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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 2 December 2022

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FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER 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 STATEMENT

Lloyd, Mrs M



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, one of our longest serving employees is retiring after 47 years of service. On 18 September 1975, Mary-Ann Lloyd began with the Parliamentary Service as a stenographer. Just for context, that is two years before I was born.

Dr Miles: That is old.

Mr SPEAKER: It is very old, Deputy Premier. Mary-Ann started with the service a fortnight after this House appointed Albert Field to a Senate vacancy and two months before the dismissal of the Whitlam government. From 1980 to 1988, Mary-Ann was responsible for the operation of the IBM System/34 within the Parliamentary Library. I imagine it was quite large. In February 1984, Mary-Ann was promoted to the position of parliamentary research aid and, in 1988, she was further promoted to the position of technical services officer. In 1993, Mary-Ann was appointed as an information officer in the Parliamentary Library and, in 2005, as a systems support officer in the Parliamentary Library. Finally, in June 2019, Mary-Ann was appointed to the position of publishing and monitoring officer in Hansard. Yes, she has made all of you sound far more intelligent than you actually are—me included.

Mary-Ann's last day will be Wednesday, 14 December. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mary-Ann all the very best in retirement.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

PETITION

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Punjabi Language

1,301 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority to include Punjabi language as one of the languages that students can learn at school [\[2042\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following reports were tabled by the Clerk—

[2043](#) Published Indexed Thresholds to amounts contained in Schedule 2—Register of Interests

[2044](#) Members' Register of Interests Forms 1 to 4 updated to take into account the Published Indexed Thresholds tabled 2 December 2022

MEMBER'S PAPER


The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Hill (Mr Knuth)—

[2045](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to request the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority include Punjabi language as one of the languages that students can learn at school.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): 2022 has been quite the year. It was not the best start with the devastating floods, but as we recovered from that we also continued to recover from the pandemic and Queensland has not slowed down since then. We opened up again to the world, people moved here in their droves, the unemployment rate is at an all-time low of 3.3 per cent, our exports are booming at a record \$131 billion—which is nearly double the value of the previous 12 months and, again, is larger than that of New South Wales and Victoria combined—and our budget surplus has grown to a record high.

We have continued on our green-and-gold runway to 2032, building key infrastructure projects such as Cross River Rail. We have announced transformational plans such as our \$10 billion Hospitals and Health Plan and our \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, with a 70 per cent by 2032 renewable energy target setting up our state for generations to come. We have delivered new schools and hospitals, taken action on unprecedented housing pressures and continued to tackle issues such as youth crime and domestic and family violence. This year we have also made a giant leap towards our Path to Treaty, signing Queensland's Path to Treaty commitment.

I take this opportunity to table reports on our 2020, 2017 and 2015 government election commitments, which provide an update on the progress we have made. We are now halfway through the current term and well on track to delivering our promises, with over 50 per cent of our 2020 government election commitments already delivered.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Progress report on 2020 government election commitments', September 2022 [\[2046\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Progress report on 2017 government election commitments', September 2022 [\[2047\]](#).


Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Progress report on 2015 government election commitments', September 2022 [\[2048\]](#).

We are committed to good secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries and to protecting and enhancing our Queensland lifestyle as we grow. We are backing our frontline services by employing more than 7,300 additional frontline workers, including over 2,665 nurses and midwives, 821 allied health professionals, 611 doctors, 304 paramedics and 2,986 additional teachers.

Construction on all seven satellite hospitals has now commenced which, once complete, will be critical in ensuring Queenslanders can get better care closer to their homes. We have now completed 246 school infrastructure projects that we promised. We continue to create opportunities for First Nations Queenslanders by delivering on our commitment to develop a First Nations training strategy to provide job focussed training, as we announced on Thursday Island when we held our cabinet up there.

I am proud of what we have achieved so far. Despite global challenges affecting us locally, we are continuing to deliver the infrastructure and services that Queensland needs. Queenslanders can be sure that this government is delivering for them every day.

2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Legacy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): Queenslanders love their sport. We saw that this week when the AFLW Lions christened their new stadium at Springfield with a grand final. We saw it again as Cameron Smith won his third PGA title and we are feeling it now as the history books beckon the Socceroos. Sport unites us. It lifts us up and inspires us. Anyone who has seen a State of Origin game knows that.


However, there is no greater sporting spectacle than the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The achievement of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in our state has never been about a few weeks of competition. It is about the decades worth of investment leading up to them and the decades that will follow as Queensland steps onto the world stage like never before.

We are not wasting this opportunity. We have a plan. Our legacy program will ensure that the decisions made for 2032 will deliver benefits far beyond. Our legacy committee, made up of Queenslanders of all ages and from all walks of life, is tasked with this role. We want to ensure our games truly belong to all of us.

Today, I announce a legacy summit to gather together 500 people to have further input into our games, to be held in Brisbane on 22 March. Those 500 people will bring the feedback of their communities, giving thousands a say in this golden opportunity. We want all Australians to share with us how our state can be shaped and transformed by hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition, next week an online survey will open so that we can hear from everyone about their hopes and dreams for our games.


I want as many people from Queensland as possible to take part. I urge people to register their interest and share their ideas when applications open on Monday. As Olympian Nat Cook is fond of saying, teamwork makes the dream work. The legacy forum is our team. I look forward to finding even more ways for all Queenslanders to share in the pride of hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Veterans


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): Queensland has the largest population of veterans in Australia. More than 163,000 current and former Australian Defence Force personnel call Queensland home. Those Queenslanders have chosen a life of sacrifice and it is appropriate that we as a government support them during and after their service, including those who may find themselves in tough times. Following the release of our *Queensland Housing Summit: outcomes report* yesterday, I would like to further announce \$1.8 million to the Salvation Army to deliver a housing and homelessness support program for our veterans who may be experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. It is part of our broader \$10 million support package to improve the health, wellbeing and lifestyle of Queensland veterans and their families.

In talking about our veterans, three weeks ago today I announced the appointment of members to the Queensland Veterans' Council and the expert advisory body, the Veterans' Reference Group. Both groups came together this week with the inaugural meeting of the Queensland Veterans' Council being held right here at parliament. The members of the council have great insight and experience of the needs of the veterans' community. Their advice will be invaluable as to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of our veterans. The council have responsibility for managing, maintaining and preserving Anzac Square from next year and will also oversee the Anzac Day Trust Fund which supports the welfare of veterans and their dependants through annual grants programs for ex-service organisations. I thank my Assistant Minister for Veterans, Bart Mellish, who will be working closely with both groups as they help us drive outcomes for our veterans.

Job Creation

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): The heart of this government is about delivering good jobs, better services and a great Queensland lifestyle. The first among these is good jobs. There is dignity in work. It is about having the ability to pay your bills. Since our election we have helped create 461,200 new jobs—good, decent jobs—and we want to create even more. I am pleased to announce success in our flagship Workforce Strategy Grant Program. This program links employer groups with large cohorts of people who are either not currently working or working full-time. The minister advises me that, at the close of the program, if successful we will be helping more than 35,000 employers find workers and more than 54,000 workers find a job. The minister will go into more detail shortly, but I want to congratulate her and her team for the profound difference this program makes to so many people's lives.

Housing Supply

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.41 am): Queensland's economy is booming, so it is no wonder people are flocking here for the good jobs and great lifestyle our great state has to offer. We are determined to ensure our housing supply keeps up, and that is why we are easing certain planning regulations to make it easier for people to find accommodation.

A change today to the planning regulation will provide more housing options in lower density residential zones. By removing the requirement for local government planning approval, providing other requirements are met, we are accelerating the development of rooming accommodation in areas where residential development is expected. The change does not affect the need for rooming accommodation to be assessed under the building framework and to obtain all other necessary approvals, such as for plumbing or drainage.


Rooming accommodation is residential accommodation where each resident can only occupy one or more rooms on the premises as agreed rather than the whole premises. Other rooms within the premises, facilities, furniture or equipment outside of the residents' rooms are shared with the other residents at the premises. Making it easier for rooming accommodation to be developed means more options for Queenslanders who need a place to live. The change will help to provide greater housing diversity in the lower density residential zone, low-to-medium density residential zone and general residential zones across Queensland.

Today I am also proud to announce that the first six local housing action plans for councils across Western Queensland will be unveiled. These are designed to tackle housing challenges in rural and remote communities. The Palaszczuk government has partnered with the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils to fast-track the plans for its 22 councils.

Today we can release the pilot plans for Murweh, Paroo, Flinders, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia and Carpentaria councils. These plans will equip councils to better respond to a range of immediate, emerging and longer-term housing challenges. The Western Queensland Alliance of Councils has been leading the way with its work in examining the key factors affecting housing in each of these communities.

The plans include an assessment of housing availability, a view of the rental market, social housing, demand for aged care and emergency housing. This is just the start, with the learnings from these pilot sites to inform how action plans will be rolled out to the 16 other councils. We are committed to working with councils across Queensland to address housing issues and improve the livability of our communities.

Resources Industries, Exploration


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.43 am): Our state's resources industry delivers prosperity and opportunity for Queenslanders across the state. That is why we want to see more mines extracting more resources right across Queensland. It is why in the 2022-23 budget I announced extended funding for the Collaborative Exploration Initiative program for the next four years. Today I can announce that mineral explorers can now apply for funding from the latest round of the Collaborative Exploration Initiative.

Some \$4.7 million is available to help Queensland explorers discover more of the minerals needed to power the renewable energy revolution. Growing demand means now is the time to take full advantage of our mineral endowments and to create new opportunities and good jobs for Queenslanders, particularly in regional communities.

Explorers can now apply for grants of up to \$250,000 to help get their project up and running. Because Queensland backs mineral explorers more than other states, we offer a competitive advantage not seen in any other state. We de-risk exploration because we do not require our explorers to match our funding. This encourages Queensland explorers to look forward and to open the next frontier of exploration across Queensland, particularly in places like the North West Minerals Province. We want explorers to know that the Palaszczuk government is rock solid when it comes to growing our critical minerals industry and the good jobs it creates.

The natural riches beneath Queensland soil include vanadium, cobalt and copper. The world needs these minerals to manufacture renewable and advanced technologies such as solar panels and batteries. The key to unlocking these mineral deposits is exploration. Queensland has the mineral resources below the ground and the renewable energy resources above the ground to become a global energy superpower. A strong resources industry and a strong renewable energy sector go hand in hand. Together they are the key to Queensland's economic prosperity for decades to come.

Asbestos Awareness Week; Education


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.46 am): I say hello to Jordan, Minister Linard's son, in the gallery. Last week, I was privileged to be able to attend the Asbestos Disease Support 2022 thankyou event held in the heart of my electorate at Victoria Park as part of Asbestos Awareness Week. Two special guests were our safety advocates, Don and Julie Sager, who tragically lost their son to mesothelioma when he was 25 due to inadvertent exposure to asbestos when he was a toddler. They now visit Queensland workers to speak to people about the consequences of exposure to asbestos. We also have produced a film with them titled *Losing Breath: the Adam Sager Story* which has been viewed more than 52 times. I pay tribute to them and the contribution they are making to asbestos safety.

This event was extra special because it marked the 30th anniversary of the Asbestos Disease Support Society. I take this opportunity to congratulate the society and to thank the outgoing general manager Trevor Torrens for his hard work. I am proud of the reforms the Palaszczuk government has made in this area such as a reclassification of low density fibreboard to friable, together with our updated statewide strategic plan for the safe management of asbestos which was released last month.

The final day of term 2 for many state school students is one week today but for some it is already over. Later this morning I will be meeting 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who have finished Year 12 at Kirwan State High School in Townsville and have gone through the Clontarf program. Clontarf started at Kirwan in 2017 with just five Year 12 students. To see 35 today is a fantastic achievement.

In another acknowledgement, Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM has announced she is standing down as the executive director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. She began her teaching career at St Patrick's College in Townsville in 1979 and has made an outstanding contribution to education in Queensland ever since. She was the first lay principal of All Hallows, Queensland's oldest Catholic secondary school; in fact, it is my old school in the heart of my electorate. It has been another outstanding year in Queensland education. This has seen our staff, students and school communities rise to the occasion once again. To each of you on behalf of the Palaszczuk government, we say thankyou and merry Christmas.

Voluntary Assisted Dying

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): All Queenslanders have a right to a good death, free of suffering and with support for them and their loved ones. The Palaszczuk government went to the 2020 election with a commitment to provide Queenslanders with life-limiting conditions with choice—choice of when, where and how their palliative care is provided; choice regarding their place of death and, if they wish, when they die.

In just over one month Queenslanders can start making requests to access voluntary assisted dying on 1 January 2023, providing another end-of-life option for people who meet the strict eligibility criteria. In September last year, our parliament passed the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021, delivering on the promise Labor made to Queenslanders at the 2020 election. Since the legislation was passed, Queensland Health has been working closely with clinicians, health workers, aged and palliative care providers, unions, professional colleges and consumer and advocacy organisations to implement the necessary processes and safeguards needed to facilitate voluntary assisted dying.

In the past month, two significant milestones have been achieved. Firstly, the inaugural nine-person Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board was appointed and the first meeting was held. The review board provides an important safeguard for Queenslanders by reviewing each completed voluntary assisted dying case to ensure the process complies with the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021. Secondly, the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Conference was held on Saturday, 29 October. I would like to thank the over 2,000 people who registered to attend. It is reflective of the passion and commitment of many healthcare workers and the genuine support shown towards Queenslanders and their health needs at the end of life.


In addition to this, the Chief Health Officer has recently signed off the credentialing and defining scope of clinical practice health service directive. As at 28 November 2022, Queensland Health had endorsed 135 medical practitioners, nurse practitioners and registered nurses, within the public and private settings, to undertake mandatory training to become VAD practitioners. It means by 1 January 2023 all hospital and health service areas will have authorised VAD practitioners in place.

As an additional measure, the department is finalising processes that will enable authorised VAD practitioners to travel to a patient should one not be available nearby, thereby ensuring equitable access for people living in regional, rural and remote areas. This is needed until we get the changes to federal legislation that allow us to support people through telehealth as well. As I said during debate on the bill, the introduction of voluntary assisted dying will provide further choice and dignity to people who are suffering and dying, placing control back in their hands when it comes to the timing and circumstances of their death. It is an additional end-of-life choice for those who are eligible.

Voluntary assisted dying in Queensland does not and will not detract from an accessible and well-resourced palliative care system. At the 2020 election, the Palaszczuk government committed to improving palliative and end-of-life care across Queensland with an additional \$171 million investment. On 28 October, I was pleased to launch our new Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy and Queensland Health Workforce Plan. This five-year blueprint will guide the Queensland government's

approach to ensure that those Queenslanders who are suffering and dying are provided with compassionate, people-centred palliative care and end-of-life options no matter where they live. It is every Queenslanders' right to die with dignity, and it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering this for Queenslanders.


Schoolies Week

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.52 am): As the school year comes to an end for more students, I once again congratulate this year's year 12 students. As the annual schoolies week celebrations have come to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank the police officers and support agencies and organisations for their efforts.

I joined police on the Gold Coast during the first weekend of schoolies. I walked around the safe night precinct in the late evening with police officers who were out on patrol. I saw firsthand police officers taking a proactive approach, interacting and conversing with many of the young people who were out and about. This was the biggest schoolies since COVID. It was much anticipated. Police tell me that the behaviour was generally very good. What was notable was how many young people attended. Police say more than 20,000 young people attended. I am informed that is about 10,000 more than last year.


I also saw firsthand police using electronic metal-detecting devices to check whether people were carrying dangerous weapons. During schoolies, police officers wanded almost 1,000 people within the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach precincts—32 people were arrested on 42 charges and police seized seven weapons. In one example, a 39-year-old was located with a box cutter. The man was charged with possessing a knife in a public place. The wanding powers that police have in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts have proved a success. I fundamentally believe that they are saving lives.

Community Safety

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.54 am): There is a matter in the public eye today that is sub judice as it is before the court, so I am restricted in what I can say. I will, however, address related departmental matters. When first briefed, I immediately asked the Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner to take action in respect to this cohort of offenders. Additionally, I sought confirmation from the commissioner that the alleged incident would undergo thorough review.

I am advised that a review by an external body has already been completed and immediate measures by Queensland Corrective Services are being implemented. A second review by the Operational and Major Incident Review Group within the Professional Standards and Governance Command is also underway. As the publicly reported matter is before the courts and still under investigation and review, it would be inappropriate to make further comment, and to do so may also offend the sub judice rule.

Closing the Gap

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.55 am): Today I table Queensland's 2022 Closing the Gap annual report and snapshot report.

Tabled paper: Queensland Closing the Gap—Annual Report 2022 [[2049](#)].

Tabled paper: Queensland Closing the Gap—Snapshot Report 2022 Edition [[2050](#)].

These reports outline Queensland's performance and outcomes against the four priority reforms and 17 socio-economic targets under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The Palaszczuk government is committed to working hard to achieve these targets over 10 years. In addition to funding that supports achievement of the individual targets, we have committed an initial \$9.3 million over four years to support implementation of the agreement in Queensland.


I am pleased to report that two years into this new agreement we are on track to achieving four of the socio-economic targets including increasing the proportion of First Nations babies with a healthy birth weight to 91 per cent by 2031—we are seeing nine in 10 babies being born strong and healthy.

We are on track to increasing the proportion of First Nations children enrolled in early childhood education to 95 per cent by 2025. Our current data tells us that 95.1 per cent of First Nations children are enrolled in early childhood education today. Our focus is maintaining and improving on this strong outcome. This result is actually higher than the mainstream population—which is very positive. We are on track to reducing the rate of First Nations young people between 10 and 17 in detention by at least 30 per cent by 2031. We are also on track to ensuring that First Nations people maintain their distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their lands and waters.

These on-track measures are promising because things such as good birth weights should mean healthier kids engaged in schooling, resulting in better health and social outcomes all the way into their adult lives. Queensland's annual report highlights the strong partnerships we have built with First Nations' organisations to effect change, but we must and we will do better because, while life expectancy has increased over time, we are not on track to meet the life expectancy target. We are not on track to increase the availability of appropriate, affordable housing, but we have established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, the peak body to work with Indigenous community housing organisations and councils on housing and homelessness. We are not on track to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the adult criminal justice system. That is why we have established the First Nations Justice Office, and we have committed \$2.3 per annum ongoing to address over-representation in the criminal justice system.

Self-determination and hearing First Nations voices is at the heart of Queensland's Path to Treaty, Local Thriving Communities reform and our state's role in achieving the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Given the entrenched and intergenerational disadvantage experienced by First Nations people, we will not solve these issues overnight. As has always been understood, closing the gap will take a focused effort over a generation, working toward the progressive realisation of the targets that have been set. Together these reforms being developed and delivered in partnership with First Nations Queenslanders will set the foundation for the substantive change we would all like to see.


Manufacturing

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.58 am): Our Queensland manufacturers are among the best in the world. On this side of the House we are doing everything we possibly can to support them. The Palaszczuk government support comes in a multitude of ways—all guided by our advanced manufacturing roadmap, which I announced an update to just recently.

That is not the only good news I have been able to share with our fantastic Queensland manufacturers lately. I recently travelled to Cirrus Ag in Rockhampton with the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel to announce that round 5 of our fantastic Made in Queensland grants program is officially open. Manufacturers have 10 more days to apply, so if you have manufacturers in your electorate now is the time to get them to apply. \$20 million will go towards grants that will help our Queensland manufacturers buy equipment for their workshops that they would not have been able to pay for alone or upskill staff and tap into Industry 4.0 and lean manufacturing practices here in our workshops. On top of that, we know these grants are creating good, solid jobs. At Cirrus Ag in Rocky, an MIQ grant this government gave to them has helped that business introduce a first-of-its-kind automated granular manufacturing facility and put on five more local workers. It is a similar story at all of the manufacturers I visit. Queensland government support is helping create good jobs and better services right across the state.

A common criticism of grants programs is that money is given out with a short-term view, but the repeated success of Made in Queensland proves that our manufacturers are thinking carefully about the grants they are applying for. My department and the teams at our manufacturing hubs right across Queensland are helping to ensure that rigorous processes are followed so money is not wasted. Across regional Queensland, since 2017 the Palaszczuk government's manufacturing grants program has supported more than 140 projects across the state through funding of \$68 million while creating and supporting more than 6,000 jobs, many of those in regional Queensland. Moving forward, we know that our Queensland manufacturers are going to play a critical role in the Energy and Job Plan in Queensland. There is no reason why we cannot build what we need right here, right now, in Queensland. Applications for round 5 of the Made in Queensland grants closes on 12 December, and I certainly look forward to announcing more grants for our wonderful Queensland manufacturers after that.

Employment

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.01 am): I would also really like to give a shout-out to Jordan, the member for Nudgee's son, who is in the gallery today.

Queensland is experiencing record low unemployment at 3.3 per cent, which is the lowest rate ever recorded for this state. It is a sign of Queensland's continued strong economic growth. Good jobs, better services, a great lifestyle for Queenslanders—that is our aim. We are most certainly producing those jobs—over 209,000 since the beginning of COVID—and we are projecting an additional 280,000 over the next three years. We are doing so well that we have the wicked problem of needing more people to fill those jobs, which is exactly what we set out to address with our Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032 which the Premier and I announced earlier this year. It is the first of its kind in Australia and \$70 million was allocated to just our first action plan.


We have been steadily rolling out the initiatives under that plan. We know that in Queensland there are 190,000 people who are currently working some hours but would like to work more. There are 170,000 people who currently face employment barriers. They are largely in vulnerable cohorts such as First Nation people, women with small children, people from multicultural backgrounds, older people and people with disabilities. Very pertinent to people with disabilities is the theme for this week, Workforce Diversity, which is aimed at changing the dial and getting people with disabilities into the workforce. Our flagship program, the first of its kind anywhere that we know of, our \$20 million Workforce Connect Fund, aims to link major employer bodies and other organisations with all of these cohorts. To say there is a sense of excitement and enthusiasm around that program would be a severe understatement. Our Workforce Strategy recognises that we are all in this together and that partnerships are key. That is how we are running this strategy.

Several weeks ago we held Workforce Now, which is my department's formal name for what I call speed dating, because that is exactly what it was. Multiple organisations literally met each other for the first time at the convention centre to connect for employment opportunities. The Queensland Tourism Industry Council met RSL Queensland and Defence Families Australia. The National Retail Association and Australian Retailers Association met with Busy At Work, an apprenticeship and traineeship organisation that works with vulnerable jobseekers. Followmont Transport, a major trucking company, met with Multicultural Australia, and the list goes on. There was such enthusiasm from that event. They want more, and they want them in the regions.

Last week applications closed for our Workforce Connect Fund. If all applications were successful we would be assisting 35,000 employers to get workers and we would be assisting over 54,000 workers to get part-time or full-time jobs. We have already started to process those applications. This is just one of the important initiatives we are rolling out. The Workforce Strategy builds on the already substantial record this government has in creating employment programs that work.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which is loved on this side of the House, is the most successful employment program of its kind in Australia with a 76 per cent success rate of its participants, some of the most vulnerable people in Queensland, being in employment or further training 12 months after completion. The most recent analysis shows an economic return of \$8 for every dollar spent. Since 2015 the initiative has helped more than 46,000 Queenslanders secure work, and we have not finished yet. Of course, the Treasurer gave us permanent funding for that program in last year's budget. Since 2016 the Back to Work program has supported over 28,000 jobseekers into work across 13,000 employers in Queensland who shared in \$311 million in funding. These are just some of the ways in which we are supporting Queenslanders across every region and every sector. We are securing Queensland's future.

Family Matters Report

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): All children and young people deserve a childhood free from violence, abuse and neglect. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting parents and carers build stronger families and keeping children safe from harm. We are committed to: ensuring that all children and young people grow up safe and thriving, cared for in family and connected to community and culture; that they are supported and empowered; and all that children, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the same opportunities and life outcomes.

Last week *The family matters report 2022* was released. The report looked into what governments are doing to reduce the over-representation of Australia's First Nations children. The annual report, released by SNAICC, shows that Queensland is making genuine progress. Queensland

is the only jurisdiction in Australia with positive ratings across all four Family Matters building blocks. We are the first to enshrine all five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in legislation. Queensland is leading the nation in allocating government funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations to deliver family support services.

In 2022-23 the government is investing \$43.4 million to deliver free culturally safe practical support by its 34 Family Wellbeing Services. Family Wellbeing Services are helping mums like 24-year-old Sandy—not her real name, of course—who has four young children. Sandy says the support she received from the Family Wellbeing Service was an incredible help. Staff helped her get her children into day care and a homework club. They helped with budgeting and connecting her to mental health services. They also assisted her with drafting a safety plan to protect her from her partner's abusive behaviour. Family Wellbeing Services received almost 5,000 referrals in the year to 30 September.

The latest report shows that Queensland is making positive inroads towards implementing delegated authority. This change will enable the powers and functions of the chief executive officer of my department to be delegated to the chief executive officer of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander entity. This is about creating systemic change, enabling greater self-determination and a fundamental shift in how child protection, family support and other services work with, and for, Queensland's First Nations families.

Children are being connected to family, kin and culture, and there are growing numbers of reunifications. To date, 54 First Nations children have delegated authority arrangements in place, and I look forward to this number growing. I commend Darcy Cavanagh, CEO of REFOCUS, and Jason Field, CEO of Central Queensland Indigenous Development, for implementing this new way of working.

It is unacceptable that First Nations children do not have the same wellbeing outcomes as non-Indigenous children, and it is unacceptable that First Nations children are disproportionately represented in the child protection system. We have a long journey, but we are resolute in our commitment to implementing the Our Way strategy in partnership with Family Matters Queensland and other organisations to ensure First Nations children grow up safe and cared for in family, in the community and in culture.

Indigenous Womens Ranger Network

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.10 am): Tonight, some 15,000 kilometres away from the shores of our Great Barrier Reef, the global spotlight will shine brightly on a group of 130 amazing Queensland Indigenous women. Led by Larissa Hale and the Yuku Baja Muliku women, the Indigenous Womens Ranger Network will join names like David Attenborough as one of 15 finalists from across the world in the running for the prestigious Earthshot Prize.

For thousands of years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have been caring for land and sea country. Larissa Hale said—

I was initially the first Indigenous female ranger co-ordinator for Queensland, and being the only woman in the room, it was a little bit daunting.


So she set up the group four years ago with funding from the Palaszczuk government to encourage and support women on country doing land and sea management. Growing from just 24 members in their first year to 130 today, the group work together to combine generations of knowledge with modern technology to monitor, research and protect the reef, with their efforts now serving as a blueprint for Indigenous women worldwide. While they are already winners in our eyes, I want to wish them the best of luck.

We are lucky in this state to have two of the oldest living cultures in the world, the oldest rainforest in the world and one of the largest coral reef systems, and it is critical that we work together to preserve this rich cultural and environmental heritage. It is why we have committed to doubling the number of Indigenous land and sea rangers across our state and investing \$30 million through Reef Assist to deliver projects with a focus on supporting First Nations jobs and training opportunities.

It is why today I am proud to announce that as the efforts of these women are recognised on the global stage our government will provide another \$230,000 to support the network for years to come. I had the pleasure of catching up with Larissa and many of the brilliant women rangers last week at a workshop at the Guanaba Indigenous Protected Area, hosted by Justine Dillon and the Kombumerri

Rangers. As Larissa says, through the network we have 'made the big first steps, but we have a long way to go'. It is vital we continue to support these women as they work to protect the unique culture and environment that has existed for thousands and thousands of years.

Biosecurity, Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.12 am): We do not agree on everything in this House, but the one thing we do agree on is that all of us—no matter where we were born, where we grew up or where we work—feel the heartbreak when disaster occurs. No-one, including every person in this House—whether we are from Townsville, Toowoomba, Tanbar or Tully—is immune from the reach of disaster. In Queensland, and as we have seen recently in New South Wales and Victoria, disasters come in the form of floods and fires. The aftermath is devastating but the key to ensuring losses are minimised is preparedness. We can often see them coming. We prepare for the worst and hope for the best. The thing about fires and floods is usually we get some kind of warning. We know when the rains come that rivers rise, and when fires start the smell of smoke alerts us.


However, with biosecurity disasters, we often do not see them coming and we need to be prepared for a biosecurity disaster. You are probably thinking that we can see FMD and LSD coming, but long before it got this close Biosecurity Queensland, our state and national partners and industry were preparing for the worst to ensure the best possible outcome. Biosecurity threats such as pests, animal diseases and invasive plants do not necessarily give us warning signs. They are not like fires or floods, but they have the potential to be just as devastating to our agricultural families and industries and our economy.

I am pleased to advise the House that the \$22 million of funding announced in August by the Premier this year at the Ekka is well on its way to bolstering biosecurity in Queensland. We continue to train and prepare people across the state, and the staff we promised to be deployed across Queensland have been signed on. Eight new staff across regional Queensland will further mobilise our biosecurity capabilities. We must be vigilant. It is thanks to people on the ground who notice and notify our biosecurity officers across our state and the nation. They are the people who are our frontline defence against all manner of threats to our agricultural industry. I am proud of the commitment and work of my department and our industry partners in ensuring Queensland is as prepared as it could possibly be.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Wacol Precinct, Security

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.15 am): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier confident in the security arrangements at the precinct housing paedophiles in Wacol?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition is referring to an article that appeared in a paper today. Let me say, as the minister outlined to the House in a ministerial statement, that this current matter is before the court—

Mr Crisafulli: I am asking about security.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not think anyone should be commenting on the facts of that case.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the Premier is answering the question and is being relevant to the question as asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The courts need to be able to examine that case.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, you will cease your interjections also.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am endeavouring to answer the question and now I am getting to another point of the question—that is, the minister has said that this incident is currently under review in relation to the security operations around the precinct. Obviously, there needs to be a thorough and extensive

review and he has outlined the command ethical unit that will undertake that review. This morning I have also spoken to my director-general who has spoken to the Corrective Services Commissioner to ensure that no stone is left unturned in relation to the review and any recommendations that come out of that review. That command will report to the commissioner and the commissioner will update the minister about that.

Wacol Precinct, Security

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister explain what obligation he has to inform Queenslanders about cuts to security and any breaches at the precinct housing paedophiles at Wacol?

Mr RYAN: I am advised that there have not been any cuts to security at the Wacol precinct. In fact, under our government, security, infrastructure, resourcing, training and personnel has increased. The only government that has overseen a cut in resourcing or facilities is when they were in government. When the member for Kawana was the minister responsible for Corrective Services, there were cuts to the department. I am advised that over 300 staff in community corrections, which monitor offenders in the community, were sacked. I am advised that the dog squad patrols were cut when the member for Kawana was the minister responsible for corrections.

I am sure that there were reviews and analysis done, and I do not want to draw any particular connection, but following the cuts of Dog Squad patrols at Capricornia Correctional Centre, a murderer escaped from the low security facility in 2014 when the member for Kawana was the minister responsible for corrective services. Under the Palaszczuk government—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms RICHARDS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sitting in the back corner and all I can hear is—

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, member. I am well and truly in control of the chamber.

Mr RYAN: Under the Palaszczuk government, we have invested in corrective services. What has that led to? More capacity, more infrastructure, more training and more specialist personnel. In fact, the number of specialist personnel who monitor these types of offenders in the community has increased by almost 100 per cent under our government. We have increased the resources in the technology we use to monitor these offenders and we have also toughened laws. In fact, it was this government that toughened laws in respect of this cohort of offenders which means that should they breach their orders, they can be immediately arrested and brought back into custody and brought before bars. In respect of this matter, Corrective Services have given me a commitment that they will continue to review their systems and enhance them.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, I wish to warn the member for Nanango, the member for Currumbin, the member for Toowoomba South and also the member for Clayfield. I gave cautions to all members during that period. You are all warned under the standing orders.

Frontline Workers

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is backing our hardworking frontline workers?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Macalister for the question. On this side of the House we have been increasing the number of our frontline services men and women across the state because we acknowledge the great work that they do, whether it is police officers, nurses or teachers out there in our community, working hard. I also want to acknowledge that over the Christmas break a lot of our nurses, police officers and people in our hospitals will be working. I thank them in advance for the work that they do during this period of time when other people are spending time with their family and friends.

I am pleased to advise the House that over 12,000 of our hardworking police officers will now be some of the best paid in Australia. These are great outcomes for our police officers. That includes the 1,000 additional police that we put on the beat since coming to office. We are delivering police officers a pay rise of four per cent each year for the next two years and a three per cent pay rise in the third year. Plus, there will be a cost-of-living adjustment payment to ensure wages keep pace with inflation. In addition, for the first time, superannuation will be paid on an all-ordinary-time earnings which include

many allowances. Police Union President Ian Leavers says this agreement is the gold standard for police in Australia and is possibly the best police pay deal in the Western world. On this side of the House, we back our police and we thank them for the hard work that they do.

Also, I can advise that in regards to nurses and midwives, we will recognise Sunday penalty rates, access to annual leave and the extension to mental health allowance to more nurses. I want to acknowledge the work of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union whose State Secretary Beth Mohle said that nurses and midwives deserve the real change reflected in this groundbreaking agreement. Once again, I want to thank those hardworking nurses and midwives who do an important job right throughout Queensland and, unlike those opposite who sacked nurses and midwives, we back our nurses and midwives.

As school is almost out, I also want to thank our hardworking teachers. The 54,000 teachers in our public schools will now have amongst the best pay conditions in the country. Recognising all they do for our young people, they will now receive a pay rise of 11 per cent over three years, plus cost-of-living adjustment payments. Importantly, this deal also includes increasing incentives for teachers to work in regional, rural and remote communities. As the minister outlined in the House, you go and work rural or remotely, you will get an extra incentive.

That is what we do on this side of the House: we back our teachers, we back our frontline workers and we thank them for the extraordinary work that they do. As I said in this House earlier, we have continued to increase our frontline workers across the state. We will continue to back them, unlike those opposite who cut, sacked and sold our assets.

Wacol Precinct, Security

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister outline what steps the government has taken to ensure children are not brought onto the precinct housing paedophiles at Wacol?

Mr RYAN: I acknowledge the member for asking a question. It is rare he asks me a question. In fact, I note from the *Notice Paper* on Tuesday, he forgot to put a question in, such is his diligence to this portfolio area. In any event, can I assure the member that Queensland Corrective Services and the Queensland government takes the safety of Queenslanders very seriously, and that includes putting in place measures to enhance security and surveillance of serious offenders.

In respect of the matter to which the member refers, I immediately sought assurances from the Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner that the matter would be thoroughly reviewed and immediate steps put into place. As a result of one of those reviews, action is underway to increase security at that precinct. These are additional improvements on top of the improvements that the government has been making to that precinct since it was elected. In fact, I can acknowledge that there have been consistent improvements at that precinct around facility upgrades, security upgrades, intensive training for staff, as well as new technologies to help with monitoring these offenders in the community, along with the tougher legislation that this government has brought in in respect of numerous cohorts of child sex offenders. I am advised that since 2016, Queensland Corrective Services almost on a yearly basis has been making improvements to that precinct, enhancing facilities and enhancing security.

Members would have heard in my first answer that the number of staff allocated to monitoring these offenders in the community has increased by almost 100 per cent—dedicated staff who monitor these offenders in the community. It does contrast with the record of those opposite.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: No, it does contrast with the record of those opposite. I know members would be particularly interested in hearing more about how that murderer might have escaped from the correctional facility when the member for Kawana was the minister responsible for Corrective Services. It was reported in the *Brisbane Times* in April 2014 in an article headed, 'Murderer, armed robber escaped after "dog squad cuts"'—

The removal of prison night patrol dog squads was a factor that enabled a murderer and an armed robber to escape from a low security jail near Rockhampton ...

Members might well also be interested to hear what other offenders did whilst the member for Kawana was the minister responsible for corrections, and I hope to have the opportunity to provide that information soon.

Housing Supply

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier explain to the House how the Palaszczuk government is working with councils to ease housing pressures across the state and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. Local government has a vital role to play in delivering housing for Queenslanders. Today I want to thank the Toowoomba Regional Council for being proactive in accelerating their housing supply. Yesterday I approved a request from Toowoomba Regional Council to adopt a temporary planning instrument that will pave the way for thousands of extra homes. The council proposed the temporary local planning instrument that will enable it to fast-track residential developments on underutilised land whilst it also continues preparing its new local planning scheme and long-term housing solutions.

The TLPI is a clear path forward to boosting supply and easing the housing shortage in Toowoomba. This is a positive example of a council being proactive with tackling housing issues and finding local solutions to get new homes off the ground. Toowoomba's TLPI will streamline the delivery of about 2,800 new lots and houses on serviced and suitably located land in the emerging community zone. Land in this zone, taking in Cotswold Hills, Glenvale, Torrington and Drayton, has been earmarked for development.

The TLPI, the temporary local planning instrument, also paves the way for medium and higher density housing development on underutilised land in the Toowoomba region by allowing the use of pumped pipe stormwater management systems on about 9,000 lots. We are continuing to work with councils to find solutions to deliver affordable housing right across the state including in Toowoomba. I thank Toowoomba Regional Council for working so closely with us on this important job.

It would not be the last question time without some Christmas puns. Can I say that if councils want to help us deliver more affordable housing all they have to do is sleigh so. The government is committed to delivering affordable housing from our heads to our mistle-toes. I outlined earlier the many Santa clauses in the Planning Regulation that we have amended in order to deliver more affordable housing. To the elves in my workshop who toil all year on my punny Christmas speeches, I say thankyou, but maybe they can do a little better next year. I wish all Queenslanders a tree-mendous Christmas including all members of the House. It has been an eventful year and I look forward to seeing them all in the new year.

Mr SPEAKER: Merry Christmas, Deputy Premier.

Child Sex Offenders

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Minister for Police. Three days after publicly spruiking laws to monitor paedophiles, can the minister explain how monitoring released paedophiles for longer will keep children safe when the current regime is in tatters?

Mr RYAN: I am a little bit surprised by the question from the member because he claims his record was as a child protection offender register coordinator.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Mudgeeraba will cease her interjections.

Mr RYAN: What the member should know if that was his role is that the monitoring of this cohort of offenders is different to the monitoring of offenders on the child protection offender register; they are monitored under different pieces of legislation. The proposals before the parliament relate to the child protection offender register, which correct a grave injustice inflicted on the people of Queensland by those opposite.

When the member was allegedly a child protection offender register coordinator those opposite, when in government, cut the monitoring of 1,700 sex offenders. I did not hear the member carry on then. I did not hear the member commend the Queensland government for funding the Police Service to double the number of child protection offender register coordinators a couple of years ago. I did not hear the member commend the government when we strengthened the powers of police to inspect devices, to enter premises and to apply for offender prohibition orders with stricter conditions.

Mr Purdie interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: I did not hear that at all. I also did not hear the member commend the government when we strengthened laws and supervision around dangerous prisoners and sex offenders—that cohort of offenders. Our record is very clear on this. Since being elected we have strengthened laws; we have provided more resources to the Queensland Police Service—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections.

Mr RYAN:—in particular, around the child protection offender register coordinator, almost doubling those positions—an extraordinary extra commitment—and also strengthening resources for Queensland Corrective Services when it comes to the infrastructure, the technology, the training and the people required to manage these offenders in the community.

This is a very strong record, a record which should be contrasted with those opposite. I am coming back to the matter; I know you are very interested in this, Mr Speaker. In addition to that murderer escaping from low security when the member for Kawana was the attorney-general, a serial paedophile was also caught kissing and groping a 12-year-old boy in public. When the member for Kawana was attorney-general there was also a paedophile who did not get any extra time in prison after sending a love letter to a nine-year-old victim. There was also a child rapist who breached his order who did not get any extra time in prison.

I am happy to compare our record with theirs. We invest in the front line, we invest in security and safety, and we strengthen laws.

Economy

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Treasurer and the Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on Queensland's economic prospects for the year ahead?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mackay for her question. Christmas is coming and Queensland's prospects are strong. Our economy has weathered the last three years as well as anywhere in the world. Unemployment is as low as it has ever been and our budget surplus is as large as it has ever been.

In the year to September, Queensland's exports had the highest 12-month total on record, hitting \$131.3 billion. That is an increase of 98 per cent on the previous year. Our economy has grown 9.1 per cent since before COVID compared to 8.8 per cent for the rest of Australia. Private investment is up 8.6 per cent compared to 6.4 per cent for the nation. Wages in Queensland are growing faster than the national average.

As I said to the House earlier this week, economic conditions will challenge us next year. Unemployment will likely rise from its record low. Cost-of-living pressures will continue to test Queenslanders because of the war in Ukraine. One thing Queenslanders can count on is a government that will have their backs, which is more than I can say for those members opposite. In the festive spirit it is worth reflecting on what the LNP will offer Queensland in the coming year.

We can expect more of the member for Kawana's relentless, ruthless and forensic exposition of government affairs—his forensic approach honed from years of conveyancing. Day after day he uncovers more and more sinister plots, investigating my interjections, the clothes that I wear and, most concerning of all, what is happening to my dog, Scout. He rests only to impersonate Elvis. Truly the member for Kawana is the original hound-dog.

I say this for the member for Kawana: there is one place he is missed and that is as manager. No, not as manager of KFC, where he spent more time blending LNP memberships than he did on the secret herbs and spices. Putting on another load of chicken, he is the original cooker surrounded by crumbs, but not a zinger in sight. No, I am not talking about his KFC days; I am saying he is missed as the Manager of Opposition Business. Now we have the member for Glass House scratching around the standing orders as he waits to work his way back up the pecking order and at the top of that pecking order is the purported rooster of the LNP, the member for Broadwater. He is no bantam; he is, in fact, the great turkey of the LNP—well and truly.

I finish by wishing you, Mr Speaker, merry Christmas, all my friends opposite merry Christmas, all members of the House merry Christmas and merry Christmas to Queensland.

Lander, Ms L

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Police. I refer to domestic violence survivor Lou Lander, who has publicly called for the police minister to resign. The minister said he remembers Lou's case well after I wrote to him on multiple occasions. Does the minister also remember writing to me saying, 'Your comments in relation to police actions are unfair and unfounded,' and has the minister contacted Lou since last week to apologise to her?

Mr RYAN: I do remember this matter well. I remember serious matters which come to my office. I remember also taking action in respect of this matter, referring it to the Queensland Police Service and seeking assurances from them that the appropriate supports and actions are being taken. I received clear advice from the Queensland Police Service that charges had been laid, that court processes were underway and that dedicated officers had been allocated to support Ms Lander.

Last week I also publicly expressed my apologies for the situation that Ms Lander found herself—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition! Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is being directly responsive to the question as asked. I ask that you cease your interjections.

Mr RYAN: I did express my apologies for the situation that she found herself in and the way that she felt that the matter had been dealt with and also the feelings that she had. I said that publicly and I am happy to repeat that. I am sorry that Ms Lander is in this position; I am sorry that she has had this experience. These are matters which this government takes seriously around the support of people experiencing domestic and family violence. It is why this government not only implemented a number of programs and strategies to boost responses to support domestic and family violence victims but also put in place the commission of inquiry around getting to the bottom—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, I take offence at what has been said and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, I raise a point of order: there were other members who also made those offensive remarks.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am personally offended and I ask the minister to withdraw his comments when he said that Lou found herself in that situation—

Mr SPEAKER: No, this is not debating the point, member. You will resume your seat.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is offensive.

Mr SPEAKER: You will resume your seat. I would ask members to ensure that if they are taking personal offence they have been named and take personal offence. If not, it is not the convention of this House that you can take personal offence. Member for Nanango, I will consider that to be a frivolous point of order. You are already under a warning and you can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 10.41 am.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to the offence that the minister took using the same description that you just provided—that is, that the minister needed to be specifically named. He was not and yet our member withdrew.

Mr SPEAKER: No, member. Let us be clear: there is one person in this chamber who is on their feet who has the call. Every other person in this chamber by rights under standing orders should be silent. There is only one person who that comment could have been directed at, and that was the minister. The Leader of the Opposition quite rightly withdrew, so that is a frivolous point of order and I will ask you to be on a warning and be very careful about future points of order.

Mr RYAN: It is through no fault of her own that Ms Lander found herself in that situation and it is the responsibility of the Queensland Police Service and other support agencies to investigate her allegations and provide support. As the responsible minister I sought those assurances from the Queensland Police Service and I was provided with those assurances and it was confirmed to me that the appropriate action was being taken. It does build on the government's commitment and record to improving systems and improving the resourcing available to those relevant agencies, which include the Queensland Police Service, about providing better supports for people experiencing domestic and family violence.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I am tired, members, of any member in this House coaching me on running this chamber. I will not take any interjections from any member in that sense. Am I clear?

Mr RYAN: The key point here is that ministers follow proper process, particularly police ministers around operational police matters. There were inquiries 30 years ago that said that police ministers should not be intervening in operational and investigative matters of the Queensland Police Service. That being said, police ministers should seek assurances that proper actions are being taken, and that is what I did and that is what I got.

Education

Ms PUGH: Mr Speaker, merry Christmas. My question is directed to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how education is delivering for Queensland students and are there any alternative approaches on the minister's Christmas wish list?

Mr SPEAKER: I hope that is not a personal opinion.

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney. I know she is passionate about education. I just want to take a moment to acknowledge the Clontarf students from Kirwan State High School in the gallery and the Deputy CEO, Craig Brierty, who is doing a fantastic job with 35 of you graduating from school. It is wonderful to have you down here and congratulations. I also cannot miss the opportunity to have the honour to acknowledge the extraordinary and dedicated work of Christine and Gina from the Australian Transgender Support Association. They have spent years dedicating their lives assisting transgenders by transgenders for transgenders. I honour you in the gallery today, my two good friends.

When it comes to my Christmas wish list, we have delivered so much. The Palaszczuk government has delivered every school air conditioned in Queensland two years ahead of schedule and six years—let me repeat, six years—ahead of any alternative approach. We have put 200,000 solar panels on 912 schools; a billion dollars to make kindy free and cheaper for families; Share the Dignity in schools with 200 wellbeing professionals as part of another 200 to come of 400 that we are going to be putting in; game-changing disability support for 30,000 additional students; improved Respectful Relationships education starting in 2023; 400,000 students have faster internet due to our Telstra deal worth \$190 million; and a fantastic enterprise bargaining deal, as the Premier outlined, with our teachers and soon our staff as well, with nation-leading IR laws which have strengthened protection from sexual, sex and gender-based workplace harassment and better access to parental leave and domestic and family violence leave.

That is a wish list! I am one minister, but I have three shadow ministers and all three of them cannot come up with one of my wishes on the Christmas list, because there has been nothing. One woman against three men from those opposite and not one policy position, not one idea. All I have been getting all year is whinging and whining and whinging and whining and all I have been getting from those opposite is groundhog day, and I can say that the member for Kawana has a very unhealthy obsession with the former member for South Brisbane.

Gender-Based Violence

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Tara Brown, Shelsea Schilling, Teresa Bradford, Kym Cobby, Melinda Horner, Karina Lock, Fabiana Palhares: after almost half a decade in portfolios designed to protect women, can the minister explain to the grieving families of these murdered women how this time it will be different and truly is a line in the sand?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. I think the member for Mudgeeraba and all members in this House know how committed each and every one of us is to making our state safer for women and girls. It starts with young people. The minister has just talked about Respectful Relationships in our schools and tackling the attitudes and behaviours that underpin the cycle of violence. It starts with gender equality. We are a government led by a woman Premier and women in our cabinet. We reinstated targets for women on government boards. We have reinstated a Women's Strategy after those opposite cut it, because having women in leadership positions and talking about gender equality actually tackles those harmful attitudes and the disrespect for women and girls

that fuels that cycle of violence. Since *Not now, not ever* when we implemented the recommendations we have invested over \$1.3 billion. We have established the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. We have had a commission of inquiry into how police handle domestic and family violence.

Brave governments—good governments—are prepared to uncover what is uncomfortable, what is ugly and what is unacceptable so that we can build a safer system. That is how you create change for women and girls in this state.

Almost every other day the Leader of the Opposition stands up and has a go, complaining that we have not done enough to tackle domestic and family violence and says we have not evaluated our programs. He has not been paying attention. We have set up high-risk teams which monitor women at risk. They have been evaluated, they have been expanded and they have been funded.

We were the first state in the nation to have a specialist domestic and family violence court. That has been evaluated and that has been expanded. We have a family pathways model that works with young boys who are starting to exhibit aggressive behaviour towards their mother. It has been evaluated by Griffith University and it has been expanded—millions of dollars going to working with young men. Respectful Relationships has been evaluated and is now being expanded. Yesterday we had Chanel Contos here talking to MPs—I did not see the Leader of the Opposition there—about harmful attitudes that exist.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Whitsunday!

Ms FENTIMAN: We have embedded DV workers in police stations. That program has been evaluated and we are now expanding it. We announced \$100 million to implement key recommendations from the commission of inquiry.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections.

Ms FENTIMAN: Each and every day I get up and think about making Queensland a safer place for women and girls, as does everyone on this side of the House.

Women in Leadership

Ms KING: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister please inform the House of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to supporting women into positions of leadership and is the Attorney-General aware of any other approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: What a great question! I thank the member. I know how passionate she is about getting women into leadership positions. As we have heard, it is absolutely vital that we reach gender equality here in Queensland to keep women and children safe. On this side of the chamber we have many strong hardworking women—21 fantastic women representing their communities with Australia's longest serving female Premier.

What do we see from other political parties? It was interesting that at the start of this week in New South Wales we saw the senior-most woman Liberal minister lose her preselection to another bloke. The New South Wales Premier says, 'We do not have a problem with women'.

A government member: They don't have any!

Ms FENTIMAN: 'We do not have any!' It made me think about where I have seen this before. It is exactly how the member for Broadwater got here! At the time Verity Barton was the youngest women ever elected to parliament. Political differences aside, that is a tremendous achievement, but it was clearly not enough for the Leader of the Opposition. He travelled 1,400 kilometres to roll Verity Barton in a preselection—to take out the youngest woman the party had.

All around the country we see women in droves turning away from the Liberal National Party. Those opposite are refusing to admit they have a problem with women. The Leader of the Opposition likes to say he would love to see more women on his side of the parliament, but what does he do about it? Talk is so cheap. They had an opportunity with the recent by-election in Callide to get another woman onto that side of the House, but what we saw was another bloke being delivered to the Queensland parliament.

Ms Camm interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: The Leader of the Opposition loves to whinge and whine and say he wants to do things, but does nothing. He stands for nothing. He will not tell Queensland women what his party will do on abortion and he will not tell Queensland women what his plan is to get more women into the party. It is absolutely disgraceful. Their track record on women is appalling and the Leader of the Opposition needs to step up and do something.

A Call for Change Report

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier tell Queensland which ministers are responsible for each of the 78 recommendations in the A Call for Change report released last week?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: I do not know the answer to the question, but asking which ministers are responsible for each of the 78 recommendations is asking for too much detail in a question without notice. I rule the question out of order.

Energy and Jobs Plan

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. As the year draws to a close, and in the spirit of this final sitting day, can the minister outline to the House what initiatives of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan are already being delivered and what it would look like if a certain grinch might want to steal Christmas?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, can I ask that you rephrase your question. I do not think anyone referring to a grinch in this House is particularly parliamentary.

Mr KING: As the year draws to a close, and in the spirit of the final sitting day, can the minister outline for the House what initiatives of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan are already being delivered and what it would look like if certain people might want to steal Christmas?

Mr de BRENNI: Merry Christmas, Mr Speaker. Whilst many Queenslanders are thinking about presents at this time of the year, we have already unwrapped a big present: the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The SuperGrid Santa sack is already delivering. It is delivering every household a \$175 cost-of-living rebate. Every household in Queensland will have a merrier Christmas with our \$175 cost-of-living rebate.

What would be the alternative approach under the LNP? It would be an incredibly bleak Christmas. Stockings full of renewables would be cut from the mantle. Snatched from under the Christmas tree would be the assets sold to their mates overseas. There would be no Christmas party with beer and wine, just a party of whiners. One would not be cutting up the Christmas ham if the LNP got to cut your job. As the Premier said, if you do not have a job you cannot pay the bills. Today we heard about 461,000 more jobs. That means 461,000 Queenslanders having a better Christmas this year.

Jobs and clean power are what the SuperGrid Santa sack is delivering right across this state. The member for Kurwongbah has a Christmas present under his tree he is very excited about: one of Australia's largest proposed batteries, a 2,000-megawatt-hour supernode at the Brendale Data Centre. The members for North Queensland must have absolutely been on the nice list. Up in Townsville 10 gigawatts of new renewables with the FFI and Windlab superhub. Even out in Traeger there will be 1,140 jobs at the Prairie Wind Farm and Kidston pumped hydro. Even the member for Burdekin is happy about the 1.4 million tonnes of hydrogen slated for export from Abbot Point.

In the Wide Bay-Burnett we have the members for Nicklin and Gympie excited about 2,000 jobs with the Borumba pumped hydro. The member for Bundaberg has unwrapped the eight-megawatt-hour Bargara network battery. Here in South-East Queensland the SuperGrid sleigh has stopped off in Logan, with 1,100 jobs per annum going through the hydrogen training centre of excellence in Macalister. Up in Caloundra, Santa dropped off a \$75 million investment in an energy-efficient suburb of the future and in Central Queensland the members for Rockhampton, Keppel and Gladstone are gifting Queensland with 100 megawatt hours of new battery storage and the new SuperGrid training centre and transmission hub. This is a low-emissions, high-jobs SuperGrid Christmas for all.

Coal

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Last week the Land Court ruled that Clive Palmer's Galilee Coal Project should be rejected on human rights grounds because Queensland coal, wherever it is burnt, will make climate change worse. Does the minister accept that coal exported from Queensland will increase global emissions, worsen the climate crisis and harm flood- and fire-prone Queenslanders?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. I have been sworn in for over 750 days as the environment minister and this is the first time the Greens political party has asked me a question in question time in this House. I am more than happy to answer the question.

In relation to the particular project that the member outlined, it was obviously a very significant decision that President Kingham outlined in an over-370-page judgement, which the government is looking at. There are a number of recommendations in there. We are very proud to be the party that brought the Human Rights Act into this state. We will be looking through those recommendations. I do not want to prejudice any decisions by the independent regulator in terms of the environmental authority or the resources minister in terms of the mining lease.

When it comes to emissions, the member knows how emissions are counted in this state. He also knows how global emissions are counted. They are well-known facts. Of course, we have set very ambitious climate measures through the energy plan. As has been mentioned before, the energy plan will deliver a 90 per cent reduction in the electricity sector, which is the biggest emitting sector in Queensland. This is huge transformational change. We are pivoting away from coal-fired power stations to clean energy hubs, delivering hundreds and thousands of jobs in that sector and associated sectors, maintaining public ownership and making sure that we deliver a jobs guarantee. That is something that our Labor Party is incredibly proud of.

However, we acknowledge that it is not just the energy sector that needs to decarbonise; every sector needs to decarbonise. That is why, as part of the resources plan, we have also committed to decarbonisation plans. As members would know, the federal government has released a discussion paper in relation to the safeguard mechanism that will look at big emitters in this country having to reduce their emissions. We do not want to duplicate some of those systems or bring in a system that is inconsistent with it. We want to look at what that plan delivers so that we can make sure that there is consistency across the country.

I think we all acknowledge that every sector really needs to focus on this very big global issue. As I mentioned earlier in the week, we acknowledge that the international community is expecting us to do work in this space. We have had a reactive monitoring mission report that acknowledges a lot of the good work that Queensland is doing. It also acknowledges the fact that we have had years of the Morrison government refusing to take any action, saying that electric vehicles could destroy the weekend, blocking renewable energy projects—

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to relevance. The question explicitly asked for the minister's response on the impacts of coal exported from Queensland on global climate change and the impacts on Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I agree that there are different parts to the question and the minister has been addressing certain elements of the question. I ask the minister to come to that element of the question.

Ms SCANLON: I believe I did address that in terms of saying that global emissions accounting is publicly known and that the emissions we account for each year, in terms of the difference between scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, is all publicly available data. There are different measures on different states and globally around the requirements on us. We take them very seriously. We will continue to act in this space because we know that Queenslanders expect that.

K'gari

Mr TANTARI: My question is also to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on the important milestone next week for the very special island of K'gari?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. I know he is incredibly proud to have that iconic place in his electorate. I look forward to joining him next week to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the recognition of K'gari as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Of course, this is a proud Labor legacy. Something that I am also proud of is being a member of this Labor government that

listened to the traditional owners, the Butchulla people, and officially changed the name of the World Heritage area from Fraser Island to K'gari, because words matter. This may seem like a small change but it is incredibly important. It recognises and honours Butchulla people and their traditions, culture and connection to country.

I would have hoped that this could have been a bipartisan issue. Unfortunately, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition showed his true colours at the time by tweeting—

Have been going on holidays to Fraser Island all my life and will continue to go to FRASER ISLAND for the rest of it, despite what woke @AnnastaciaMP says.

Does that not reveal the character of the leadership of the Liberal National Party? If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had any regard for the Butchulla people then he would understand the hurt and sadness that that kind of attitude causes.

Fraser Island is named after Eliza Fraser who, after becoming shipwrecked on the island, was rescued by Butchulla people. Her subsequent mistruths about her treatment led to the massacre and dispossession of traditional owners. There is intergenerational trauma that still impacts Butchulla people today.

We have an uncomfortable shared history in this country—of one we need to tell the truth about. That is why we are establishing the truth telling and healing inquiry and progressing towards treaty. It is also why we support a voice and we say that we support a voice proudly. We acknowledge that it will not fix everything but it is an important step going forward and we can walk and chew gum at the same time because it should not be controversial to listen to traditional owners about matters that impact them. That is the very least that we can do as people who have the privilege of representing communities across this state.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is five years olds. This week we learned that the member for Mermaid Beach and other members seemingly have not even read it yet the Liberal National Party and the National Party have come out and said they do not support elements of it. The Leader of the Opposition wants to paint himself as a politician of conviction yet he will not say what he stands for. He will not stand up against people such as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who made those offensive comments. He will not stand up to people such as Matt Canavan who wants to wind back abortion reform or Gerard Rennick and Colin Boyce and their cooked climate comments. He does not stand for anything.

(Time expired)

Hinchinbrook, Marine Infrastructure

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Limited marine access continues to hamper Hinchinbrook's tourism sector with the Hinchinbrook Shire Council becoming frustrated with the impossible task of driving marine infrastructure improvements on their own. Will the Deputy Premier commit to more than just words and implied support to help progress projects such as the Dungeness seawall at Lucinda?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his question and for his advocacy on this issue. Members may recall that the member for Hinchinbrook raised this matter with me in question time at the last sitting. The council has been seeking to build a seawall and to dredge the channel to provide all-tides access into Lucinda. The state had provided approval for the dredging but the environment department advised that additional study needed to be undertaken in order to construct the seawall. That led the council to have an apprehension that the state was implacably opposed to that work.

I was pleased to meet yesterday with the member and also Mayor Ramon Jayo. I was grateful that they were able to come down. I think the undertaking that I gave at the last sitting was that we would have that meeting. At that meeting I was able to indicate to the council and to the member that the state would indeed support the council with that effort. The council has been advised that the additional environmental studies required by the Department of Environment and Science will cost in the range of \$300,000 to \$400,000. I have instructed the state development department to partner with the council to do that work.

The Palaszczuk government will fund the cost of that additional study in acknowledgement of the investment that the council has already made of, I think, about \$800,000 in studies. We will fund the study and partner with the council to ensure that the work that is undertaken meets the requirements of the environment department so that when that is submitted we are in the best possible position to approve the works.

I was pleased to hear from the mayor about just how important the works are, how important that access is for the community and how eager they are to get that all-tide access, which will rely on the seawall and the dredging. It was a productive meeting. I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for organising it and for raising the issue with me. I am confident that, from here, we can get the necessary studies done with the funding that we have been able to provide to make sure that the environment department can properly assess the seawall and the dredging together, and ensure that we avoid any unintended consequences elsewhere in the tidal and erosion system, which is ultimately what we are trying to avoid.

Employment

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister please update the House on how the government is delivering employment opportunities for vulnerable Queenslanders and if there are any other approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question. I know how passionate she is about her constituents getting good opportunities for training and employment. In fact, every member on this side of the House is excited about our employment and workforce initiatives, particularly our workforce plan. Just this morning I was talking about our Workforce Connect Fund that links employers and employer groups with vulnerable cohorts and with people who currently work some hours but can work more. Of course, we have our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. It is getting some of the most vulnerable Queenslanders into employment. It has a 76 per cent success rate and is one of the most successful employment programs in this country. Those opposite cut that program almost as soon as they got into power, just after there had been a Deloitte review saying there was an economic return of \$8 for every dollar spent. Who cuts programs like that? We absolutely love going to those SQW graduations. Those opposite love going to them, too; they love getting their photos taken there. I bet not a single one of them talked to their leadership team when they went to the election with no funding for SQW in this term of government.

These are two of our flagship employment programs. As the Premier says—we are talking about cost of living—giving a person a job is the best way to address the cost of living. This week the opposition has asked about cost of living, but they have no plan. The first thing to do is not sack people, because the 14,000 people they sacked had an immediate cost-of-living crisis—after they had been told that their jobs were safe. That is 14,000 families who had to worry about how they would pay their rent or mortgage and how they would put food on the table.

The other important thing in terms of getting a job is skills and training. That is why we put \$1.2 billion into skills and training every year. Let me tell the House how the LNP helped people get skills and training and made it hundreds of times more difficult for people to do their courses: they made TAFE fees completely unachievable. For a Cert III in wall and floor tiling, fees increased 940 per cent in one year. For film and television, they increased over 550 per cent. For a literacy and numeracy course for the disabled, our most vulnerable people, the subsidy was cut by 77 per cent and the course cost rose by 460 per cent. We look after Queenslanders; they just cut, sack and sell.

(Time expired)

Methane

Mr PERRETT: My question is to the agriculture minister. Can the minister outline what representations he has made to the federal government to ensure the Queensland livestock industry will not be forced into stock reductions due to any federal methane emissions restrictions?

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

Mr FURNER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish I had more time. I am an Aries by birth. I am impatient, which is an attribute of that star sign. It has been 587 days since the shadow minister asked me a question in question time. That demonstrates the commitment to livestock and the bush by the member for Gympie and the LNP. My patience has been tested, but I have received a Christmas present today. I am pleased to answer.

Mr Crisafulli: Then answer!

Mr FURNER: I am getting to that, thank you. I refer to our dialogue with the Albanese Labor government. Isn't it great to say the 'Albanese Labor government'? It has one of the greatest agriculture ministers this country has even seen in Senator Murray Watt. In fact, next week the agriculture ministers' meetings will be taking place. These are the meetings that the previous LNP coalition government hosed down. In fact, they did not want to discuss one of the agenda items—biosecurity.

Mr HEAD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The minister is going around and around when the question very specifically asked about Labor's fart tax on cows. I ask you to draw the minister back to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. The minister has only two minutes to respond so there is a certain sense of urgency to answer the question; however, the minister still has 41 seconds. I suggest that he will be responding in that 41 seconds.

Mr FURNER: Next week all agriculture ministers across the nation, from Queensland and every other state and territory, will be meeting with the Commonwealth to discuss these important matters. I do note the member for Callide's point of order. The last time he asked me a question he was in a green shirt campaigning out the front of my office in Ferny Grove. No doubt he will learn quickly how this place operates and understand the importance of agriculture, if he does not already. Here on this side of the chamber, the Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of agriculture.

(Time expired)


Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. Member for Callide, it may well been a 'brain' version of what you have said as unparliamentary language, but I ask you to withdraw.

Mr HEAD: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.16 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL 2022

Constitution of Queensland 2001, sections 68

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


A Bill for an Act to provide for the registration of births, deaths and marriages, and for other purposes, and to amend this Act, the Adoption Act 2009, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Coroners Act 2003, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Meriba Omaker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, and the legislation mentioned in schedule 3, for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 1 December 2022

Tabled paper: Message, dated 1 December 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 [\[2051\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.16 am): I present a bill for an act to provide for the registration of births, deaths and marriages, and for other purposes, and to amend this act, the Adoption Act 2009, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Coroners Act 2003, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Meriba Omaker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, and the legislation mentioned in schedule 3, 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: Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 [\[2052\]](#).

Tabled paper: Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[2053\]](#).

Tabled paper: Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[2054\]](#).

Today I am proud to rise to introduce the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. I want to start by acknowledging the many trans and diverse people and their allies in the gallery today. These are the people this legislation is for. I want to thank each of them for their advocacy and for their contribution to these reforms.

This bill will replace the current Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, which has been in force since early 2004. To aid the committee in its examination of the bill, I also table a draft Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2022 and draft explanatory notes and human rights certificate for the regulation.

Tabled paper: Draft Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2022, No. xx [2055].

Tabled paper: Draft Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2022, No. xx, explanatory notes [2056].

Tabled paper: Draft Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2022, No. xx, statement of compatibility with human rights [2057].

I stress that the regulation is an indication only and is subject to further consultation. Should the bill be passed, the bill will commence by proclamation and the regulation will commence at the same time.

In the almost 20 years since our current births, deaths and marriages laws came into effect, social attitudes have grown and evolved. We have seen an increasing awareness and acceptance of LGBTIQ+ rights in recent years—from the passage of marriage equality to the banning of conversion therapy. As the community's values and norms change, so too must our laws and our systems. This legislation will ensure that our services are in line with modern values and reflect the true diversity of our community.

At the core of this bill is strengthening legal recognition of trans and gender diverse Queenslanders. We will remove the outdated requirement to undergo surgery and allow for non-binary and gender diverse descriptions to be used. The bill also makes a range of other important changes including better recognition of same-sex parents, strengthened fraud prevention measures and updating the Anti-Discrimination Act to remove the 'working with children' exemption.

It is an unfortunate reality that trans and gender diverse people face much higher rates of discrimination, violence and social exclusion than their cis counterparts. In developing the bill, we have carefully considered the experiences of LGBTIQ+ stakeholders, the difficulties they face and the recommendations they made in order to get these reforms right. Quite simply—we listened and this bill is the result. Not only does this bill recognise the existence and validity of trans and gender diverse people; it affirms them. As I have said many times, we want to make sure that Queenslanders' legal identity matches their lived identity.

As work has progressed on these reforms, I have met with many trans and gender diverse people who have shared their stories about why these reforms matter. A common theme across all of these conversations is a simple desire to have their identity documents match their identity. Without this, they face the prospect of outing themselves every time they apply for a job, go for a rental property or enrol in university. Most of us take for granted that our birth certificate accurately reflects our lived identity, but for many people that is not the case. As Emily recently told my office—

I look at my birth certificate and it's wrong; it's my last remaining identity document that's in error, something that's wrong.

Whenever I must present my birth certificate, I get anxious, worried that the person reading it will think I'm a fraud, or worse, mentally ill—merely because I know I'm a female and yet my birth certificate says I'm a male.

This legislation will mean I'll get to correct something that has been wrong for 50 years. However, to me this is not just about fixing my birth certificate, it's for all the trans and non-binary people in the future who won't have to suffer that anxiety and embarrassment that I have over the years, because their birth certificate won't be in error.

These reforms will have immense impacts not only on the public lives of trans and gender diverse people but on their private lives too. We know that, for many trans people, being required to present documents that do not reflect who they are and being faced with situations where they are required to reveal deeply personal information about themselves to virtual strangers can be deeply distressing. I recently met with Caden, who said—

With these reforms I can finally feel seen for who I am as a non-binary person and will no longer be forced into adopting a label that doesn't adhere to my identity.

Ultimately, I will have access to better employment opportunities, healthcare services and housing because with legal recognition of one's identity comes legal protections as well.

This is a much-needed step in the right direction and will improve the lives of many.

We know that these reforms will not be a panacea to the issues that trans and gender diverse people face, but they are an important step to ensuring every Queenslanders can live authentically. However, it is an unfortunate fact that, through this debate, there will be members of the community who will seek to denigrate trans people's lives and identities by making ludicrous claims about how people will be able to identify. No-one who engages in this process will do so lightly. It is a deeply personal process and decision which must be respected.

We also know that some groups will try to cloak their transphobia in the guise of women's safety—making claims about trans women accessing women's spaces, including change rooms or even domestic violence shelters. I want to be clear: there is no evidence, domestically or internationally, to support these outrageous claims. I note the Australian Psychological Society has warned against casting undue suspicion on an individual's motives for stating a particular sex.

In addition, I am proud to say that these reforms are in line with our Queensland Women's Strategy and Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Strategy. Both of those strategies recognise trans women and gender diverse people, because Queensland women and girls with diverse backgrounds and experiences have the right to be safe and be provided with the same opportunities as everyone else.

While it is not the focus of the legislation, we know that affordable, accessible and appropriate health care is an important issue for many trans and gender diverse people. I am committed to continuing to work with, and advocate for, the community in this space.

At its core, this legislation is about strengthened legal recognition of trans and gender diverse Queenslanders. I encourage members of this House to meet with trans and gender diverse constituents to hear firsthand what these changes will mean, to reflect on the importance of having your birth certificate reflect your identity—something that many of us have never had to do before. Most importantly, please think about the impact your words will have on trans and gender diverse people in your communities and across Queensland. For their sake, I call on every member of this House not to spread division and transphobic ideas, regardless of how they ultimately vote on this bill.

As I said earlier in my speech, these reforms will remove an outdated requirement to undergo sexual reassignment surgery, which unnecessarily medicalises the recognition of a person's lived identity. Not all transgender people are able, or want, to undergo such surgery. It is a serious and invasive procedure that carries a number of health risks, is not covered by Medicare and is not readily available in Australia.

The requirement for sexual reassignment surgery is also a particularly onerous threshold for young transgender people who are a particularly vulnerable group in our community. I recently met D'Arcy, a fantastic young man from the Sunshine Coast and a good friend of the member for Caloundra. He told me how dehumanising it can be to have to constantly out himself and he worried that his QCE certificate would display his former name. He said—

I've dealt with the transphobia and homophobia before.

But it's made worse by the fact that you have to identify as two people, which brings on great anxiety.

It is important that young trans and gender diverse Queenslanders feel supported to live their true lives. The bill introduces an accessible framework for people aged 16 years and older to apply to change their record of sex. A person will be required to include a statutory declaration that they identify as the sex specified in the application and live, or seek to live, as a person of that sex, and to nominate a sex descriptor. In addition, the application must be accompanied by a 'supporting statement' made by an adult who has known the person making the application for at least a year. This means that people's legal identities can be based on what is appropriate and meaningful to them, using an appropriate descriptor to reflect that.

I have heard from many people who knew from a young age that they were trans or gender diverse. Roz, for example, told me about when she was acting in a skit when she was eight or nine years old at Cub Scouts. She said—

The cub mistress had pulled out a trunk of clothes for use as costumes and as other cubs pulled out clothing meant for boys, I pulled out a dress.

Wearing the dress, the role came so easy and natural to me, so much so I experienced a sadness on packing the costume away, especially on the realisation I would have to hide such feelings from my family. Those deemed to be boys in Queensland society weren't supposed to feel that way back then.

For children under 16 years of age, the bill establishes two pathways to change a record of sex: first, an administrative pathway which enables both parents or guardians, or one parent or guardian in certain circumstances, to apply directly to the registrar; and, second, a court pathway which allows one supportive parent or guardian to apply to the Childrens Court to approve a change of sex. There will also be a pathway for a child aged 12 to 15 years, where there is no supportive parent or guardian, to apply to the Childrens Court. In this scenario, the court must be satisfied it is in the child's best interests to alter their record of sex. In deciding that, the court can consider a medical assessment, the views of the child, and whether the child is mature enough to understand the meaning and implications of the change.

Under either pathway, an application must include an assessment by a developmentally informed practitioner. The assessment must confirm that the application is supported and that the child understands the meaning and legal implications of the alteration of their record of sex. The types of professions which make up a developmentally informed practitioner are in the draft regulation, which I tabled at the outset of my speech.

The ability for young transgender people to more easily update their birth certificates to reflect their lived identity will better support health and wellbeing outcomes for this vulnerable group. The bill also enables a change of name to be made at the same time as a change of sex so that trans and gender diverse people can have their legal identity match their lived identity in full. I recently heard from Selina, the mother of a trans child. She told me—

My daughter is 17 and has just completed year 12.

She is at a stage in her life where she should be applying for a learner's permit, looking for casual work and applying to tertiary institutions for further education.

These are all things that she very much desires to do, just like any other teenager, however these are also things that require her to present her birth certificate to verify her Australian citizenship.

But because she was born in Queensland, her birth certificate identifies her as male.

Young people should be thinking about what they want to do after school, not worrying about being outed.

To properly recognise the full scope and spectrum of identities, this framework allows people to nominate the sex descriptor that is best for them. Some of the more common sex descriptors a trans or gender diverse person may nominate include: trans man or woman, agender, genderqueer or non-binary. The application process will be supported by robust safeguards which will ensure alterations are only made when they are genuine and in good faith. The registrar cannot approve a sex descriptor which is: obscene, offensive or absurd; could not practically be established by repute or usage; or is contrary to the public interest. This test is broadly consistent with how things are done in Victoria.

Having documents that reflect one's sense of identity is important for a range of reasons, including self-affirmation and acceptance by the government. It says, 'Yes, this is who you really are.' Today I say to trans and gender diverse people throughout this state: the Palaszczuk government sees you, we hear you and, most importantly, we stand with you.

The bill also expands protections for LGBTIQ+ families. We are extending birth registration time frames for parents of children born with sex characteristic variations so they can more fully consider the most appropriate pathway for them.

We are also expanding recognition of same-sex and gender diverse parents so their child's birth certificate reflects their parenting role. As is currently the case, up to two people can be registered as parents but the three descriptors mother, father or parent can be used in any combination. This will enable a same-sex couple to register as mother and mother or father and father. These changes will also allow older half-siblings to be recorded on the birth registration of their younger siblings and the details of a de facto partner of a deceased person to be reflected on a death registration.

The bill also accelerates changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act to provide stronger protections for some of the most vulnerable groups in our community. These changes will: modernise the definition of 'gender identity' to reflect best practice contemporary understanding; introduce a new protected attribute of 'sex characteristics' to provide protections for members of the intersex community; and repeal an outdated and offensive exemption which allows for lawful discrimination on the basis of gender identity and lawful sexual activity if the work involves the care or instruction of minors. These changes are all in line with the recommendations contained in the Queensland Human Rights Commission's recent review of the Anti-Discrimination Act.

The bill also provides a framework for people born outside of Queensland with a new type of recognised details certificate. This will mean that, regardless of where they are from, people in Queensland will be able to have their legal identity match their lived identity.

In addition to strengthening recognition of, and protections for, our LGBTIQ+ community, the bill makes a number of changes to improve how our registry operates, including amendments to the system that responds to community expectations, including the express power for fees to be waived for vulnerable people such as survivors and victims of domestic violence as well as those impacted by natural disasters.

This bill removes discriminatory and unfair barriers to trans and gender diverse people obtaining legal recognition of their lived identity. The changes will not significantly impact people who are opposed to them, but it will make real improvements to the lives of our LGBTIQ+ community. The bill will remove a discriminatory regime and help reduce the distress, fear, discrimination and privacy violations that many people in our community face on an all-too-frequent basis.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring Queensland is a safe and inclusive community for all of its members. With this bill and its recognition of the inherent human dignity in all of us, we move a step closer. I commend the bill to the House.

An incident having occurred in the public gallery—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Order in the gallery. I appreciate your enthusiasm, but we cannot hold a vote while there are disruptions in the gallery.

First Reading

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.34 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 Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Reporting Date

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.35 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report to the House on the Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill by 24 February 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Honourable members, before I call the Clerk to read the next order of the day, I would like to welcome to the gallery this morning 35 First Nations graduating year 12 students from Kirwan State High School in the electorate of Thuringowa—a great school. The students are graduates of the Clontarf program and are here in Brisbane as part of the end-of-school trip that Clontarf arranges for its graduating students.

In 2022 the Clontarf Foundation delivered programs across 23 state schools and two Edmund Rice schools catering for 2,570 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. As many people would be aware, the Clontarf program reaches out to adolescent First Nations students through sport to increase school retention rates and important life skills.


I welcome the contingent from Kirwan State High School here today. I am sure that every member of this House joins with me in wishing you all the best in your future. We know that you will become leaders in your families and communities. Hopefully, some of you may even consider coming back here to be leaders as well.

ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 1 December (see p. 3902), on motion of Mr Furner—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (11.37 am), in reply: I am very grateful for the contributions of members on all sides of the House in this debate on the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022. This is a significant update to our animal welfare laws and in line with community expectations, so in light of some of those contributions I want to be clear about what this bill does and what it does not do.

This bill: creates a new offence of breach of duty of care causing death, serious deformity, serious disablement or prolonged suffering of an animal with a maximum penalty of up to 2,000 penalty units or three years imprisonment; allows for the ethical use of animals for scientific purposes while protecting animal welfare; allows for the greater use of animal welfare directions; requires dogs to be secured while in the tray or trailer of a vehicle; bans the inhumane practice of firing or blistering horses and dogs; bans the use of CSSP pig poison; creates a new framework of accreditation schemes for cattle procedures, including lay pregnancy testing; implements the recommendations of the Martin inquiry into the treatment of racehorses; and implements the recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office to improve the appointment, training and governance of animal welfare investigations and prosecutions by RSPCA Queensland.

Following contributions from some non-government members I also want to be very clear about what this bill does not do. This bill does not in any way impact on the lawful use of hunting dogs while hunting. The Animal Care and Protection Act already requires the owners of dogs to take precautions for the care of their animals, and this is unchanged by this bill. The bill does not impede on a farmer's ability to use dogs to help manage livestock. This bill does not in any meaningful way reduce the ability of local governments or other stakeholders and landholders to manage feral pig populations in Queensland.

I want to touch on the contribution of the member for Gympie. It was extremely disappointing to hear the member peddling the fiction that the government has not consulted on these changes. What an insult to the thousands of Queenslanders—yes, thousands of them—who have had their say through the consultation process, either by making a submission or by taking part in the surveys. Never mind the almost 1,500 who had their say through the parliamentary committee process—a committee process where the opposition was strongly represented and where the committee, including the opposition members, recommended that the bill be passed. In fact they went so far as to develop subcommittees as well to explore other measures of the impact of this bill.

I will reiterate that the opposition members recommended, along with the committee, that this bill be passed. Even on the few matters that they have raised concerns over, the member for Gympie still has not done the work. He claims that the opposition opposes certain measures in the bill. Where are those amendments to the bill if there is opposition? If they are genuine, where are those amendments from the LNP? The member for Gympie opposes giving our cattle industry the flexibility to use suitably trained and accredited people for certain procedures, including lay pregnancy testing. Where is that amendment?

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Acting Manager of Opposition Business.

Mr FURNER: Where is that amendment and what is he basing that claim on? The member for Gympie stands in this place and makes wild accusations that we have failed to consult with AgForce.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FURNER: How is it that the LNP opposes lay pregnancy testing when AgForce is fully behind it?

Mr Perrett: I never said that, Minister.

Mr FURNER: Yes—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Acting Manager of Opposition Business, you are given some latitude while you are holding that role. I have repeatedly called you to order. You have ignored my calls to order. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr FURNER: It is the Labor government that is listening to our multibillion dollar beef industry and putting in place practical measures to support it. Labor is the party of the bush and the party of Queensland farmers, and the LNP once again proves that it is nothing more than an insignificance piled on top of an irrelevance.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders. You know you are supposed to be in your seat if you are interjecting.

Mr FURNER: I note the member for Gympie raised concerns about the monitoring of livestock at slaughter facilities. It should be noted that companies such as Woolworths already have a policy that all Woolworths Group poultry, beef, lamb and pork abattoirs must have CCTV in place within key animal handling processing areas. Woolworths can access this CCTV during audits and upon request. Any nonconformances will be reported to Woolworths Group Ltd's animal welfare manager for investigation and resolution.

There was a contribution from the member for Gympie as well as others regarding CSSP. This is yet another example of the LNP being totally out of touch with industry. I note the following comments from submission No. 748 from Australian Pork Ltd—

Australian Pork Limited, as the manager of the National Feral Pig Management Coordinator Program funded by the Australian Government, supports the proposed amendments to Clause 16 Amendment of Section 43 (Feral or pest animals) to prohibit the use of poisons on feral or pest animals that include the ingredients of carbon disulphide and phosphorus (CSSP) on welfare grounds.

They go on—

The Model code of practice for the humane control of feral pigs (Sharp 2012) states that that the use of carbon disulphide and phosphorus (CSSP) or yellow phosphorus is inhumane and slow acting. When ingested by a pig, it is absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract. Symptoms include lethargy, depression, convulsions, liver damage, reluctance to move or eat, vomiting, diarrhoea, coma and death. Following the ingestion of a lethal dose, death may occur between 2 hours and 5 days after ingestion. CSSP is also not soluble in water, does not readily breakdown in the environment, is toxic to a large range of bird and animal species and can cause secondary poisoning.

My department's contribution to the committee highlights the availability of more humane alternatives to using CSSP, including sodium nitrite, 1080, trapping, and ground and aerial shooting. The bill does not make any changes that impact the availability of these more humane options on feral or pest animals. The bill is not prohibiting the use of 1080. It is not preventing the shooting of pigs either. Even the member for Lockyer noted—

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.

So 1080 is very suitable for the Queensland landscape as fluoroacetate occurs naturally in about 35 species of Australian plants, such as gidgee, heart-leaf poison bush and box poison bush. Consequently, native animal species are generally less susceptible to fluoroacetate than introduced species. Also, 1080 is water-soluble and is readily broken down by naturally occurring bacteria and fungi. It therefore does not cause a build-up of toxic residues in soil, water or plants, nor does it bioaccumulate in organisms. Fluoroacetate can be found in minute quantities in such common substances as guar gum and tea.

Some opposition speakers have spoken about their concerns that there is a lack of alternatives to CSSP when it comes to dealing with feral pigs. That claim is not supported by the evidence. The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions says research has shown sodium nitrite—marketed here as Hoggone—to be an effective measure for dealing with feral pigs. According to the centre, it is a humane poison in that it is rapid acting and brings unconsciousness and death within about two hours of ingestion by the target animal. This compares to between six and eight hours for 1080 poison and between two and four days for CSSP. CSSP poisons can leave an animal dying for up to four days, instead of a more humane process such as with sodium nitrite when it is all over for the animal in a couple of hours. I also note the member for Nanango's contribution that—

It is widely accepted that poison baiting is one of the most economical and effective ways to control feral pigs on a broad scale.

She noted the success in her area of a recent council campaign. I note that campaign used 1080 not CSSP, and I remind those opposite that this bill does not ban 1080 so such campaigns can and will continue.

This government takes biosecurity seriously, and we would not take action that would hamstring our primary producers. That is why we have invested in additional offices and ongoing support to take action on feral pests, and we acknowledge there are multiple tools in tackling feral pigs. The government accepts that FMD and LSD pose significant threats to our major livestock industries, and that is why we have taken bold steps—in partnership with the federal government—to ensure we are as prepared as any state can be to prevent an incursion. It was at the Ekka this year that the Premier announced \$22 million in additional measures, including new biosecurity officers in the regions, to ensure that biosecurity is front of mind throughout industry and we can support our producers to keep these diseases out of Queensland, as I indicated this morning in my ministerial statement. We have also just closed applications for round 7 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative, which will invest another \$1 million in pest control and management through local governments and Landcare groups.

I note the comments from the member for Gympie regarding the monsoonal event and what that would mean for animal welfare concerns. The department made it clear, in responding to AgForce's concerns, that—

... in the event of extenuating circumstances such as floods or fires which prevent farmers inspecting and dealing with livestock in a timely manner. In these types of emergency situations consideration would be given as to whether a person had a reasonable excuse.

Queenslanders understand what devastating impacts natural disasters have on our primary producers, and when there are impacts our Agriculture Coordination Group stands up to ensure government support is there. This bill does not target producers who are impacted by disaster and therefore unable to support or assist their livestock.

I note the member for Gympie also made comment regarding the transport of animals. The new section 33, 'Transporting dogs', prohibits the transportation of an unsecured dog on the back of the tray of a vehicle, or a trailer attached to a vehicle, except for dogs assisting in the movement of livestock, and transporting a dog whose body other than its head is protruding from inside a vehicle. The proposed maximum penalty of 60 penalty units is consistent with the maximum penalties in most other jurisdictions. The proposed maximum penalty is higher than the 20 penalty units that applies to the offence under section 44(1) of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021 for a failure to use an appropriate method to secure a load. However, it reflects the potential harm that can be caused to an animal if it fell from a moving vehicle. 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 is about animal welfare, as opposed to treating a dog as an unsecured load. The member for Gympie's attacks show just how desperate the opposition is. It has abandoned reality in favour of disingenuous misrepresentation of industry needs. The opposition grasps for anyone who will speak ill of this government to such an extent that it would throw a multibillion-dollar industry under the bus for the sake of a cheap shot like we heard from the member for Gympie.

I cannot let the opportunity pass without making comment on the contribution by the member for Currumbin. The member claimed to have come to a profound understanding of the issues being addressed with this bill by two means. The first was that she read an article on the ABC website that included comments by a pest control expert criticising the government's proposal to ban CSSP poisons.

Talk about hitting Google for a few words you want to hear! The second was even more remarkable. The member for Currumbin's second bit of piercing insight came by putting a prong collar on her arm which, by all reports, led her to an epiphany that these prong collars could not possibly hurt anyone, let alone a dog! You would not put an Akubra on your foot to decide that it would make an excellent hat, would you? People on the Gold Coast should be horrified to think that a local LNP MP still wants to see these dangerous and harmful collars used on dogs in this state. In fact, you have to wonder, with the last few LNP contributions to this bill, whether there is a new divide opening up in the opposition. I have heard the most recent speakers seem to have lost enthusiasm for the LNP's opposition to prong collars. Is it the old Liberal versus National divide? Is it the former leader versus the new leader divide? Is it the Gold Coast versus everywhere?

These collars are banned from import into Australia by the federal government. Let me reiterate: these collars are banned from import in Australia by the Commonwealth government. They are banned in Victoria and there is a bill to ban them in Tasmania. These bans are for a reason: to protect the welfare of dogs.

Through this debate, we have heard several opposition members quote from dog trainer Steve Courtney who says it is essential to keep using these collars. However, the same Steve Courtney also wrote to me on this issue, not only pushing that case but also declaring that he and his dog trainer colleagues would continue to use the collars whether Queensland banned them or not. I would hope that those opposite would join with me in condemning that clear statement of intent to disobey the laws of this state. It is the same old LNP—too angry to see the truth, too lazy to do the work, and too out of touch to support an industry that is the lifeblood of rural and regional Queensland.

You do not have to take my word for it, colleagues. Former Cattle Board President of AgForce, my friend, Will Wilson, when I spoke to him about the LNP not backing in lay pregnancy testing wholeheartedly, said, 'In 2022 it makes no sense that any political party would not back in lay pregnancy testing—and I thank the minister for his strong support to industry on this issue over the years.' There you have it. You have a former Cattle Board President of AgForce backing in the Palaszczuk Labor government on this position.

You do not need to be a rocket scientist to work out the importance of lay pregnancy testing. Even I worked it out in 2018 while travelling around the property of Gypsy Plains with the current AgForce Cattle Board President explaining the importance of lay pregnancy testing to me and its existence for many years as a means of testing pregnant cattle and its importance to the live export industry. I quickly understood and accepted the importance of continuing that practice. That is why we engage with Agforce, to continue that dialogue and meet with them through the Agriculture Ministerial Advisory Council meetings on a regular basis, not only about this bill but also on the importance of lay pregnancy testing. That is why I supported it even when I was in the Senate and understanding the importance of the live cattle trade, and that is why it quickly came to me when it came to this round of consultation with AgForce the importance once again of lay pregnancy testing but also on the back of live cattle exporting.

The hypocrisy of the opposition to claim the government has not consulted with industry when its views are diametrically opposed to those of significant voices from what the industry says. I am left to wonder if the LNP is just too lazy to talk to industry in any depth at all, or whether they are so deaf or so arrogant that they just do not listen to what industry is actually saying.

I acknowledge the member for Mirani's strong interest in this area and I appreciated our conversation after his contribution as well. I was hopeful of hearing the thoughts of the member for Maiwar also, but unfortunately he did not seem all that interested in commenting on the content of the bill. I can assure the member, however, that the Palaszczuk Labor government still puts the safety of human life first.

I would like to thank my department for its work on this legislation and for overseeing the vital and important consultation process involved. I also want to place on record my acknowledgement of the many hours of work by my ministerial office, in particular my biosecurity advisor, Michelle Curran.

I would like to thank the committee for its extensive examination of this bill to ensure Queenslanders could have their say on this bill. It is an important bill. I once again commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr DAMETTO (11.58 am): I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 1

Page 8, after line 5—

insert—

1A Commencement

Section 16 commences on 1 January 2025.

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

Tabled paper: Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022, proposed amendments to be moved by Mr Nick Dametto [\[2058\]](#).

Tabled paper: Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Nick Dametto's amendments [\[2059\]](#).

Tabled paper: Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Nick Dametto's amendments [\[2060\]](#).

Amendment 1 is to delay the ban on yellow phosphorus—delay for a period of two years the commencement of any ban that would apply to a poison that includes the ingredients carbon disulphide and phosphorus, such as CSSP pig poison, or SAP. This is due to the presently unacceptable biosecurity risks posed by Queensland's large feral pig populations, which could serve as a vector of foot-and-mouth disease and the important role CSSP pig poison has historically and currently in playing in effectively managing the feral pig population.

The industry impacted by this move includes the cattle industry, and industry bodies like AgForce have stated that there has been a lack of consultation on the ban. Lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease are on Australia's doorstep. Not only would it be a disaster for rural landholders if these diseases were to take hold but also removing CSSP, or SAP, from the equation when it comes to managing the feral pig population in Queensland would have devastating effects.

In the second edition, June 2011, the research paper, *A model for assessing the relative humaneness of pest animal control methods*, used as argument to prohibit CSSP, states that the model is not designed to provide an absolute measure of humaneness and that this type of insufficient research and data—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, I would ask you to resume your seat.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You were under a warning. You can leave the House.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 12.00 pm.

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

Question put—That clauses 2 to 52, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 52, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Division: Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.06 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 21 February 2023.

Valedictory



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (12.07 pm): As one year turns to another, it is a time and an opportunity to not only reflect on the challenges and the achievements of the immediate past but also to look toward what we might confront in the immediate future. It is also a time to remind ourselves of the enormous privilege and responsibility that Queenslanders have entrusted us to represent them not only in this House but each and every day. That should be the motivation for each of us.

As Premier, there is nothing more critical to me than looking out for each and every Queenslanders. That should motivate all of us. Every day we should strive to ensure nobody is left behind. Every day we should face up to the important issues and ensure we find solutions. At the heart of our government is the crucial requirement that we are providing for all Queenslanders; that we are delivering the services Queenslanders need, where they need them and when they need them; that everyone has the opportunity for a good job, for better services and access to our great lifestyle.

The year 2022 was when we faced a transition back to relative normality after the strange and uncharted world that we were thrust into with the unwelcome arrival of COVID, a subject I will return to briefly in a moment. It was the year when a catastrophic, heart-rending war broke out and continues to be fought in Europe as Russia invaded Ukraine. It was a year in which we mourned a queen and welcomed a king. It was a year in which we welcomed a dignified, considerate, compassionate man to the most important office in the nation when Anthony Albanese was elected Prime Minister.

I again offer my colleague and friend 'Albo' my congratulations and look forward to the continued fruitful relationship between our government and the Australian government as we continue to work together for the benefit of all Queenslanders. It was also the year in which regrettably and yet again we experienced devastating floods in our state's south-east and the Wide Bay-Burnett and Western Downs regions and we witnessed yet again the incredible resilience and spirit of Queenslanders in the face of adversity.

Mr Speaker, consider where we are today compared to where we were two years ago. We have learned to live with COVID, the insidious virus that completely altered all of our lives in a global pandemic none of us had experienced before and hopefully none of us ever will again. I believe it is timely and responsible to advise Queenslanders that now is not the time to let down their guard but to be alert and not alarmed and to stay safe over this Christmas and holiday period.

COVID is not finished with us yet. We are now in a fourth wave of the virus and Queenslanders are testing positive, particularly those aged in their mid-40s, and I urge everyone to make sure they are up to date with their vaccinations. Under our COVID traffic light system we moved from green to amber in early November. That means we recommend Queenslanders continue to wear masks on public transport and rideshares and in healthcare settings, crowded indoor areas and around vulnerable people.

Queenslanders have an innate ability to bounce back. We have seen it countless times over the past decade as our state has faced some 90 natural disasters—floods and cyclones and fires—since 2011. It is timely to remind Queenslanders of that quite frankly almost unbelievable number. Think about it: almost 100 natural disasters sent to challenge us in little more than a decade. We have endured 65 natural disasters alone whilst I have been in this office. We were forced to face the challenge yet again at the start of this year. As we welcomed 2022, Queenslanders watched on with a familiar sense of dread as heavy rainfall set in. It brought devastating flooding across parts of Southern and Western Queensland and just weeks into the year Maryborough and Gympie suffered major inundation.

In February Brisbane faced flooding on a level we had not experienced in more than a decade since the devastating summer of 2011. Brisbane's CBD, South Bank, West End, South Brisbane, Ipswich and the inner northern suburbs were inundated to such an extent that we saw the iconic Toombul Shopping Centre forever lost. Wivenhoe Dam peaked at almost 184 per cent capacity. The flooding saw more than 20,000 homes inundated and power cut to more than 50,000 properties. The

sheer volume of water shut down the city-wide public transport network and it closed major highways. Then Gympie was battered with the worst flooding in more than a century. Parts of Maryborough were also affected as well as Toowoomba and subsequently Dalby.

Ultimately, the widespread damage saw us swing into a major recovery effort spanning 39 local government areas. Thousands of small businesses, not-for-profit organisations and primary producers felt the unfortunate all-too-familiar impact. However, the thousands who were affected have shown their spirit when confronted with hardship and demonstrated to the country and the world that unique Queensland ability to fight back.

I want Queenslanders to have the best lives possible—that is at the core of the government I lead—and we can overcome challenges and obstacles to ensure it. To quote Nelson Mandela—

It always seems impossible until it's done.

I mentioned at the outset that our government is driven every day to ensure that every Queenslander has the opportunity to get a good job and has access to the best of those fundamental services that we need to lead our best lives. I am proud that under this government Queensland's unemployment has fallen to the second lowest rate in the country. Our unemployment rate sits at 3.3 per cent, equalling the lowest rate ever recorded in this state while at the same time our budget surplus has grown to a record high. Never before in our history have we experienced such popularity as a state.

In the March quarter we learned that almost 54,000 people from other states had crossed the borders to call Queensland home. While they are very welcome, it presents us with new and unprecedented challenges, and we are stepping up to meet those challenges. Helping Queenslanders, including our new arrivals who are flocking across the border in never-seen-before numbers, find a good or better job is one of the most fundamental things our government can do to help. This year Queensland has had the largest increase in employment of any jurisdiction since March 2020. Between December last year and October this year under our government, almost 80,000 jobs were created. As we said, if we contained the virus we would continue to have a strong economy and these results speak to what we had said.

I am proud that under our government our hospitals are undergoing the biggest expansion program ever seen. I am proud we are delivering the largest investment in new hospitals and new beds in Queensland's history, providing additional funding of \$9.73 billion over six years. That delivers more than 2,500 extra beds across the state over the next six years. I am proud that we will deliver for Queenslanders three new hospitals at Coomera, Toowoomba and Bundaberg; a new Queensland Cancer Centre; and 11 hospital expansion projects across Queensland including at Redcliffe, Ipswich, Logan, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Hervey Bay and Robina as well as the major Brisbane hospitals.

I am particularly proud that our government has delivered the boldest and most ambitious Energy and Jobs Plan in this government and any Australian government's history. I am proud to be leading a plan founded on expert advice and science—a plan that will transform Queensland into a global energy superpower; proud to be delivering a plan that represents \$62 billion of investment and creates thousands and thousands of jobs; proud to be delivering the largest pumped hydro energy storage in the world and proud that our investment into the energy SuperGrid, wind and solar farms and renewable storage means we can set new renewable energy targets for our state; proud that next year we will enshrine in legislation those renewable energy targets of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035, providing hope and certainty for the generations who will follow us.

I lead a government that is prepared to face up to issues, no matter how difficult or confronting they may be, and provide solutions. That is why we staged the Housing Summit to address the critical issue of ensuring roofs over heads as we face, as I said earlier, unprecedented population growth and cost-of-living and housing pressures. Nothing is more important for families than having a roof over your head, and that is why just this week I have delivered to this parliament the outcomes of that summit. Those outcomes will be put into action to ensure families and our most vulnerable are not left behind.

It takes an army to keep Queensland working each and every day. So many hardworking, dedicated and tireless Queenslanders go above and beyond every day and they have our lasting gratitude. I want to thank Queensland's many thousands of public servants. Our public servants—those police officers, fire and emergency service workers, our nurses, doctors, paramedics, teachers, disability workers, youth workers, child protection officers, administration workers, cleaners, the Public Service from top to bottom—keep crucial services ticking over each and every day. I wish each and every one of them and their families the safest and happiest of Christmases and all the very best for the new year.

I could not do it alone and I am so grateful to work shoulder to shoulder with members of my cabinet and my caucus—a talented, dedicated, hardworking, diverse group of women and men. I thank my Deputy Premier, Steven Miles, for ensuring we continue to build for Queenslanders and my Treasurer, Cameron Dick, for continuing to ensure we have the means to keep building what the Deputy Premier wants to build. I want to thank the other members of my leadership team—the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, and the Minister for Health and Leader of the House, Yvette D’Ath, for their tireless support and advice. We also have a good time as well every now and then. You need to have that relief every now and again, so it is lovely to work with such a great, committed team.

Every one of my cabinet has worked very hard this year and I thank them for the great work that they do getting out amongst Queenslanders and travelling extensively, often times away from their families and friends. That is a tough job and it is a tough call on anyone and at the end of the day they all need to have a very good rest and a good holiday. After two years of COVID, I hope they take that opportunity. To my amazing caucus, what a great bunch! I am so honoured and proud to work with you and I call each and every one of you my friend. They are such a great team representing your communities. A big thankyou to all of your electorate officers as well and a big thankyou to all of your families because, once again, you are travelling extensively as well out and about and nights away from families. That is tough and it is a big call and I hope that they know how hard you work for the people of this state. On a good note, I also want to make special mention today of Bart Mellish, our member for Aspley. Today Bart and Vivian have welcomed a new addition to his community. Bart and his wife have just this morning welcomed a little baby boy that they have named Milo Alfred Mellish. How cute—Milo Mellish! Beautiful!

I thank the Director-General of my department, Rachel Hunter, and the other directors-general of all departments across government for their hard work, their dedication and their depth of knowledge. I thank the committed staff of my office led by my Chief of Staff, Jim Murphy, and deputy chiefs of staff Jon Persley, Tam Van Alphen and Shane Doherty. Working in a ministerial office—not only the Premier’s office but all of the ministers’ offices—is a tough gig. It is very, very demanding. I have very high expectations—they all know that—but I thank them for the work that they do, and a lot of them work late at night, early in the mornings and they work very hard on the weekend. I want to also thank my electorate staff who ensure that they are doing the best for the people of my local community as well.

It takes literally hundreds of people to ensure this parliament continues to work in the best interests of democracy. I thank everyone who works in this parliament to ensure it runs smoothly. In that regard, firstly I want to pay tribute to some of those staff members whom we will or to whom we have already sadly said goodbye to this year. Several important people who have been working in this place for years—even decades—are moving on or into retirement. As we heard this morning, Mary-Ann Lloyd, Hansard Publishing and Monitoring Officer, will leave this year after an incredible 47 years of service to the parliament.

Lynne Armstrong, the director of information in the Parliamentary Library, left the precinct earlier this year after 44 years. This is a long commitment to service. I think we can all agree that it is impressive and an admirable record of service. Mary-Ann and Lynne have witnessed and recorded history in this place stretching back across nine administrations, including this one, right back to the 1970s and the Bjelke-Petersen era. That is dedication for you.

Tina Grady, senior advisor in the human resources area, also left us this year after 27 years, along with Sarvjit Goraya in the IT division after 23 years and committee secretary Stephen Finnimore after almost 23 years. We also said goodbye to committee secretary Deborah Jeffrey after 20 years and committee support officer Lorraine Bowden after seven years of service. I want to make special mention of two others—Sandgate electorate officer Avalon Mackellar, who has retired after 17 years, and Margaret Edmonds, who we all know from her position as attendant on the floor of the House, who will leave us on 22 December after 25 years. I know that everyone in this place will join me in wishing each of these long-serving familiar faces about this parliament all the very best for the future. Margaret, you and I have known each other for many, many years and I do wish you and your family a very happy retirement.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for continuing to umpire from the chair, and for your good sense of humour as well.

Ms Grace: Sometimes!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for McConnell!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We all know that this place can be very loud, it can be very boisterous, but you, along with Deputy Speaker Joe Kelly and the panel of temporary speakers, keep it dignified—for the most part—and, as I said, with a wonderful sense of judgement and humour. I do want to especially thank the Clerk of the Parliament Neil Laurie for his years of service to this House and his ongoing sense of duty and incredible knowledge of the workings of the Westminster democracy and the workings of this parliament. I also want to thank Deputy Clerk Michael Ries and Bernice Watson, Amanda Honeyman, the first clerk assistants and all other clerks at the table.

This House relies on the dedication of so many staff without whose efforts things would simply come to a standstill. I want to thank Jo Mathers, our Hansard Chief Reporter; Monique Harmer, our director of property and facility services; Janet Prowse, our Director of Information Services and Parliamentary Librarian; Craig Atkinson, our Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Officer Liaison; Ryan Cherry, our Senior Electorate Accommodation Officer; Amy McElhenny, our Manager of Catering Services—and haven't the services been fantastic this year?—Robyn Moore, Director, Research and Information Services; Peter Morris, our Manager of Human Resources; Mark Richardson, our Manager of Precinct Services; James Rasmussen, our Head of Information Technology Services; Cecelia Ryan, our Director, Library Information Management Services; and Michael Watkin, the Sergeant-at-Arms in charge of Security and Attendant Services who has done a mighty job this year.

We rarely agree and we seldom see eye to eye, but an opposition is critical to our democracy. Next year we do look forward to seeing some plans from them.


An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Come on. Touchy, touchy. It is Christmas. I thank the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and all those members opposite and wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas. I know you, like each of us on this side of the chamber, are dedicated to your communities and making those communities safe and prosperous for Queensland families. I also thank the members of the parliamentary media gallery for keeping all of us on both sides of this chamber on our toes. The media play a crucial role in keeping Queenslanders informed. Like each of us I am sure, I am not always thrilled with the reporting, but we all have thick skins by now so you take the good with the bad—and the ugly. I do thank the always professional president of the parliamentary press gallery Channel 7's Marlina Whop, her vice president, the ABC's equally professional Rachel Riga and their organiser of all things fun and sociable, the fun-loving Lydia Lynch of the *Australian*.

It is that time of year when we can take the time to pause and breathe and reflect and, importantly, spend time with the people who we most cherish. I do want to thank all of the staff of the precinct. It takes a lot of people to run this place, from the gardeners to the caterers to the cleaners, the attendants and everybody who works here. It would be remiss of me not to mention that we value the work that they do here.

I am looking forward to spending a happy time with those people in my family who support me each and every day no matter what is thrown our way. Importantly, I would like to thank my mum and dad, my beautiful partner Reza, his beautiful two children, all of my sisters and all of their extended family and friends. Thank you to all those Queenslanders who have sent me and my family cards and best wishes for the Christmas season, including those Queenslanders who have reached out on social media. I wish you and every Queenslanders and their families a safe and happy Christmas. As we head rapidly towards 2023, all the best for what I sincerely hope is a great New Year.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, without reflecting on the Deputy Speaker's ruling earlier, it appears that we are absent a member and in the spirit of Christmas I would like to invite the member for Glass House to return to the chamber. It is under the proviso that he makes no further mentions of the French Revolution.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.25 pm): Thank you for your gracious gesture and, Premier, thank you for your contribution. Whilst we are all here to do our bit for our respective communities, we all know politics is a game of numbers so on the final sitting day of the year I have taken the liberty of listing a few from this calendar year. I have done it without the use of a giant calculator, which is always a good starting point. One—number of coffees shouted by the shadow Treasurer to the entire LNP party room; two—number of Elvis appearances at a sanctioned event by the deputy leader.

Mr Mander: Don't forget fat Elvis.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is right, one from the member for Everton. Six—number of petitions launched about Gold Coast infrastructure by the member for Coomera; six—number of times the member for Mudgeeraba has been ejected from the chamber; 18—references to Emu Swamp Dam from the member for Southern Downs; 75—extra millimetres of elevation gained by Dr Martens-wearing member for Maryborough; and 93—members of parliament who all love their communities and love their state.

Can I start by thanking the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and, indeed, all of the table staff, for what they do for us. This is a place of cut and thrust. To know that we have people in those roles to always provide advice and ensure this parliament operates in the way that it should do is, quite frankly, remarkable.

I want to join with the Premier in highlighting some of the retirements and milestones: Stephen Finnimore who retired in March after 23 years; Lynne Armstrong retired in May after 44 years; Tina Grady retired in June after 27 years; Margaret, and it will be 25 years for Margaret when she retires on 2 December, which is remarkable; and Mary-Ann Lloyd, when she retires on 14 December, will have given 47 years of service. That is very special.

We have had several people notch up 10 years of service: Lynne Richards, Duska Pavlovska, Stergoula Fanourgakis, Marcia Morandini, Sunja Luscombe and Trent Carvolth. Those who have 15 years of service: Cliff Ku, Erin Hastie, Andrew Dawson, Patrick Durrance and Amanda Honeyman; 30 years of service for Andrew Currey at security; and Vicki van Til with 40 years of chamber service.

I thank the staff for the conditions they have had to work in during the renovations. To all of you, thank you for the way that you have allowed the show to go on. Also to the members of parliament, it has been disjointed and yet we have still found a way to be able to serve our communities and our state. Mr Speaker, you and I are no longer the proud owners of that rodent in the cavity above your ceiling which passed away in the last couple of days. Such is the way that we have had to conduct business in a place that is under renovation, the show has gone on.

To you, Mr Speaker, thank you for the way you have conducted yourself in that chair. The opposition and, indeed, the crossbench value the way that you run this place. It does not go unnoticed. In fact, at the lighting of the tree last night I thought your contribution summed up why it is we all do what we do. The way that you articulated the importance of Christmas and the importance to connect with family I thought was an amazing contribution. To my family, I thank you all. I am sure all members here wish to thank their families. They do make sacrifices.

Mr Speaker, as you quite rightly mentioned, families come in all different sizes. Someone might be sharing Christmas with their father and daughter; there might be a street party with people coming together; there could be gatherings of large families. To everyone I say: you are part of what makes Queensland what it is. The majority of those Queenslanders who will be working on Christmas Day and throughout the holidays will, in fact, be frontline staff who work for the state but there are also many others who are not. We should be really thankful for the people who will be at the console at the local servo or those keeping a business open and maintaining its cleanliness in case people need its services on Christmas Day. That is something that we should all be thankful for every day of the holidays.

To the media I say: you are a vital part of democracy. We do not always agree but we all agree that it is vital that you are there to do what you do.

The Premier mentioned the Public Service. Indeed, the opposition joins with her in thanking them for what they do. These have been challenging times for them. They have had to continue during the disjointed nature of COVID as have those in workplaces across the state. We thank them for all they do.


To my team, if there has been a highlight for me this year it has been the friendship that I have been able to establish working as closely as ever with the member for Kawana. I thank you for your guidance and your counsel and for the way that you bring an edge to our team, which we all respect and value. To the Manager of Opposition Business, who has just rejoined us, I say: thank you, Andrew, for the tone that you set. We are a better place for it. To the former leaders on my side of the House, I thank all of you for your guidance and counsel. It means a great deal to me and I thank you for it.

To the staff in the opposition office, yours is a demanding job and there are only a few of you. You need to know that those extra hours do not go unappreciated by anybody. I can assure you of that.

Premier, to you and your team, I wish you all the best. I hope you have a break. I hope you enjoy yourself. I hope you get the opportunity to connect with family and friends. It is a beautiful time of year and it is important that we share it with those we love.

Finally, to Queenslanders I say: it has been a challenging year as they so often are. The floods have tested us as has the disjointed nature of the modern world that we live in. Sadly, there are tough times ahead. There is no doubt that when we gather this time next year there will be those who are doing it even a little tougher than they are now. There is an air of inevitability about that. It is up to all of us to do our part to make sure that that is minimised as much as possible.

Every Queenslander should know that we value what they do to make this state great. We know how resilient they are. Whilst they may not share in all of our decisions, either collectively or individually, they should know that there are 93 people who come to work every day with the goal of making their area and their state a little better. Today, on behalf of the opposition, I thank every member in this House for doing just that.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (12.33 pm): It is a privilege to again represent the crossbench in summarising the year as well as, for the fifth year, celebrating our differences here on the crossbench. We are three political parties plus an Independent with geographic, economic and social diversity that is breathtaking in its expanse. When you think about that, we represent 17 per cent of the opposition but our electorates cover 28 per cent of the state. I think that if we can do it then anyone can.

For the third year, fallout from COVID dominated with a lack of labour and materials, skyrocketing prices, health services and the ongoing housing crisis with shared commonalities from the beach to the bush. Floods were prominent, as we have heard, and many have yet to have our houses refitted to pre-flood condition. We give gratitude that more lives were not lost and our ongoing thoughts are with those who grieve for loved ones. Our frontliners have again done an outstanding job, endeavouring to keep all safe with domestic violence repeat offenders, irresponsible and dangerous drivers as well as increased mental health issues competing with the increasing decrease in physical health. Businesses that have had to survive through two years of lockdowns, shutdowns and isolating staff now have reduced hours and sustainability issues due to ongoing staff shortages. For example, in Hastings Street we are short 60 chefs at a time when we are coming into the big season.

Of course, in Katter country and Mirani, all realms are impacted including agriculture, mining and hospitality. In the Greens' electorates of South Brisbane and Maiwar, the impact involves teachers, nurses and health clinicians. Access to federal programs such as PALM have made an enormous difference in our aged care. As an example, over 30 carers from the Pacific islands commenced in September in Noosa.

Yes, this year in the chamber we have argued over many things. However, those of us up the back hope that we follow through on the *Fault lines* report. It is so important and we all agree on that.

Of special mention: the crossbench brought forward a total of eight bills, with four moving beyond the second reading stage, including the Katter's labelling of seafood bill and liquid fuel supply bill, currently before a committee. Of special mention is their blue card for Indigenous communities bill that, after three attempts and even though not supported for passing by the committee, will lead to instrumental and urgent changes. The Greens honed in on the housing crisis with the rent freeze bill, which is currently in committee. Their age of responsibility and empty home levy bills did not move beyond the first reading and their cost of living relief bill was nearly tabled this week, however, we ran out of time. All of those bills shared a commonality, which is that they are about trying to rectify a glaring wrong in the community and those members should be heartily congratulated for them.

The crossbench represented major contrasting views to both government and opposition as well as each other. Regardless of the rights or wrongs, we contributed to the much needed diversity in the parliament. There were many highlights within that diversity.

In Katter country, we saw the opening of the renal dialysis unit at Ingham Hospital and a CT scanner for Charters Towers, with progress at Hughenden Dam, CopperString and the long sought after North Johnstone transfer project. The regional water assessment plan is well underway and close to finalisation. For Noosa, of course, it is the work of Ramsay Health, with the assistance of government, to expand the emergency department at Noosa Hospital, the completion of stage 1 of the Tewantin bypass and the commencement of Six Mile Bridge No. 7. For Mirani, highlights include repairs and resurfacing of highways, the completion of the Mount Morgan pipeline and the reopening of the mine.

A new hospital has been committed to Sarina and two positions have been awarded to Australian South Sea Islanders. The Greens were happy about indications that the government will move to legislate an affirmative model of consent and, of course, they are absolutely thrilled by the fight of their community to retain East Brisbane State School and the return of the Pride Festival to West End.

There have been lowlights but I will not go there because it is not in the spirit of Christmas. It is really hard being the last speaker because I know everybody is eager to get out to the Speaker's Green. Therefore, I will hit on something about the crossbench. The reality is that we do not vote together and it is a rarity when we agree. However, as you all know, we do stand united in some areas, including the right to be heard when a motion is put forward without notice and opposition to the shrinking opportunities through limited time allocations. I will give two examples from this sitting: I reduced my speech to half of the allotted time so that other speakers could speak and today six members on this side of the House missed out on speaking on the animal care bill. We need to do something about this. It is time. We will continue to fight for a review of the committee and estimates processes. We have all been patient, but it is time.

To the celebrations: there were so many achievements within our electorates and the list is too long to accommodate here except to offer our heartfelt congratulations. There are so many to thank including, as I have mentioned, our fabulous frontliners such as the nurses, retail workers, hospitality staff, teachers—and it goes on and on. As you have confronted different challenges, you have done so with others foremost in your minds and you have our deep gratitude.

To the Premier, ministers, parliamentary and department staff, yes, we have had moments of great frustrations and we cannot understand why response times are slow. However, there have been things we are grateful for including the long-awaited actions on housing, commitments to see an end to domestic and family violence, and progress on the Path to Treaty. Thank you all for what you do. Again, it has been an extremely challenging year.

As well, we were grateful for the determination of the Independent Remuneration Tribunal to transition our hard-fought-for crossbench parliamentary policy officers to full-time status. That was a high-five. That was really good.

To our Clerk: even with a dose of COVID you ensured that the MPs' move into alternative office space and accommodations was relatively smooth, even though it may have seemed like herding cats. The works on the Annexe are a huge job and we recognise the enormous efforts and disruption not only to you but also to all parliamentary staff.

Mr Speaker, all deputies and acting Speakers: there were some days when there seemed to be more MPs on warnings than not, and your job is not one that any of us would want. Thank you again for your continuing efforts to bring respectful debate into the chamber, which is so important. The visiting schoolchildren look to see the leadership we can provide here.

To IT, Catering, Library, Security, Hansard, Committees, Corporate, Housekeeping and every person who makes it possible for us to do our job here: thank you. Welcome to the many new staff and thank you for the decorations for special events, though can we ask you, please, to stop tempting us with those fabulous treats because it is adding to our girths!

There are no words to convey our deep gratitude to our incredible not-for-profits, community organisations, volunteers, advocates and residents of our electorates. You make the difference and inspire us as MPs to do better every day.

To our staff: let me say how much we appreciate your efforts every day on behalf of our communities. You are gold. To all fellow MPs in this chamber, your staff, families and electorates, from the diversity up the back, where our Christmas decorations range from ecofriendly, all-natural potted versions to cut-down versions and also the latest in USB powered versions: all the very best for a well-earned break. Also, extra hugs to the whips—what a job you do.

May Santa deliver rain where needed with fires only for our barbecues. I hope that under our trees are the gifts of bipartisan agreements that will assist us greatly to deliver to Queenslanders in 2023. What better time to start than now in true festive spirit out on the Speaker's Green? Merry Christmas, everyone. See you in 2023.



Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Noosa and members of the crossbench. Honourable members, it has been a long parliamentary year. Before we rise this afternoon I wish to make a few modest comments as to the sittings this year.

I first want to thank the Premier for her gift of a mango. This is the only time that you will see me using a prop—hopefully! Mangoes are an indelible part of the Queensland summer. It is indeed the frankincense and myrrh of Queensland Christmas, if not the gold. This place has seen some great performances over the year, none more important or better than those outside this place. Of course I am talking about the member for Kawana, the deputy opposition leader, moonlighting as an Elvis impersonator. There are many descriptions one can give to the member for Kawana. ‘Swivelling hips’ is not one I would normally care for.

Mr Bleijie: But you enjoyed it!

Mr SPEAKER: I take that interjection. Very rarely will I ever do that. Are you the king of rock’n’roll? I would suggest no. The gain of Kawana Waters State College is our loss.

I wish to pay tribute to the members who come to the parliament in their technicolour glory: the members for Thuringowa and Maryborough. Shoes and jackets are never standard accessories for these two! We say thank you, particularly to the member for Thuringowa. I love your ‘good mornings’.

I wish to make honourable mentions to other members who I would say are the most improved members in the chamber. First is the member for Southern Downs. The member for Southern Downs certainly made a very big entrance to this place on the grassy knoll, but he is one of the few members whose interjections are accompanied by what could only be described as a sonic boom. With his ascension to the Temporary Speakers panel, he is poacher turned gamekeeper.

Then there is the member for Cairns, who I have known for many years outside of this place. If there was ever a person who deserved the description of ‘hail-fellow-well-met’ it is the member for Cairns. Indeed, the path he cuts through this place is marked with such interactions. In his second term his stories have now blossomed, with vivid descriptions of the detail of modern life. This is a fancy term for words I cannot repeat in this place! You get the gist. When I describe the member as the Far North’s Rodney Dangerfield, you will understand what I mean!

I wish to acknowledge that today is the 50th anniversary of the election of the Whitlam government. Is this ancient history? Well, not according to the member for Mermaid Beach, who gave us a stirring rendition of *It’s Time* a few weeks ago.

Christmas is time for many things. I always enjoy time to revisit the tales of Jedi Knights and the Dark Lords of the Sith. Members are well aware of my love of *Star Wars*. I wish to thank those who share in this fandom and who often have hallway conversations with me: the members for Caloundra, Kawana, Macalister and Whitsunday. Finally, as it is the festive season, I wish to pay tribute to one member who always brings us joyous tidings, even when it is July: the member for Mount Ommaney.

I do wish to give a few thanks for those who help in the operation of this parliament. I want to record my gratitude to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and their respective leadership teams for their constructive approach to the parliamentary process.

My special thanks go to the marshals of parliamentary procedure for the government and the opposition: the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business. I thank the Committee of the Legislative Assembly for its counsel and support for the operation of the chamber and the management of the precinct: the Manager of Opposition Business and the Leader of the House along with the members Lytton, Capalaba and Mermaid Beach and, most often, the member for Hill.

Keeping the House in order is a team effort, so I thank my Deputy Speaker, Joe Kelly, the member for Greenslopes, and all the members of the Temporary Speakers panel. I did remark at our meeting yesterday morning that everyone has grown in the role as Temporary Speaker and I thank them for the role they undertake. Clearly, I would not be able to sit in this chair all day. Neither can the Deputy Speaker. We are very grateful for the work that you do.

I want to thank those who help operate the chamber. I do not want to gush too much for the whips, but ultimately we thank those who report the ayes and the noes with unmatched charisma. Thank you to the members for Capalaba, Lytton, Mount Ommaney, Toowoomba North and Theodore.

An honourable member: Currumbin?

Mr SPEAKER: And the member for Currumbin.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I take that interjection: how could I forget? I also wish to thank the committee chairs and deputy chairs for the work they do. Our committee system is a very important part of our parliamentary democracy, particularly being a unicameral parliament. I do appreciate what they do, as well as those who support those committees in terms of secretariats.

I now turn my attention to the centre table of the House. The Clerk, Neil Laurie, carries a heavy burden as chief legal adviser to 93 demanding clients. He is the key to the operation of this place. His work is guided by nearly three decades of working in the Parliamentary Service and 19 years as Clerk. Next year is the big 2-0. Time really flies when you are having fun! With 19 years of service, Neil is the jointly longest serving Clerk in any House in Australia. He shares this title with a friend of ours, Tom Duncan, in the ACT Legislative Assembly. Neil's counsel to all members is greatly sought after and I thank him for what he does in this place. Equally, I thank Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries, for his hard work and support.

My thanks go also to all of the clerks at the table providing advice during sittings, not only to those sitting in this chair but also to other members in the chamber. Vital to the work of the chamber also is our Table Office, led by Amanda Honeyman and Leah Ilott, and our Hansard staff, led by Jo Mathers. I thank them for their work and also wish to thank our parliamentary attendants, led by Angie and Cliff.

I wish to note significant anniversaries for long-term Parliamentary Service staff members. As I have stated today, there are two people we really do need to highlight: Mary-Ann Lloyd of Hansard and formerly of the Parliamentary Library who has provided what can only be described as a gargantuan and titanic 47 years of service to the parliament and to the people of Queensland. Margaret, who is a tremendously friendly face—and who is hiding behind a pillar right now!—has been very diligent in her work over so many years and will be greatly missed, as will all staff members who are leaving us.

For those still with us who have reached significant milestones, we have the knowledgeable and hardworking Vicki van Til of the Table Office who has racked up a very impressive 40 years of service; Andrew Currey, the ever-present friendly face of Security, has reached 30 years of service this year; and Debra Wickerson of the Rockhampton electorate office has reached 20 years of service this year—God help her!

I would like to thank the functions and catering team for the service they provide to all members. I thank Executive Chef Anthony Naylor, our head chef, and the functions team of Amy McElhenny, Kylie Scobie, Kelly Baker, Bronte Trieger and Jenny Burkinshaw. I also give a big thanks to the cafe team, led by Tracey Lindfield, and the barista with an encyclopaedic memory, Andrew Roberts!

I wish to thank Janet Prowse, Director of Information Services, and the team at the Parliamentary Library for their important work supporting members and preparing cultural and historical displays. Many thanks to our committee secretaries and the Committee Office staff members, led by Bernice Watson. I also place on record my appreciation for Property and Facility Services team, led by the direction of Monique Harmer. During the current Annexe renovations where facilities are limited, Monique and the Property and Facility Services team have worked beyond the usual bounds to ensure that we get the most out of our temporarily limited facilities.

I wish also place on record my appreciation of Precinct Services team who working hard to ensure that facilities for members and staff are maintained as we move towards the Annexe refurbishment being completed next year. On behalf of all members, I wish to place on record our gratitude for the work of all the gardeners, cleaning and maintenance staff on this precinct. Particularly relating to our gardeners, I read an email this morning and I wanted to make sure that we put it on the parliamentary record. I think this is a fascinating fact. The email reads—

Many members and staff have commented upon one of the trees in the Speaker's Green which is in very vibrant bloom at the moment ...

Georgia Fox, our Gardner has supplied some information below about this very, very rare tree.

Species: *Syzygium moorei*

Common Names: Watermelon Tree, Rose Apple, Coolamon, Broad-leaved Satinash

This species is considered vulnerable under both the Nature Conservation Act 1999 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

It is a rainforest tree that grows to 40m occurring from SE QLD to NE NSW. These days it is generally available from native production nurseries in the region and does not generally reach its full height in garden situations. It is cauliflorous, meaning that it produces both flower and fruit directly from their trunks and branches.

Our specimen is flowering now and may continue through until February. Normally fruit will follow and is borne around March-April.

The fruit is edible but quite tart, tasting like a mix of an apple and pear, and makes excellent jam.

There are only a few known mature specimens left in the wild.

I would like to thank the Parliamentary Education team, currently led by Rebecca Quinnell and Katina Webb, for their efforts in bringing parliament to students across the state. Our regional youth parliaments are great events that educate young Queenslanders about democracy, and our education team deserve credit for their efforts. I have to say that it is one of the most satisfying parts of my job. We have expanded the number of educational opportunities we have into schools with youth parliaments. We have more than doubled them over the last few years. They are always very well received in those communities.

I also wish to thank our First Nations Liaison Officer, Marjorie Elworthy, for her efforts to continue the Parliamentary Services' engagement with First Nations people and communities. I also wish to thank our Communications team of Jessica Gregory and Ainsley Brossing for their efforts supporting the work of the parliament.

In terms of our electorate offices and support to MPs, I thank Craig Atkinson, Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Office Liaison; Peter Morris, Manager of HR Services and the HR team; and James Robertson, Manager of Financial and Administrative Services and the FAS team. I also wish to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Watkin, and the precinct security team for their work. We promise not to prank you, Michael, with a fake mace ever again! I would like to thank the parliamentary media gallery, president Marlina Whop and vice-president Rachel Riga for reporting the proceedings in the House and for the important service they provide to the people of Queensland.

Lastly, I want to give a couple of very personal thanks. I thank my Mulgrave electorate office staff—Bec Spencer and Heidi Osterburg. They do a wonderful job supporting my local community. I want to thank my constituents for allowing me both to be their member of parliament for the fifth term but also to be returned as Speaker and to allow me to do this job knowing that it takes me away from my electorate.

I would also like to thank my Speaker's Office staff—the irrepressible George Hasanakos. I apologise in advance to the member for Jordan. George is still the most powerful Greek in the parliament! I also thank Coral-Leah Kemp for her service over many years—in fact, more than a decade. I thank my family—my parents, Warren and Linda, and my children—for their support. I am grateful for my son, Tristan, and daughters, Layla and Kobi, for being in my life. I am also grateful for those other special people—I guess we would call them the flowers who brighten up my day.

The sitting year is now at an end and we must turn to the end-of-year festivities. Sorry, member for Noosa, but we will not be going to the Speaker's Green; it is too bright, too sunny and too hot. I invite all members to the Strangers Dining Room, which harks back to a tradition not long after I came into this place where we once previously held Speaker's Drinks. I also encourage all members to take part but particularly I want them to take part in that very important tradition of us, as members of parliament, serving the parliamentary staff and giving back to them at this time of year.

As I have said before, Christmas is a time for families, and we have families of all different shapes and sizes. No matter what our differences or the things that unite us, our families support and sustain us. Christmas is a time for us to recharge those bonds and to remind ourselves of how fortunate all of us are. From my family to yours, I wish all members and everybody in our parliamentary community a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.56 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.56 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, 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, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting