an intake in 2022 of 52 new members, taking the squadron's strength to 82 cadets. It was exciting to hear that the 222 Squadron will be permanently housed at Foxwell. I can see this partnership being a huge benefit to the squadron, Foxwell and the northern Gold Coast community as a whole.

Recently I attended Ark Gala Evening, a fundraising event for a very worth charity. I donated a beautiful piece of memorabilia titled 'Against all Odds—the Battle of Long Tan' that I am pleased to say fetched \$1,600. The founders of the Ark, Simon and Xenia Schembri, arrived in Australia in January 2010 with their blended family. They left behind a traumatic life but, in their own words, still had many

challenges to face. As they settled down, they discovered there was definitely a need to continue what they started in the UK. They say they have had the privilege of working with many families and at the present time have more than 90 families on their books. To me, a quote from the Helping Hands Program on the ATA website sums up what they are trying to achieve in their work: Families in crisis—we cannot change the past, but together we can change their future.

As Christmas approaches, community groups on the northern Gold Coast are hard at it spreading cheer far and wide. The Rotary Club of Ormeau Pimpama and Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade will be doing their annual Santa Run. The Ormeau Lions are selling Christmas cakes and puddings at Bunnings and doing the barbecue at Movies Under the Stars at Pimpama. The Rocky Point Rural Fire Brigade is having their community Christmas party this coming Saturday. Steps 4208 is hosting their annual Christmas Gift Appeal. The Highway Christian Church is hosting the Northern Gold Coast Carols on 11 December. The Volunteer Marine Rescue is having their Santa Run and handing out tide times and lollies for the kids. Christmas cheer is alive and well in the state seat of Coomera.

Stafford Electorate

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (7.09 pm): As 2022 comes to an end, I would like to thank the many community organisations, sporting clubs, schools and individuals who throughout this year have gone above and beyond for our beautiful community in Stafford. As we know, at the start of the year we experienced the first wave of the Omicron variant, and as it subsided we went straight into some of the worst flooding we have seen in the Stafford electorate. We saw Enoggera Creek expand into sporting clubs and homes along its banks, we saw the Kedron Brook spill into homes and businesses, and there was flooding in other areas of the electorate that had previously been untouched by floods.

In responding to these challenges, however, the Stafford community has proven itself to be resilient and committed to overcoming those challenges and coming together. I would like to acknowledge the hard and tireless work of the volunteers and organisations throughout the electorate who helped in that recovery. It was incredibly inspiring to see firsthand the work of members and volunteers who came down after the floods to clean up our sporting clubs that were hardest hit, such as Brisbane City, Newmarket, Gold Crest cricket, Brisbane Softball Association, Brisbane Netball Association, Kedron Lions and Grange Thistle. I was also inspired by the work of our community organisations, such as the volunteers and workers at Chermside's All Saints Anglican Church pantry who assisted many in the community with food and other essentials. In these times, we saw the best of our community in coming together and supporting one another.


In spite of these challenges, it has been remarkable to see many of our hardworking sporting clubs have successful seasons throughout the season. Many have a rich history in our area—from the mighty Diehards to the Gorillas at Hickey Park and Brothers at Gibbo. They all bring together families and neighbours.

I must also thank our local schools, from the teachers and staff to the hardworking P&Cs and P&Fs. Our electorate is incredibly fortunate to have strong school communities, ones that are committed to fostering the next generation of Queenslanders. From organising fetes, sausage sizzles, fundraisers and the academic support of the school, our local school communities have gone from strength to strength.

There are many more to thank who have worked incredibly hard this year: The Community Place, which provide myriad workshops and facilities for our community; The Common Good, for their hard work at the Prince Charles Hospital in raising funds for life-changing medical research, and it is actually their Giving Day today; and businesses such as Everyday Office National, the Now Business Network and the Bank of Queensland Stafford, whose charity and community-mindedness is amazing.

I want to finish with a particular shout-out to one local who has served our community. Father Mario Debattista at Little Flower Church Kedron has given extraordinary public service, including to the communities of Mount Alvernia, St Anthony's and Padua. He is moving on to serve other communities. Thank you, mate, and safe travels.

Gympie Electorate

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (7.12 pm): Gympie finishes the year with too many unresolved issues. Whether it is health, housing, roads, management plans or infrastructure, the state government's response is to either ignore, spin or outright reject. Gympie is not immune to floods. We have had three this year, with one only surpassed by a flood 129 years ago. That is when the Premier

turned up for the first time since 2015. A steady stream of ministers followed. Others turn up occasionally. Few people know ministers are in town until their media managers issue a release. Frequently, local journalists, community groups and residents ring my office asking for details. Gympie should not be just a backdrop for a managed media event or a box-ticking exercise for ministers to say that they have been to the regions. Ministers will not learn about what is happening if their visit is a closed, strictly vetted and staged event.

In June, the opposition leader and shadow health minister heard firsthand from more than 100 locals, patients, families and doctors about our health services. Right across the board, Gympie Hospital services are stretched, with patients transferred or told to travel 100 kilometres to the Sunshine Coast for basic treatments. No-one finds out what is happening until services are closed, reduced or withdrawn. They are only reinstated after public action—sometimes several months later and at a reduced level. The fracture clinic closed with no warning. Patients were sent away from booked appointments and told to see their GP or travel with broken limbs to SCUH. The clinic has reopened but only for one day a fortnight. It is a joke. Patients must ensure they need the clinic on the one day it is open.

The administrative assistance for patients accessing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme was withdrawn and only reinstated after complaints. This year we learned that patients were given phones to ring the nurses' station, that two rooms in the maternity unit closed because it rained, that water leaked onto live power points and that parents were given blankets to sleep on the floor. When 6,537 petitioners protested the systemic reduction of services, the health minister said it was only 'intermittent'. We have had problems for years. The Master Clinical Services Plan identified that Gympie needs a new hospital on a new site because facilities are old, not fit for purpose, fragmented and spread across multiple buildings. The minister blatantly refuses to initiate a business case process for a new hospital.

We have seen 531 petitioners protest the six-month closure, without any consultation, of a two-kilometre stretch of Gympie Connection Road and 459 petition for better access from the Bruce Highway's Bauple to Tiaro bypass. Road access to the Cooloolo Coast needs upgrading. As locals struggle to find homes, the Treasurer declared a unit block would 'not be appropriate' for residents who are living rough in tents and cars. Five years ago, drafting of the Great Sandy National Park new management plan started. We still have not seen it.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Flood Recovery



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.15 pm): As we heard in parliament this morning, we have recently had a game-changing announcement for Queensland's sports clubs which were impacted by the terrible February flooding and weather events. The funding for this program is fifty-fifty between the state and federal governments. As I have mentioned before in the House, my community was terribly impacted—in particular, my sports and clubhouses—by the flooding events in February so we are really excited about this funding. There is over \$2 million for Mount Ommaney community clubs. I recently announced some of the larger community gambling grants for some of my flood-affected clubs. Those grants were up to \$100,000. However, as I said, there is another \$2.2 million on the table to fix our community clubs. It is a huge list, and I now have two minutes left in my speech so I will get into that list.


There is \$274,000 for the Carrington Boating Club. This is a lovely little club nestled down by the river. The idea of the club is to provide an affordable option for everybody to participate in boating so it is accessible for everybody. I know they will use those funds wisely. There is another \$61,000 for the Corinda pony club, on top of the community gambling grant they received a few weeks ago. Their club was completely decimated by the floods so every dollar is going to help. A lot of their gear was washed away and floated down the street.

There is a fantastic \$686,000 for the Jindalee Bowls Club. This is the premier venue for seniors morning teas in my electorate so we need that venue back. This will go a long way to helping with that. There is \$220,000 for the brilliant Jindalee Jags. These guys host the Centenary Little Athletics so that will be important. This facility is used year-round and is also used by Jindalee State School every Friday. We need those fields to be as good as they can be, and there is money to rebuild the clubhouse as well. There is \$302,000 for the Oxley Bowls Club. They host community events every year. They do Queensland Day and Australia Day citizenship ceremonies. They also did a Diwali in Oxley a while ago which was fantastic.

An honourable member: A great club.

Ms PUGH: I take that interjection. There is \$446,000 for the Centenary Rowing Club. I was privileged to visit this club over the weekend and share the good news about this funding in person, alongside the federal member, Milton Dick. There is \$100,000 for the Centenary Stormers to resurface their fields. There is \$100,000 for the Oxley United playing fields. For the interest of members, that is the oldest soccer club in Queensland, founded over 100 years ago. Finally, there is \$100,000 for St Cats. This fantastic soccer club will host our annual Christmas carols this weekend. For my community, this is Christmas come early.

Mirani Electorate, Wind Farm

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (7.18 pm): Vast tracts of tropical and subtropical vegetation are being destroyed to make way for giant industrial wind turbines in my electorate. The Clarke Creek wind farm project, which consists of 195 wind turbines, is in the process of being developed over a project area of approximately 76,300 hectares and 11 private lots.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ANDREW: I am not taking interjections. Each of the 195 turbines has a rotor consisting of three blades of up to 240 feet in length, with a maximum hub height of 450 feet. The maximum tip height for the blades is 660 feet. According to detailed field surveys, eight species of raptor were seen in the project area, with one of the recorded species listed as endangered, the grey falcon.


Other endangered species identified include the squatter pigeon and the white-throated needletail. Species listed as vulnerable include the greater glider and now koalas. The project will remove up to 1,425 hectares of mapped koala habitat, 15.3 hectares of regulated vegetation and 44.7 hectares of threatened semi-evergreen vine thicket.

Clarke Creek is just one of many wind and solar projects proposed or already under construction in my region, some on significant tracts of unspoilt wilderness or remnant vegetation. Some of the plans to build green energy projects are in forests that predate white settlement, along corridors bordering World Heritage areas and on properties previously targeted for conservation protection. If all current proposals were to be approved, an estimated 13,332 hectares of remnant vegetation will be cleared statewide. Around 90 per cent of that land clearing is in North Queensland.

There are currently 48 large-scale renewable energy projects that have been completed, commenced or slated for Queensland, with some of the largest facilities to be built along the Coral Sea coastline. At Mt Emerald, the Kaban wind farm's project area is 1,300 hectares and includes 129 hectares of threatened species habitat. It is home to greater gliders and magnificent broodfrogs. The wind farm proposed for Chalumbin disturbs an area nine times larger than Kaban. The proposed site is right along the western boundary of World Heritage-protected rainforest. More than 1,100 hectares of vegetation would be cleared for the project. An even bigger wind farm is planned at Upper Burdekin, which stretches 37 kilometres end to end, according to the proposal.

We simply cannot afford to bulldoze endangered species' habitat to build all these habitat-wrecking, industrial-scale renewable projects. Doing so will drive away or kill off all our species and drive our old Indigenous species towards extinction, yet the federal government say they will make sure they will preserve.

Algeester Electorate

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.21 pm): 2022 has been another year of great challenge defined by flooding events and the recalibrating of life post the COVID pandemic. My electorate of Algeester has not been immune to these challenges, but the people of Algeester have, as always, demonstrated the great sense of community spirit that we are well known for, and we have seen a great deal of success across the Algeester electorate. As we reach the end of year, I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of that great success.

Over the last year, small businesses and community organisations in the Algeester electorate have been extremely fortunate in receiving over \$1.65 million worth of funding from a number of government grants. From the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Skilling Queenslanders for Work Fund to the Business Basics Grants, these grants have supported the great work they do in our local area.

The Algeester electorate is fortunate to have some wonderful schools with talented students and dedicated teachers and support staff. Each year, I invite student leaders from each of the Algeester electorate schools to Parliament House. This year I have had the pleasure of hosting a number of

school leaders and I would like to give a quick shout-out to them: Linoa and Stanley from Acacia Ridge State School; Joseph, Molly-Rose, Dino and Maddie from Algester State School; Tvish, Medansch, Eloise, Chloe, Cayden, Amber, Tara, Tia, Bassel, Taylan, Chloe and Saakshi from Calamvale Community College; Rachael, Hardik, Jemma, Aelisha, Andrew, Mason, Sabrina, Axel, Nicholas, Amanda, Christopher, Cameron, Shikarra, Samuel and Ayant from Calamvale Special School; Keely, Cooper, Mia and Caleb from Pallara State School; Deecan, Destinee, Gabriel, Lily-Rae, Lesleigh, Shandelle and Tanaya from The Murri School; and Angel and Mofid from Watson Road State School.

We have also seen a number of infrastructure projects delivered or initiated by the Palaszczuk government over the last 12 months across the Algester electorate. We have seen building upgrades and two new playgrounds at Acacia Ridge State School as well as a new security fence that has made a huge difference to the school. Watson Road State School has also seen new security fencing. Calamvale Community College has seen new classrooms, as has Pallara State School, and St Bernadine's Catholic Primary School officially opened their new admin block.

Roadworks have begun on the much needed upgrade to the Illaweenah Street, Beaudesert and Algester roads intersection, representing a \$32 million investment to increase road capacity, ease congestion and cut travel times along Beaudesert Road.

After a great deal of campaigning I was pleased to announce that a new bus service in Pallara will begin before the end of the year. Pallara residents will have a bus route with the extension of the 126 rolling out on 12 December 2022.

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone from across the Algester electorate for their great community spirit and their incredible resilience, and I wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Lockyer Electorate, Flooding; Infrastructure



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (7.24 pm): I would love to be standing tonight to speak positively about the wonderful Christmas carnivals that will be happening in the Lockyer and Somerset which I would hope to attend, but after the last few days and having to deal with a number of our community members, including Linda Godley from Grantham, who have finally been given some offers under the Resilient Homes Fund, this will not be a happy Christmas for many families.

We heard the Deputy Premier today say that the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has made offers to 117 of 500 houses that are proposed to be in the voluntary buyback. A couple of those are in the Lockyer. I am hoping to see about 34 of those 500 in the Lockyer. Remember, these houses in the Lockyer were flooded back in 2011 and they were told that it was a one-in-100-year flood.

Just last week, Linda and her family received an independent offer that was valued at \$340,000 for a one-acre block of land and a family home. Other properties in the Lockyer of similar ilk are valued above \$450,000. I have had a look at four properties with regard to valuations. One was valued back in May 2021 that is in a terrible location, with a very low price, and another is valued at a high price at \$560,000, yet Linda and her family have been offered \$340,000. That valuation is over \$100,000 short of where it needs to be. These people are vulnerable people who have been through terrible floods in 2011 and 2013 and now they faced the floods of 2022. The government needs to give them some assistance.

I remember when we did the land swap in Grantham following the 2011 flood, the economists worked out there was about \$108,000 in costs involved. There is stamp duty, transfer fees and removal costs. The government needs to be a little generous at Christmastime. To help with that, we do have an information session running next Wednesday between 11 o'clock and two o'clock. I encourage people to get along to that. Please, Deputy Premier and the QRA, let's see some generosity at Christmastime and see some fair valuations given.

I would also like to mention we have been conducting a petition with regard to safety and flooding on the Warrego Highway. We have seen over 70,000 people react to those social media pages and the media events. This government is saying that that work is planned for five years time. Let's see the safety issues resolved, lives saved, as well as that road kept open during flooding.

Pine Rivers Small Business Awards



Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.27 pm): Recently, it was a real delight to recognise the best of the best when it comes to our small businesses and social enterprises in Pine Rivers. It is their hard work and dedication that in large part makes the Pine Rivers community such a wonderful place to live,

visit and access services from. Through tough or tumultuous times, it is often our small business community that has allowed us to connect with one another and stay connected. When our small businesses are healthy and thriving, it means secure, quality local jobs and a boost to our local economy.

Our trade and services category winner is Pulse Vet Warner. Opening in the middle of COVID, they are a family owned and operated business with a focus on patients' needs. Our health and beauty winner is Simply Elegant who has no shortage of accolades. It is located in Strathpine. It has been owned by Cherie for 20 years. The Youth Development Foundation works with disadvantaged and disengaged youth and their families. Seven out of the 16 staff members are past participants. YDF won our social enterprise category. Our health and fitness award went to Cloud Radiology in Strathpine which has state-of-the-art technology and a strong customer service approach. The hospitality category winner is a real crowd favourite. They have taken a home business to a thriving small business in Warner and is a great stop to meet up and have a sweet treat, and that is 2 Chefs and a Cupcake.

In the most hotly contested category of retail and sales, the Twigs Toy Boutique offers high-quality children's toys that are good for the environment and development and caters for a neurodiverse community. Our micro small business winner was Mads Creation. It has been operating for just over 12 months with a wide variety of personalised items. People are, of course, at the heart of our small business and it was tremendous to recognise those essential humans whom our community adores, including Eloise Torrisi from Torrisi Beauty, Courtney Baker from YDF, Ardie McGrath from the 2 Do Crew, Fiona and Emily Taylor from Baffies Oan Books, and Brad and Rochelle Melville at Veridian Pen Studio.

I say thank you to the QCWA Samford for catering afternoon tea at the event for the award recipients. I also thank the wonderful Samford Bowls Club. We originally planned to hold this event in February, but the club was affected by flooding. It was unfortunate we could not do it then, but it was great to join in the recovery in a recent event. Maree Adshead, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner, came along to help celebrate with our small business community along with the Mayor of Moreton Bay, Councillor Peter Flannery, and Councillor Darren Grimwade from division 11 in Moreton Bay. I also thank my absolutely wonderful team.

This Christmas season let's shop local and back in our small business owners and keep our dollars circulating through our communities. Congratulations to our winners.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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