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Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 16 June 2023

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FRIDAY, 16 JUNE 2023

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Joe Kelly, Greenslopes) read prayers and took the chair.



Mr ACTING 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.

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from: Calamvale Community College in the electorate of Algester; Hillcrest Christian College in the electorate of Mudgeeraba; Our Lady of the Angels' Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Stafford; and Murrumba State Secondary College in the electorate of Murrumba.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice (Hon. Farmer)—

[881](#) Letter, dated 14 June 2023, from the Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice, Hon. Di Farmer, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding statements made in the House about breach of bail condition laws

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Job Creation



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.32 am): Our government's economic plan has now delivered more than half a million jobs since 2015. That is right, Mr Acting Speaker, more than 520,000 jobs have now officially been created since we came to office. That is in stark contrast to the efforts of those opposite who, rather than create jobs, cut jobs. The proof of this—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! I know that we had a late finish last night, but I expect we will have an orderly morning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The proof of this was no clearer than yesterday when, delivering his budget reply, the Leader of the Opposition focused specifically on the Public Service—our police officers, nurses, doctors, youth workers and frontline education workers—telling them that he was ready to shake up the Public Service. In anyone's language that is shorthand for a return to the dark days of the last LNP government, of which he was a member, when 14,000 people lost their jobs.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, like many of you I only got about five hours sleep last night. I know there is a bit of passion in the room today, but I expect an orderly chamber and I will start warning people very early.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is worth repeating that there are now more than half a million more Queenslanders employed since our government came to office. The release yesterday of the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data confirms that and the strong economic results we are delivering for Queensland. In May 11,300 jobs were created in Queensland, including 8,500 full-time jobs. There are now 264,000 more Queenslanders in jobs since the COVID pandemic. That is the largest increase in jobs in the nation.

Mr Dick: Hear, hear!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Well done, Treasurer! Our economic recovery plan has delivered for Queenslanders, just as we said it would. The ABS data confirms that employment in Queensland since January 2015 has increased by over 520,900 jobs, breaking the half a million jobs mark for the first time. Queensland's unemployment rate remains below four per cent at 3.9, compared to 6.6 when we came to office. Our strong economy means that more people are now moving to Queensland for work. Other ABS data released yesterday confirms that Queensland's population increased by more than 116,500 people last year. Queensland again had the highest number of people moving from interstate in the nation. That included 21,240 people from New South Wales, 11,250 people from Victoria and 1,160 people from South Australia.

Mr Dick: Who can blame them.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I take that interjection. Who can blame them for wanting to move to the best state in the country. That is why our record Big Build of new hospitals, schools, energy, infrastructure and social housing is so important and it is why we cannot risk a return to the cuts and sackings of the past. If we work together, our best days remain ahead of us.

Budget, Education



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.35 am): Every Queensland kid deserves the best education and schools that are fit for purpose. That is why our government investment is big. Our record \$17.8 billion education budget will make sure the next generation has access to everything they need to learn, grow and succeed, whether it is in the classroom or on the sporting field. We will invest a massive \$358 million to build new classrooms and specialist learning spaces like those needed for STEM, hospitality and speciality subjects.

Just recently I joined Minister Grace and our hardworking local Redlands MP to open a new STEM building at Victoria Point State High School. It means so much to the students, who can now learn to cook in an industrial kitchen and have hands-on experience in robotics. This budget also continues to deliver our successful halls program, with \$259 million invested to build new and expanded school halls and performing arts centres at 18 schools across the state. Nearly \$1 billion will be invested over the next decade to lock in the land needed to build new schools and expand our existing schools. With more than 90,000 people moving to Queensland in the last year, we know that we will definitely need them.

I want to thank all of the hardworking staff across our education system. The whole team does a terrific job supporting our students and our education system. Our children are our future, and our Big Build definitely means that their future is indeed bright.

2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.37 am): Queensland has a plan for its future. Our strong health response led to a strong economic recovery, and the benefits of that recovery have been detailed in this week's budget. Queensland also has something no other state has: the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has already driven unparalleled cooperation and investment by all levels of government and the private sector. It will attract investment across the board as companies that want to be part of the games become a part of Queensland.

Today I can announce one more. Our government has worked in partnership with Paralympics Australia to provide the peak body with a new home here in Brisbane for the next two years. This means that staff temporarily working out of the Brisbane City Council boardroom now have permanent office space in the city. Along with our support for the Paralympic Centre of Excellence at the University of Queensland, this decision makes Queensland the centre of development for a new era of access and research that will not only benefit athletes but the whole community.

When we talk about the legacy of 2032 the one word that keeps coming up is 'inclusive'. The community wants our games to be the most inclusive games ever held. The decision is another step closer to that goal. Who knows what other bodies will move to Queensland in the future. I look forward to working closely with Paralympians, Olympians and our whole community as we make 2032 the start of Queensland's golden age.

Budget, Infrastructure Projects


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.38 am): Our budget is a budget for all Queenslanders. From the cape to Currumbin, Burketown to Birdsville, Queensland's Big Build is delivering infrastructure for communities across the state. This is only possible because of our progressive coal royalties.

Queenslanders own the state's mineral resources, and they deserve to get their fair share from current high coal prices, particularly regional communities. Our coal-producing communities have been the backbone of our economy for generations. The communities of Isaac, Central Highlands, Banana, Western Downs and the Whitsunday local government areas have played such an important role in Queensland's economic strength for so long. It is only right that we invest in infrastructure for these communities to improve their livability.

The people in these far-reaching parts of Queensland deserve their fair share of the coal royalties, so I am very pleased that the budget included an allocation of \$120 million for the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund. These five communities will be eligible to share in \$120 million to support the construction of important community infrastructure. Previous rounds have funded affordable housing in Moranbah, a clinical training facility in Chinchilla and a football club upgrade in Collinsville. It has also funded a new Woorabinda Community Hub and Disaster Recovery Centre, a children's services hub in Julia Creek and a new aeromedical facility in Mount Isa. Unlike previous rounds, round 3—which is worth \$120 million—will be fully funded by the Queensland government.

I am looking forward to seeing the projects put forward for funding and to see them come to life in these communities. From our record investment in health, housing and cost-of-living relief, to Queensland's Big Build, the Palaszczuk government's budget is a budget for all Queenslanders.

Financial Services Sector

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.40 am): Since we were first elected, the Palaszczuk Labor government has pursued a deliberate strategy of diversifying Queensland's economy. That includes growing Queensland's role as a home to the financial services sector. We are already home to Australia's second largest superannuation fund, the Australian Retirement Trust. As ANZ seeks to buy the banking division of Suncorp, we have been steadfast in our determination to ensure any deal would see more jobs in the financial services sector in Queensland.

I am pleased to advise the House that both Suncorp and ANZ have signed agreements with the Queensland government that would deliver on that determination. The agreement formalises Suncorp's commitment to keep its insurance corporate headquarters in Queensland. It is not just the South-East that will benefit from Suncorp's ongoing presence in Queensland. Suncorp, as a national insurer, has committed \$2 million for the establishment of a Suncorp regional hub in Townsville, creating 120 new jobs. Suncorp would invest \$3 million for community and education initiatives focused on First Nations employment pathways. These initiatives would also build skills in disaster resilience and emergency management.


Suncorp would invest at least \$19 million for the establishment of a disaster response centre of excellence in Brisbane. That centre of excellence would include investment in a new technology platform to better understand weather impacts. It would enable improved communication with customers and communities affected by weather events, improving response times in these hours of greatest need.

ANZ's commitments build on those made when the proposed transaction was initially announced and focus on the growth of ANZ's banking presence in Queensland. This includes the establishment of a new tech hub in Brisbane and hiring or placing up to 700 people in that hub over five years.

This proposed acquisition is not something that was sought by the Queensland government. It is still subject to a range of regulatory approvals, including merger authorisation from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and approval from the federal Treasurer. There has been

media speculation about other potential suitors for Suncorp's banking assets. Our government takes no position on that, other than to say this: this agreement with Suncorp and ANZ sets a benchmark. It is our firm expectation that any other transaction would deliver a package of benefits of equal or greater benefit because Queenslanders deserve nothing less.

Budget, Women's Health; Vaccination; Hospitals, Beds

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.43 am): We know that women have historically experienced discrimination and a lack of specified support in our health system, and health conditions such as endometriosis are only just beginning to be well understood within the community. Sadly, one in three women have had their health concerns dismissed by doctors, according to the 2021 Australia Talks survey. That is why this year's budget includes almost \$35 million for initiatives that are aimed at boosting women's health care. This includes initial funding to support the development of our first ever Queensland Women's Health Strategy to address the health needs of women and which I look forward to releasing in the coming months.

Women also deserve access to birthing services close to home, and this budget delivers \$42 million for rural maternity services. This funding will allow the expansion of outreach maternity services to help reduce the need for expecting mums to travel to larger centres. This funding is building on the learnings from the Rural Maternity Taskforce to address concerns raised by expecting mothers and healthcare workers. We are putting money on the table to develop place-based solutions, and I look forward to discussing these matters at my maternity round table today following question time.

The challenges being felt by maternity services across the state are not unique to Queensland, but I am excited that Queensland will lead the discussion about how we can improve maternity services around the country. This budget also provides an additional \$13.7 million to support the Growing Deadly Families strategy so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born in Queensland have the strongest start to life.

This budget also recognises the health and wellbeing of sexual assault victims and survivors. That is why \$1.73 million will go towards ensuring the integrated, timely and local delivery of high-quality trauma-sensitive forensic medical examinations for victims of sexual assault. There is \$4.4 million allocated to double the number of domestic and family violence clinicians to ensure we have the staff to respond safely and appropriately to patients experiencing domestic and family violence. This budget absolutely delivers on women's health. It delivers on maternity services and women's safety—because the Palaszczuk government delivers for women.


I want to take a short amount of time to also update the House because it is flu season and it is a timely reminder for Queenslanders to get their flu vaccination and their COVID booster. Given the significant national shortage of GPs, it is so important we do whatever we can to minimise that pressure on our emergency departments. Taking the pressure off our hospitals is about looking after ourselves with our vaccinations but it is also about the government investing in staff and investing in beds in our hospitals to relieve the pressure.

While I am talking about beds, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely apologise to the House. Yesterday I said the Palaszczuk government had invested 1,350 new beds since coming to government. I can advise that number—much like the LNP line of questioning yesterday—was slightly out of date. In fact the number of beds we have made available to our hospitals since 2015 is 1,532.

A government member: There is more.

Ms FENTIMAN: It is way more beds. I can advise the House that, as at April this year, there has been an increase in our hospital bed base of 542 beds since 2020. Most importantly, in this budget we will deliver between now and the next election more than 500 extra beds, because that is what we do. We build more beds and we invest in our frontline staff. It is all part of our Big Build and Putting Patients First, our plan to reduce ambulance ramping. It is all possible because of our record health budget.

First Nations Housing Action Plan

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (9.47 am): Closing the gap is underpinned by the belief that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a voice—a genuine say in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services that affect them—better life outcomes are achieved. While significant progress has been made to reduce overcrowding in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, the gap is still too high. To change that, last week I announced

the next phase of our new First Nations Housing Action Plan—a plan that will be designed with the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It builds on the work we have already done in our first plan: establishing a First Nations housing peak body; supporting First Nations home ownership with 205 homes transferred, new builds, home extensions and additional land lots; and a First Nations traineeship program supporting 61 First Nations people to get a qualification and on-the-job training.

What is clear is that, while we continue to invest, more is needed in housing for remote communities, and of course there is still more work to be done. That is why it was so disappointing that the former federal LNP government walked away from the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. In stark contrast, in this year's budget, we are investing \$153 million of additional funding to roll out First Nations housing solutions and continue the delivery of remote and discrete community social housing.

A house is not just a home; it is an avenue to better education, employment and financial and health outcomes. There is still more to do, but if we are ever going to close the gap we must listen to the voices of First Nations people, and that is exactly what our Labor government will do.

Budget, Community Services



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (9.49 am): We know that many Queenslanders are doing it tough right now with the entire nation facing significant cost-of-living pressures. The 2023 state budget is focused squarely on tackling these pressures and providing Queenslanders with the support they need. Families, in particular, are feeling these pressures, which is why the budget includes nearly \$2.7 million over two years to expand our investment in school breakfast programs. This commitment means more children in Queensland will be learning on a full stomach, helping to improve learning outcomes and promoting social inclusion in school communities. I have seen firsthand how the healthy, nutritious meals provided by school breakfast programs across Queensland make a difference to the wellbeing and education of children who need it the most. I am advised that we already fund around 300 school breakfast clubs across the state, and this additional funding will help us expand that to a further 200 schools in more locations across Queensland.

The state budget also includes an extra \$315,000 in funding for Foodbank to provide essential food to Queenslanders and member charities seeking their assistance. This is on top of the doubling of funding for Foodbank this financial year following the housing summit and round table.

We are also supporting the important work of OzHarvest and SecondBite after doubling their funding this year as part of a \$3.9 billion boost to emergency relief and food relief providers. This additional funding is all about helping ease the cost-of-living pressures being felt in our communities.

The state budget also seeks to support some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders and build connected, cohesive communities through our record investment in neighbourhood and community centres in the sector. The government continues to deliver our record \$115.8 million investment in neighbourhood and community centres over four years, which includes a \$51.8 million boost to base funding for centres and \$39 million to invest in new or improved neighbourhood community centre infrastructure, including our \$4.5 million total investment to build Rockhampton's first neighbourhood and community centre, something I know the member for Rockhampton has been advocating for and is incredibly proud of. Neighbourhood and community centres play an important role in providing support and referral to essential frontline services for vulnerable people, and we are proud to be providing them with record funding. We will continue to put cost-of-living relief front and centre of everything we do to support Queenslanders at a time when they need it most.

Budget, Emergency Services



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.52 am): Our frontline emergency service first responders and volunteers are always there when trouble strikes. They are always there whether it is flood, fire, storm, cyclone, or indeed any other sort of emergency. The Palaszczuk government is repaying that commitment from these dedicated selfless Queenslanders with record investments.

The record \$1 billion QFES budget includes a record \$125 million in capital works programs for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, including land acquisitions and new, replacement and upgraded facilities in centres the length and breadth of the state. Importantly, it also includes funding to refresh the bushfire safety and preparedness messaging with greater reach to Queensland communities.

Diving deeper into this record budget, we see that there is a record \$57 million for the SES, building on our watershed uplift from last year and an almost tripling of the SES budget in just a few years. This record budget includes an additional 105 permanent full-time-equivalent positions for the SES over two years, with 75 being delivered this financial year. For the State Emergency Service, it will mean more staff, more training, more equipment and more resources, including emergency response vehicles and significant funding for capital grants.

It is the same for the Rural Fire Service: a record budget of \$101 million and an increase of almost 40 per cent in one year, a record budget to support the Rural Fire Service to protect Queenslanders from bushfires in a changing climate. It includes a dedicated capital works program with more facilities, more resources and more equipment for Rural Fire Service volunteers, and includes new and replacement fire appliances, new support vehicles, new and upgraded rural fire brigade facilities, the continuation on the new Maryborough area brigade headquarters, new operational equipment, retrofitting of cabinet deluge systems and capital grants. These funding increases represent the start of an over \$500 million funding package over five years, including 500 additional full-time-equivalent positions to deliver better fire and emergency services for a safer Queensland.

Finally, in respect of Marine Rescue, the Marine Rescue team will go full throttle this year with the Palaszczuk government delivering the first year of \$27 million in annual ongoing funding. This is to support the delivery of a single integrated service called Marine Rescue Queensland. It will be a big year that will see the first vessels hitting the water, with the delivery of the very first vessel to Thursday Island imminent and many more in the pipeline for delivery across the state.

The front line protects Queenslanders. These dedicated staff, officers and volunteers represent the very best of all of us, always there to stand shoulder to shoulder with their local communities, always there to lend a hand. They deserve every support, and that is what the Palaszczuk government delivers for them.

Household Resilience Program



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (9.56 am): Winifred, Justin, Ingrid, Larry, Yasi, Oswald and Debbie—they are not just names, they conjure up deep-seated emotions for hundreds of thousands of regional Queenslanders. The cyclones that ravage Queensland—

Ms Lauga: Marcia.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection—Marcia as well. The cyclones that ravage Queensland can inflict immense devastation and distress, with homes destroyed, lives upended and livelihoods lost. But long after the storm clouds clear and the rebuild is complete, these severe weather events leave a long tail to bear—the financial burden worn via increased insurance premiums. So, it was with great pride that we announced even more support to continue building a resilient Queensland spirit, by delivering stronger, safer, more affordable regional homes. The Palaszczuk government's Household Resilience Program has already supported over 4,300 vulnerable households to strengthen homes built before 1984. It has a proven record of success in lowering insurance premiums, helping Queenslanders tackle the cost of living, seeing an average reduction of insurance premiums by 10.3 per cent.

Thanks to a new \$20 million funding boost from the Albanese Labor government, the program will be extended by up to three years, so even more Queensland families in the regions can apply. It is expected the new funding will enable resilience works for a further 1,100 more homes. That is great news in my books. Whether it is energy bills, whether it is water bills or insurance bills, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering real cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders.

Crocodile Management; Flying Fox Management



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government's number one priority is community safety, and we are committed to educating the community about crocodile safety. Our government's Crocodile Management Program is based on promoting safe behaviour by people when they are in crocodile habitat. Unfortunately, in recent times there has been one fatal crocodile attack and several non-fatal crocodile attacks in croc country.

This year's state budget includes increased funding of \$4.1 million over three years to further enhance and support crocodile management and Crocwise initiatives. This funding is in addition to an ongoing commitment of \$3.25 million annually. Extra funding will support crocodile detection and

deterrence research and product development, implementation of a new Crocwise strategy, including enhanced Be Crocwise public safety campaigns based on advice from communication and human behaviour experts, increased collaboration with First Nations communities, and further partnering with local governments and the tourism sector.

Following a recommendation by an independent expert committee, the department is also reviewing the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. The department has been engaging with key stakeholders such as Indigenous ranger groups, local governments, conservation groups, key industry sector groups and Surf Life Saving Queensland. In addition to the amendments to the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan the department is in the final stages of developing a new Crocwise strategy that will guide delivery of the Be Crocwise program over the next five years.

Public safety education under the Crocwise strategy is vital to influencing people to behave safely while in croc country. The message is clear: if you are in croc country, reduce your risk of a croc attack by staying at least five metres from the water's edge, keeping pets on a lead and away from the water's edge, avoiding the use of small watercraft such as kayaks and paddleboards, and staying well away from crocodile traps.

I would also like to briefly update the House on the management of flying foxes in Queensland. Flying foxes are the largest flying mammals in the world and they are mobile and highly social animals, often gathering together in the daytime in large groups, or roosts. Flying foxes play a vital role in the ecology of native plants and ecosystems as long-range pollinators and seed dispersers. The government recognises the need for flying foxes to be managed in a way that addresses both community expectations regarding the need to protect local amenity and the need for the long-term conservation of these species in the wild.

To assist in the management of flying foxes, this year's budget extends the Flying-Fox Roost Management—Local Government Grants Program with an additional \$500,000 per year for the next three years. The grants program is helping to enhance the capacity of local governments to deal with high conflict urban flying fox roosts and to develop and implement comprehensive, long-term roost management plans based on coexistence with humans.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to make the investments needed to keep our community safe while at the same time protecting our natural environment and the species that call it home.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.01 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 22 August 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 10.31 am.

Torres Strait Health Care



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.01 am): My question is to the Premier. I refer to a letter dated 30 May to the Premier from the coalition of Torres Strait First Nation leaders, which raised grave concerns about the standard of health care provided and reduced life expectancy. It states—

Please take this matter seriously as we are now seeing a high prevalence of avoidable death rates in epidemic numbers of at least three deaths a week and growing ... indicative of neglect of essential primary healthcare services ...

I ask: given the deeply concerning issues raised in the letter, what action did the Premier take to immediately respond to the leaders of these communities?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The way in which our government is responding to First Nations people is to support Voice. That is what we are doing; we are supporting Voice, a Voice to Parliament. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition is going to be welcome in the Torres Strait. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition is going to be welcome in Yarrabah. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition is going to be

welcomed to Mornington Island. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition is going to be welcomed to Cherbourg. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition is going to be welcomed to Lockhart River. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition is going to be welcomed to Kowanyama. On this side of the House we support a voice, a voice empowering First Nations people—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know there is nothing more important than the referendum and you are voting no.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: On this side of the House we have a champion for the Torres Strait in Minister Fentiman and we have the best champion for the Torres Strait, the member for Cook. I will tell members opposite what we are doing. We actually back First Nations people in this House. We actually back them to be members of parliament. I am absolutely proud of our record and we will continue.

Mrs Gerber: Give them a voice, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Guess what? We took the cabinet—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Currumbin.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—to the Torres Strait. We had a summit on the Torres Strait. We had a response to the cost-of-living issues in Torres Strait, the most significant investment to the Torres Strait.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Nanango. You will not use that as a prop.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Minister Fentiman has responded on behalf of the government in relation to the issues that have been raised in the letter. Secondly, let me say we are actually expanding the hospital on Thursday Island. I personally inspected that hospital with the member for Cook. There is no better champion in this House for the Torres Strait than a person who represents the Torres Strait as the first Torres Strait Islander person ever elected to this House or any such office of Australia.

Whilst I am on my feet I say that when those opposite were in office, they cut the flight subsidies to the Torres Strait.

Dr Miles: They couldn't get to hospital

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I urge the Leader of the Opposition to go to the Torres Strait and tell the people of the Torres Strait why he is voting no in the upcoming referendum. It is a very simple proposition. He should go and explain why he is voting no. On this side of the House we back the facilities, the marine infrastructure that we are actually improving, the health situation, the freight subsidies and the air flight subsidies. We have had a community cabinet up there where we directly listened to concerns about the cost of living—

(Time expired)

Torres Strait Health Care

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have a further question to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's previous response. The letter states—

In many instances Torres Strait families have been forced to choose not to go to Cairns for life saving treatment for fear of dying and creating additional expenses for their loved ones to repatriate their remains home reducing the cost of our lives to freight prices.

I ask: given the deeply concerning issues raised in this letter, has the Premier spoken to any of the mayors involved and, if not, why not?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was very delighted when I took the cabinet up there. I met with the mayors in detail.

Dr Miles: We met with them all.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, and we actually responded. When was the last time your shadow cabinet was up there?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: When was the last time the shadow cabinet had a policy? There you go; go up there. Take your shadow cabinet up there and explain why you are not voting for the Voice. There is a challenge. I urge the Leader of the Opposition to take the shadow cabinet up there and explain to the people of Torres Strait why they are going to vote no to the Voice. It is a very simple proposition. I have taken the cabinet up there. We have listened. We are investing in the hospital tens of millions of dollars and we are actually improving the services.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I was going to warn the member for Currumbin—I will warn the member for Currumbin, but I also warn the member for Toowoomba South. I had called the House to order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I sat up there with the people who were going through renal dialysis.

Mr Powell: Since 30 May?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I sat there talking to them.

Mr Powell: Since 30 May?

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are being so rude.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, Manager of Opposition Business.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are a disgrace.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are disrespectful and you are a disgrace.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Premier.

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Resume your seat before I take your point of order. Manager of Opposition Business, the Premier was being directly responsive to the question and you were repeatedly interjecting. I am not going to warn you because of the role you play in the chamber, but I would ask you to cease your interjections and allow the Premier to respond to the question. She is being responsive to the question. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: Mr Acting Speaker, I take personal offence at the words the Premier has directed at me and I ask that she withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Premier, the member has taken personal offence. I might take some advice. Premier, the member has taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw. Before you withdraw, I would urge all members to bear in mind the directives of the Speaker that people will not address each other personally across the chamber. All comments will come through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. But what I will say to that member is that I said hello to him three times at an event and he refused to say hello. It was just disrespectful.

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Premier.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The House will come to order. I will hear points of order in silence. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: You directed the Premier to withdraw her statement. I believe that was a conditional withdrawal with the use of the word 'but', and she then went on to provide additional information.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Premier, for the sake of clarity for the record of the House, I ask you to withdraw unconditionally.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. We have invested over \$25 million in health responses up there. Minister Fentiman has assured and responded that she will be visiting there in the next two to three weeks, along with the local member, to discuss these issues with the councils because we do take

these issues seriously. On this side of the House, we back the Torres Strait. We have been there; we have two champions for the area. Our ministers have been up there. I urge the shadow cabinet to visit and make it clear how they feel on the issue of the Voice.

Infrastructure Projects

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. How does the Palaszczuk government's Big Build infrastructure plan set Queensland up for the future, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bundaberg. We are fixing up the Paradise Dam—that is a big build. I know that the member has been a keen advocate for that, and I have been out there as well. We are a big state, we have the biggest builds happening and we are very proud of what we are doing in Queensland. Of course, we have the big hospital coming in Bundaberg. It is coming out of the ground there. What a great local member we have—a strong advocate for the Bundaberg region. We always love going there to make sure that we are delivering for the community.

Most of the funding for our Big Build is in regional Queensland because on this side of the House we back our regions. We back our regions whether it is our Energy and Jobs Plan, our hospitals plan, our transport infrastructure plan or our education plan—our schools or our upgrades to TAFE. We want to make sure that Queensland is absolutely set up for the future. That is why this budget is delivering for the regions and delivering for Queenslanders, no matter where they live. Our Big Build includes CopperString and Borumba Pumped Hydro.

I was surprised to hear that the Leader of the Opposition made some comments about our Public Service. We know how important workers are in our state, and he said that he wanted to deliver the best Public Service in the nation. That comment sent shivers down the spine of every public servant. Why would they be concerned about that statement? It seems like someone else made that statement many years ago. Who was that person? It might have been the former premier Campbell Newman who said, 'What I have said to my own team is that in five years time we will have people around the nation saying, "Hey, Queensland's Public Service is the best Public Service in Australia, and that is the pride I want to have."'

As I have said, these are very similar men with very similar personalities using very similar words. I must agree with the *Courier-Mail* editorial today—there was not much in that budget reply speech yesterday. If I were a shadow minister, I would be very concerned. Where are the policies? How about some work? At least they know the member for Clayfield can write a policy—a very bad one but at least it is a policy.

(Time expired)

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members to my right, there is far too much interjection. I am having trouble hearing the Premier. You are fast to get on your feet to raise concerns when that is occurring on the left side of the House. I ask you to hear the responses in silence.

Torres Strait Health Care

Mr LANGBROEK: My question is to the Premier. I refer to a letter from respected Far North Queensland leaders, revealing this health crisis, which reads 'which is a deplorable state to leave an Indigenous nation in struggling for our lives under your watch'. After eight years in power, why has this health crisis been allowed to occur under the government's watch?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I urge the shadow minister to also go to the Torres Strait and explain why he is not supporting the Voice. If you are talking about empowering people, you need to support the Voice; you need to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Ms Enoch: If you vote 'no' you are voting for the status quo.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. As I said very clearly, it was a very serious letter. I read the letter. The minister has responded to the letter. The minister will be going up there. We take these issues very seriously, as does the member for Cook. The member for Cook is from the Torres Strait. Our cabinet has met in the Torres Strait. It is about time those opposite started practising what they preach, which is not much, but at least make a trip to the Torres Strait. Go up there—I would love to see the community reaction.

Indigenous Councils

Ms LUI: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Could the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is working with Queensland's Indigenous councils to deliver essential services for some of our most remote communities, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Cook for her question. She does indeed represent some of the most remote parts of the state, and she does an excellent job of it. I have travelled to many of the cape and Torres Strait communities that the member for Cook represents and seen firsthand the incredible work that our remote Indigenous councils do under incredibly difficult circumstances. It is often hard to comprehend the challenges that are associated with delivering essential services in places as remote as the cape and the Torres Strait. Of course, the communities that they represent are some of the state's most vulnerable. They face enormous challenges. These are tiny, isolated communities. It is so hard to deliver the kind of services that we take for granted. It can be really very expensive. Those councils are often also called upon to deliver services that other councils are not, like child and aged care, banking and postal services and, in some cases, internet and telecommunication services.

I am incredibly proud that the Palaszczuk government's budget delivers an additional \$25.8 million of support to those remote Indigenous councils, in part thanks to the advocacy of the member for Cook. That brings the state government subsidies to our remote Indigenous councils to \$69.85 million. The \$25 million of new funding is a massive boost to what we contribute there. It will help make those councils more sustainable. It will deliver a fairer distribution of funds and, importantly, it will make sure that none of those councils in the new distribution will be worse off. All 16 councils will be better off. We have been able to deliver this extra support because we have listened to our First Nations people. That is what we on this side of the House do—we listen to Queenslanders, we listen to our First Nations people. We are not afraid to listen to them, and we are not afraid of their voice. All our First Nations people have asked of us is to give them a voice and to listen to them.

Frankly, that is the very least they could ask of them. That is why it is so deplorable that the Leader of the Opposition says that our First Nations people should have no voice. That is what he has said. He has said that he is afraid to listen. All the Voice asks of us is to listen. What kind of politician says that they aspire to represent a part of the community that they will not listen to, that they do not care for the voice of? The Palaszczuk government does listen to our First Nations people, and in listening to them we are delivering to their remote Indigenous councils even more funding.

(Time expired)

Intervention with Parental Agreement, Drug Testing

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. In 2016 the former child safety minister said that all parents with a history or suspicion of drug use with children under an Intervention with Parental Agreement would be subject to mandatory drug testing. Will the minister confirm that this is still the case and that all testing is up to date?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for the question. My advice is that it is correct: that is still a policy. They do around 900 a month.

Women's State of Origin

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Is the Treasurer looking forward to game 2 of the Women's State of Origin series and can the Treasurer explain how it is that game can be played in Townsville?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question, and the answer is: bring it on. We are so looking forward to the second State of Origin game after that fantastic win in Sydney. We know that Ali Briginshaw's team is going to bring it home for Queensland with a fantastic result. I am particularly looking forward to seeing whether Marsden State High School's own Keilee Joseph can bring home another Player of the Game performance in Townsville. She is a great local product of a great local school in the City of Logan.

I know that tens of thousands of Queenslanders will be relishing this. Townsville is abuzz. All of the members from Townsville are absolutely ready to see the best quality women's Rugby League in the world next week. To the member for Mundingburra's question, the reason that game can be played in Townsville is that we built that stadium. Our government—the Labor government—built the

Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We backed it and we built it. More importantly, we built it and backed it without holding the people of North Queensland to ransom. That is more than I can say for the current Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition told the people of North Queensland that if they voted to sell the Port of Townsville then the stadium—these are his words—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr DICK: He said, 'If you sell the port'—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I know that State of Origin gets us all excited, but this is a little out of hand. Premier and Leader of the Opposition, cease your quarrelling.

Mr DICK: The Leader of the Opposition said that if the people of North Queensland voted to sell the Port of Townsville then they might get a certain amount of money. That is what he said. He wanted to flog off the Port of Townsville, which will assume even greater importance in shipping the rare earth minerals of our state to the world. He wanted to flog it off to give a little bit of crumbs back to North Queensland. We kept that port and we built that stadium. We deliver for North Queensland.

The Leader of the Opposition also held the people of the Burnett to ransom. He said, 'You can have a hospital if you sell a power station.' To Townsville he said, 'You can have a little bit for the stadium if you sell a port.' That is the character of the Leader of the Opposition: sell it off and cut the infrastructure. That is what he wants to do, because he wants to cut and sell and give a little bit back to the people. That is not the Labor way. The highest budget surplus, lower debt and the biggest build in our state's history: that is what Labor delivers—not crumbs but real infrastructure for the people of the north and the most transformative energy change in our state's history.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DICK: Labor backs the north.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mr DICK: We do not run away from the north, like the Leader of the Opposition did. We do not run away. We back the north. We back the Maroons. We back a win next Wednesday.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

Hospitals, Code Yellow

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the minister's commitments to release code yellow data for our hospitals—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please. Treasurer, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr DICK: I withdraw, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, and the quarrelling across the chamber will cease.

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the health minister's commitment to release code yellow data for our hospitals. With media reports of multiple hospitals on code yellow causing ambulances to be ramped for hours, how many hospitals were on code yellow this week, for what reason and for how long?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. The member would probably know that they are not called code yellows anymore. There is a tiered system. As I have said—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: Sorry if you are not up to date, but that is not what they are called. Clearly—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Theodore, you have asked a question and the minister is responding.

Ms FENTIMAN: Clearly, as I said this morning, our hospitals are under pressure. We are in the middle of flu season. It is winter. We know that our hospitals experience pressure at this time of year. That is why I am so pleased that our budget includes a Putting Patients First plan to reduce ambulance ramping—\$700 million to look at how we can get better patient flow through our hospitals. Reducing the pressure in our emergency departments and reducing the pressure across all of our hospital wards will mean that our patients get off stretchers earlier and our hardworking paramedics can get back on the road. That is what we on this side of the House are focused on.

We know that having more specialist allied health staff rostered on on weekends to get people home safely more quickly is one of the ways we can help move patients through the system. It is things like TIN nurses and medical commanders to coordinate how we can quickly move people through the hospital. Most importantly, it is my hope that we can prevent people from turning up at our emergency departments altogether. Everyone in this House has a role to play by going back out to their communities and encouraging everyone to get their flu shot and their COVID booster and talking about our wonderful new satellite hospitals that will be coming online in a matter of months. If we can get people the health care they need closer to home in a more timely way, they are not going to present at our emergency departments and we are not going to see these escalations across our hospital system.

I am incredibly proud of our record health budget and our plan to tackle ambulance ramping. We absolutely accept that we need to do better. This is a very difficult time for our hospitals—we are in the middle of winter, in the middle of flu season—but we have a plan. We are backing the staff and getting more beds online. We are even putting more paramedics on the road.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I asked how many hospitals were on bypass.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The minister has answered the question.

School Breakfast Program

Mr MARTIN: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the School Breakfast Program gives Queensland students a healthy start to the day, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Stretton for the question, and he has two wonderful schools in his electorate—Kuraby State School and Runcorn State High School—that run a fantastic breakfast program, and an additional 300 schools also run this program at the moment. Many schools run their own breakfast program so they can ensure that school students have a healthy and full stomach when they get to school so they can concentrate on their school work. It is so welcoming to work so closely with Minister Enoch with the Department of Education and the department of communities working together to deliver this program in our schools. There was \$2.7 million in the budget for this program. When we combine what we have spent, we will have spent about \$4.5 million by 2025 on breakfast in schools. It is so refreshing given our links with Foodbank, which provides the food. It is fantastic that this money is going to expand this program to around another 200 schools.

We know that not all students get a healthy breakfast before they leave home and we want to ensure that they do. What we saw at Durack this week with the Premier was amazing. We went to Durack State School and the breakfast was wonderful—fresh fruit, toast and an array of food for the students. We had brilliant volunteers such as Julie, Katrina and Thelma. We cannot thank them enough for the work that they do. School captains Emmanuel and Melvik told us what a difference the Breakfast Club makes for them. Jess Watkinson, the new CEO of Foodbank, got the best present: she saw firsthand Foodbank's food being fed to students at Durack. It was a great present. I thank principal Anja Janosevic, who said that the impact of this program on learning was clear in her school. I thank her and her whole team for welcoming us this week so we could view it firsthand, as does the member for Stretton in his electorate and many other members of this House throughout the schools in their electorates.

After I was at Durack we heard the budget reply speech, and there are really great things in this budget for education in terms of our spend. I thought, 'Did the Leader of the Opposition have a good breakfast before he got up to make his speech?' Clearly he may not have had a full stomach because all we got was the channelling of Campbell Newman. Maybe if he had had a good breakfast he might have been able to come up with a policy or two and he might have been able to show some leadership. My advice: have a good breakfast, Leader of the Opposition.

(Time expired)

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

COMMITTEES

Estimates Hearings



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.32 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

- That for the consideration of the annual appropriation bills for 2023-24, so much of standing orders be suspended to enable:
 - the portfolio committees to only hold hearings and take evidence within the timeframes provided in Table 1, circulated in my name;
 - the Leader of the House after consultation with the Speaker, if necessary, to issue a memorandum changing the days and times for each hearing in Table 1;
 - where a minister administers a number of distinct portfolio matters, matters relating to each portfolio area can only be raised during the period specified for that area in Table 1;
- That, in accordance with standing order 177(5), each portfolio committee report to the House on the annual appropriation bills by 18 August 2023; and
- That standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by replacing schedule 7 with that in Table 2, effective immediately.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATES HEARINGS 2023

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
ECONOMIC AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE—1 AUGUST 2023		
Queensland Parliament		Speaker of the Legislative Assembly: 9am—9:45am BREAK: 9:45am—10am
Premier and Cabinet, Olympics and Paralympic Games	Premier and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games	Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games: 10am—11:45am BREAK: 11:45am—12pm Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games: 12pm—1:30pm BREAK: 1:30pm—2pm
Treasury, Trade and Investment	Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment	Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment: 2pm—4pm BREAK: 4pm—4:15pm Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment: 4:15pm—6pm BREAK: 6pm—6:30pm
Tourism, Innovation and Sport	Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement	Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement: 6:30pm—9pm
STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE—2 AUGUST 2023		
State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning	Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure	Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (State Development): 9am—10am Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Infrastructure and Planning, Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure): 10am—11:15am BREAK: 11:15am—11:30am Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Local Government): 11:30am—12:30pm BREAK: 12:30pm—1:30pm

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
Agricultural Industry Development, Fisheries and Rural Communities	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Agricultural Industry Development and Rural Communities): 1:30pm—3pm BREAK: 3pm—3:15pm Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Fisheries and Forestry): 3:15pm—4:45pm BREAK: 4:45pm—5pm
Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water	Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Water): 5pm—6:30pm BREAK: 6:30pm—6:45pm Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Regional Development and Manufacturing): 6:45pm—7:45pm
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE—3 AUGUST 2023		
Education, Industrial Relations and Racing	Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing	Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Education and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority): 9am—10:30am BREAK: 10:30am—10:45am Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Education and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority): 10:45am—11:45am BREAK: 11:45am—12:30pm Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Racing): 12:30pm—1pm Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Industrial Relations): 1pm—2pm BREAK: 2pm—2:30pm
Employment, Small Business, Training and Skills Development and Youth Justice	Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice	Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice (Training and Skills Development): 2:30pm—4pm BREAK: 4pm—4:15pm Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice (Employment and Small Business): 4:15pm—5:15pm BREAK: 5:15pm—5:30pm Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice (Youth Justice): 5:30pm—6:45pm
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE—4 AUGUST 2023		
Health, Mental Health, Ambulance Services and Women	Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women	Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Department of Health, Hospital and Health Services, Health Ombudsman): 9am—10:30am BREAK: 10:30am—10:45am Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Department of Health, Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Queensland Mental Health Commission, Health and Wellbeing Queensland, Women): 10:45am—12:15pm BREAK: 12:15pm—12:30pm Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Queensland Ambulance Services): 12:30pm—1:30pm BREAK: 1:30pm—2:30pm

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Multicultural Affairs	Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Multicultural Affairs (Environment and the Great Barrier Reef): 2:30pm—4:15pm BREAK: 4:15pm—4:30pm Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Multicultural Affairs (Science and Multicultural Affairs): 4:30pm—5:30pm
TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE—8 AUGUST 2023		
Transport, Main Roads and Digital Services	Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services	Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Transport and Main Roads): 9am—11am BREAK: 11am—11:15am Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Transport and Main Roads and Digital Services): 11:15am—1pm BREAK: 1pm—2pm
Energy, Renewables, Hydrogen, Public Works and Procurement	Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement	Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen): 2pm—3:30pm BREAK: 3:30pm—3:45pm Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Public Works and Procurement): 3:45pm—5:15pm BREAK: 5:15pm—5:30pm
Resources	Minister for Resources	Minister for Resources: 5:30pm—7pm BREAK: 7pm—7:15pm Minister for Resources: 7:15pm—8:15pm
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE—9 AUGUST 2023		
Justice and Attorney-General and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence (Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Associated Statutory Bodies): 9am—10:30am BREAK: 10:30am—10:45am Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence (Department of Justice and Attorney-General): 10:45am—12:45pm BREAK: 12:45pm—1:30pm
Police, Corrective Services, Fire and Emergency Services	Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services	Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Police): 1:30pm—2:45pm BREAK: 2:45pm—3pm Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Corrective Services): 3pm—4pm BREAK: 4pm—4:15pm Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Fire and Emergency Services): 4:15pm—5:15pm
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE—10 AUGUST 2023		
Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts	Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts	Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts (Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Family Responsibilities Commission): 9am—10:30am BREAK: 10:30am—10:45am

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
Housing	Minister for Housing	Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts (Communities and Arts): 10:45am—11:45am BREAK: 11:45am—1pm Minister for Housing: 1pm—2:30pm BREAK: 2:30pm—2:45pm Minister for Housing: 2:45pm—3:45pm BREAK: 3:45pm—4pm
Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services	Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services	Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services (Seniors and Disability Services): 4pm—5:15pm BREAK: 5:15pm—5:30pm Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services (Child Safety): 5:30pm—6:45pm

TABLE 2—SCHEDULE 7

Schedule 7—

*omit, insert***“SCHEDULE 7—CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

In accordance with Standing Order 181(c), the following table lists entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply.

**Entities to which direct questioning of
Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply**

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Art Gallery
Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Audit Office
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Building and Construction Commission
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater)
CleanCo Queensland Limited	Queensland Competition Authority
Coordinator-General	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
Crime and Corruption Commission	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink)
Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Queensland Family and Child Commission
CS Energy Limited	Queensland Human Rights Commission
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Electoral Commission of Queensland	Queensland Mental Health Commission
Energy and Water Ombudsman	Queensland Museum
Energy Queensland Limited	Queensland Performing Arts Centre / Queensland Performing Arts Trust
Family Responsibilities Commission	Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North)	Queensland Rail
GasFields Commission	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited	Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Theatre Company
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Queensland Treasury Corporation
Health and Wellbeing Queensland	Racing Queensland
Land Access Ombudsman	Residential Tenancies Authority
Legal Aid Queensland	

Mackay Hospital and Health Service	Resources Safety and Health Queensland
Metro North Hospital and Health Service	Screen Queensland Pty Ltd
Metro South Hospital and Health Service	South Bank Corporation
Motor Accident Insurance Commission	South West Hospital and Health Service
National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland	Stadiums Queensland
Nominal Defendant	Stanwell Corporation Limited
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited	State Library of Queensland / Library Board of Queensland
North West Hospital and Health Service	Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
Office of Inspector General Emergency Management	Sunwater Limited
Office of the Governor	TAFE Queensland
Office of the Health Ombudsman	The Public Trustee of Queensland
Office of the Information Commissioner	Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	Tourism and Events Queensland
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor	Trade and Investment Queensland
Port of Townsville Limited	West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
Prostitution Licensing Authority	Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service"
Public Sector Commission	
QIC Limited	

The motion before the House is relatively straightforward. It sets out the dates and times for each of the public hearings for the estimates process for the 2023-24 budget. Members will be no stranger to this motion. The government has moved this motion in the past to establish the time frames for each of the estimate's sessions, and I know that there are people in this chamber against this process. However, in doing so, it means that the House has oversight of the estimates process—a process which, in and of itself, is a delegated function of this chamber because committees are a creature of the Legislative Assembly.

Our estimates committees provide a powerful check-and-balance system on the executive government of the day because, as we all know as legislators as members of the Queensland parliament, we all have an obligation to hold the government of the day to account regarding the supply of public funds. The role of the non-government members in this process is vital. It is important because without them there is no effective tool to hold the governments of the day to account. Our government values the democratic system, and that is why we relish in the opportunity to attend estimates—to discuss the financial matters of our respective portfolios and to explain to Queenslanders how the expenditure of their funds is assisting and helping them.

To further enhance this process, in May 2011 the Parliament of Queensland (Reform and Modernisation) Amendment Bill was passed which modernised the estimates committee process and also allowed for the relevant chief executive officers of statutory authorities and departments to be called to answer questions about their respective portfolio matters. These were all-important changes and changes which are still in practice today to enable members of parliament, in particular non-government members, the chance to question the executive on the expenditure.

While I am on the topic of expenditure, it is timely to remind ourselves of what the chairperson of each committee states at the commencement of the hearings. Before the minister usually commences their opening statements, the chair of the committee puts the question—that is, that the proposed expenditure be agreed to. Why do they do that? Because the estimates process is about the expenditure of the government. It is about the finances; it is about the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill. It is not Senate estimates. It is not a public free-for-all hearing. Estimates hearings are about the expenditure of government, and questions should always be related to the expenditure rather than frivolous gotcha questions or grandstanding moments by committee members or visiting members of parliament on the day.

It is interesting to note that on more than one occasion the members of the committees, in particular those on the non-government side, do not really engage in the hearings that much. They sit back and defer to the shadow minister, who generally waltzes on in and, in most cases, tries to make a spectacle of themselves and the hearing. All they want to do, it seems, is get their gotcha line up and their face on the TV. Who could forget the year that a certain member of the opposition turned up to estimates in a shark mask and another time started asking a senior public servant a question about their time at estimates the previous year, all to be embarrassed that it was a completely different person? That is the level of respect that the opposition has for the Public Service. It does not even know the faces and names of the senior public servants it wishes to ask questions of. However, I suppose those opposite like it like that: it is easier to fire them when they come into government because the LNP has form of cutting, sacking and selling.

Turning to the detail of the motion, members will note that there are seven days of estimates hearings—not compressed over a few days like the LNP opposition did when in government. I note the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech when he said that one of his first acts is overhauling the estimates process, and I am really eager to hear the detail prior to the election of what that might look like. What does overhauling the estimates process look like?

A government member: We've been there before.

Mrs D'ATH: We have been there before in truncating the estimates process and ensuring that those opposite could not be scrutinised. If it was not enough that they had to deal with an opposition of only eight or nine members at the time, they felt so threatened by that that they had to truncate it so that those shadow spokespersons had to race back and forth across multiple committees over a couple of days and the media could not cover all of them on the same day because of the way that they did it. There would be no level of scrutiny as they took the cameras out of the chamber. They are all about transparency!

While the time allocated for each minister on the whole has not changed, there have been some updates stemming from the recent reshuffle of the cabinet. Of note, the housing portfolio is a standalone portfolio to assist driving housing solutions for Queensland and Queenslanders. As such, this portfolio has been allocated 2½ hours, similar to the other standalone portfolio of resources, which is a larger proportion of time this year due to the standalone nature of the portfolio. In previous years I have discussed the statistics of the public hearings—something which the Manager of Opposition Business noted last year in his contribution. I am advised that he said during his contribution—

... for example, that 60 per cent of the time was spent by members of the opposition or crossbench asking questions. Actually, 60 per cent of the time was spent by members of the opposition and crossbench asking questions but also by ministers answering questions.

What a groundbreaking statement! Of course the time included the answer, because generally when you ask a question you want to hear the answer. That is the whole point of estimates: the member asks a question and the members of the executive or a public servant answers the question. Pretty simple stuff, but it seems like it is a foreign concept to those opposite.

It would be remiss of me not to take the opportunity to discuss statistics. I am advised that last year 61 per cent of the time was spent on non-government questions and answers and 39 per cent of the time was spent on government questions and answers. I am further advised that, of the total questions asked during the multiple hearings—

Mr O'Connor interjected.


Mrs D'ATH:—approximately 76 per cent of the questions were non-government questions and 24 per cent were questions by government members. I have to take the interjection from the member for Bonney, who has been removed from his portfolio committee as the shadow environment minister, so I am not quite sure who is going to turn up to that one and ask questions. Will he be allowed to turn up and ask questions?

These statistics show that adequate time is set aside for the various portfolio areas and overwhelmingly non-government members are afforded more time to ask questions and receive the answers. Maybe if they want an enhanced process then those opposite should look at how they conduct themselves and engage in the process.

As we all know, preparing for an estimates process takes time. It involves a number of people and, in particular, our hardworking public servants. While we in this chamber regularly praise and thank our hardworking frontline staff, as we should, we should also thank our non-frontline staff. Those public

servants range from the corporate officers and dedicated Smart policy officers to legal experts and everyone in-between. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government, we thank all of our hardworking and dedicated public servants for their support, not only through the estimates process but each and every day, as we all work together on behalf of the people of Queensland for the benefit of all Queenslanders. In addition, I take this opportunity to thank in advance the Parliamentary Service staff, the attendants and the committee staff who prepare for and attend the hearings.

Members will note that this motion includes minor updates to schedule 7 to reflect updated position titles. With those few words, I commend the motion to the House and encourage all members to support the motion.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.40 am): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the House and we in the opposition do so primarily on two grounds. One is the allocation of time to each of the respective ministers and to the Premier herself; the second is the increasing practice of those opposite to assign times for specific aspects of each portfolio. Let me unpack that a little. For starters, let us look at the actual time allocations. We received this motion only about an hour ago so I apologise if my maths is not quite accurate. What I ascertain is that each minister will be appearing for between two to 2½ or up to about four hours. When we consider some of the portfolios that we are talking about, that is significantly less than what occurred under previous iterations of this government and certainly under iterations of LNP governments.

Let us look at the Premier herself. How much time is allocated to questioning the Premier of the state? Do members think she has given herself the most time? No! There will be three hours and 15 minutes to question the Premier of the state regarding this budget and its impact on Queensland. By the time we have rolled out the red carpet, all lined up to say hello, bowed and scraped, we will probably be down to about two hours and 45 minutes. The time allocation is three hours and 15 minutes to question the Premier on the budget.

More importantly, let us break it down and look at how much time we will have to ask questions on some of the significant issues facing Queenslanders at the moment. What we are increasingly seeing is the Leader of the House and the government allocating specific times for specific aspects of a portfolio. I refer to the Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice. Can members guess how long the opposition and crossbench will have to question the minister on youth justice matters? One hour and 15 minutes!

Mr Mander: Seventy-five minutes.

Mr POWELL: Seventy-five minutes, of which we will be lucky to get half so less than 40 minutes—

Mr Mander: It is 37½ minutes.

Mr POWELL: We will have 37½ minutes—I take the interjection from the shadow minister for housing—to ask questions about the youth crime crisis.

I do not know what the Minister for Health has done to upset the Leader of the House—hang on! She took her job and potentially the Premier's. The Minister for Health has been allocated four hours but, again, that is spread across a range of portfolios, including the Office for Women and the Queensland Ambulance Service. That means that the health minister has less than three hours to answer questions about the health crisis gripping the state of Queensland.

If we look again at youth justice, we know that the police minister's portfolios are Police, Corrective Services and Fire and Emergency Services. Can members guess how much time those opposite, the crossbench and government members will have to ask questions?

Mr Ryan: It's the same as last year.

Mr POWELL: It was not enough last year, Minister. We will have one hour and 15 minutes. That is 75 minutes—and, again, half of that is 37½ minutes—to ask the police minister—

Mr O'Connor: Is that approved or allocated?

Mr POWELL: That is funded time. Whether that is actual we will have to wait and see.


Finally, I do not want to steal the thunder of the shadow minister for housing, but in the middle of a housing crisis the housing minister is getting a total of 2½ hours. Seventy-five minutes for the opposition and crossbench to challenge the minister on the budget allocation around housing in the middle of a housing affordability and homelessness crisis is absolutely unacceptable.

What is this government trying to hide? Eight years ago the government was elected on a mandate of integrity and accountability—so we were told.

Mrs Frecklington: How long did that last?

Mr POWELL: How long did that last; I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. It did not even start! Since then, every estimates committee hearing we have had has demonstrated that they are trying to hide more and more. They do not want to be accountable to the people of Queensland. They do not want to be open and transparent. They do not want to be challenged on their budget allocations and how they are spending Queensland taxpayer dollars to address not only those particular areas where we see chaos and crisis—that is, the health, housing and youth justice portfolios—but across all portfolios.

I will leave my contribution there because I know others on this side of the House want to contribute to the debate. I end where I commenced: the opposition will be opposing this motion.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.45 am): I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House. The motion sets out the arrangements for the estimates committee process for this year. It is a process that we well understand and contribute to, but it would be good to see the opposition respond to that and follow through on the process effectively. I think they can do it. I have confidence in them. It might be misplaced, but I do have confidence in their ability to turn things around and have a go.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I will come back to that in a moment; I take the interjection from the member for Cairns. I reiterate what the Leader of the House mentioned in her contribution when she highlighted what the estimates committee process is about. In their opening statements, the chairs of the committees make it clear that the question before the committee is about the appropriations. It is about the budget. That is where there are opportunities to ask questions.

We heard the Manager of Opposition Business bemoan the timings of different elements of the timetable. In terms of budget questions, here in the parliament throughout budget week, at question time each and every day, the opposition asked the Premier no questions about the budget. There were no questions asked about the budget. What I really hope for and would like to see is that those opposite will take advantage of the opportunities the process allows them and use them effectively.

Over 35 years I have been observing the opposition and their side of the parliament in this place. In that period we have been modernising Queensland, and part of that involved the creation of the estimates process and its reaffirmation, improvement and enhancement over time. It is good that we continue to do that. Frankly, we have had to take it to the House to make the decisions because we saw opposition members walking out of committees and playing games around setting time frames. It was all a game. Thankfully, the House has taken this process by the scruff of the neck, which is what we are doing here, to make sure that it lines up.

Mr Watts interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Over 35 years what I have seen is that the conservative parties in this state have not learned a thing. They have not learned one iota—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Because you do not listen and you do not engage.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left, order!

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Over an extended period of time we have seen members of the conservative parties in Queensland never learn a lesson and never learn from any of their activities. They make the same old mistakes, ask the same questions and get a poor response. They cannot handle the opportunity that they have.

I am perennially living in hope that we will see some opportunity. I always live in hope. We heard proclamations about hope yesterday. I have hope that we will see standards raised by those opposite in terms of what they contribute to the process and how they properly engage in the process, but we do not see the work. Unfortunately, their record suggests that we will not see that hope fulfilled. I will not see that. Their record suggests that that is not going to be the case. There has been 35 years of

failing to learn the lessons and failing to listen to the people of the state, even when opportunities land in their lap to live up to the potential that they might have—a failure to listen, a failure to act, continuing to act in the same old ways, in the ways that bespeak of an arrogance and an expectation; that is what we see. Unfortunately, we see it too many times in the estimates committee process.

Mr Mander interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, order!


Mr HINCHLIFFE: I encourage all members—and I look forward to questions in the estimates committee process from the member for Everton in his role as shadow minister for sport. I look forward to the contribution from the member for Bonney as the shadow minister for innovation. We sometimes see a brief turn-up from the shadow minister for tourism. No-one in this state knows who the shadow minister for tourism is because he hardly ever speaks about the matter. I encourage—

Ms Grace: Who is the shadow minister?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: It is the Leader of the Opposition. He is the shadow minister for tourism. You would not know.

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

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I encourage members to support the estimates committee process. This will make it clear to all who need to prepare for it and do the work to make sure that we have a great process that properly scrutinises the budget and provides an opportunity for great engagement. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.52 am): I too rise to contribute to the debate on the motion concerning estimates. It was fascinating to hear the Leader of the House's contribution about some of the shadow minister and some of the questions they ask. The ex-minister for health, the current Attorney-General, had the hide to actually—

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask that the member use proper titles.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Attorney-General of Queensland?

Mrs D'ATH: Yes, you know what.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Ex-health minister?

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, members! I will seek some advice.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, order! Member, I remind you to use correct titles in the House.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I just heard the interjection from the Leader of the House who said that they do not call me something. You call me lots of things, Attorney-General.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The minister, the Attorney-General, calls me lots of things.

Mr Mander: The Attorney-General of Queensland.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Attorney-General of Queensland—

Mr Mander interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, order!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members for McConnel and Redcliffe, order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What do we see with the timings? This is one of the most important issues. We know that there have been so many crises facing Queensland. We have seen the reshuffle. We know that estimates gives shadow ministers and committee members the opportunity to ask the ministers questions. There is the housing crisis, the health crisis and the crime crisis, but another crisis

that is not given enough attention in my opinion and in the opposition's opinion—and it was acknowledged by the Premier when she sacked the former child safety minister and put in a new minister—is the child safety crisis that is occurring in this great state of ours. It is afforded 37 minutes—

Ms Camm interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the shadow child safety minister—37½ minutes is allocated to child safety in this state. We know that the former child safety minister was unable to answer questions. Now we have a new minister who took—what?—10 seconds to answer a question this morning and did not actually answer the question. That is why we need openness, accountability and transparency—not these little bits of time. The chairs of the committees run a protection racket—we all know that. The ministers are not over their briefs. They cannot answer the questions. They sit there reading through dixer. Why not just ask minister questions? It is ludicrous. It is like, 'Please read out a ministerial statement, sir, like in *Yes Minister*.'

We need an estimates process where the questions are allowed to flow. We have government members who cannot ask their own questions. They have the minister's questions in front of them and they read them. Some ministers who wish to avoid scrutiny speak slowly to use up the time for government questions. The opposition and crossbenchers get the same amount of time—it has to be equal—but if government backbenchers actually scrutinised their own budget instead of just listening to the answers to dixer questions that get put by the ministers, we would have some natural flow in the estimates process.

This is a huge budget and we need adequate time to examine it. That takes me to some of the other issues. We know that we have a crime crisis. How the police minister avoided the reshuffle is a topic of conversation with every police officer that I speak to. They say, 'How did he avoid the reshuffle? The health minister was sacked. The housing minister was sacked. Who else?' The child safety minister was sacked. All of these ministers were shuffled around. The police minister will only be afforded an hour and a half of scrutiny. No wonder—the police minister has overseen a reduction in police officers—

Mr Healy interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This is the police minister who has overseen a reduction of 72 police since the election. No wonder the minister does not want any scrutiny.

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the interjection. He is saying, 'Oh, it's not right.' Well, tell that to the police officers sitting in a car without a person beside them because it is approved to have a police officer—

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is not estimates; this is a debate about the motion and times allotted for estimates. The member should be brought back to the motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice. There is no point of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your protection. It is that protection that the government seem to think they deserve from the chairs of the committees during the estimates process, but they do not afford the opposition members and the crossbench members the same type of free-flowing estimates process. The chairs of several committees are talked up by the ministers saying, 'We cannot answer the questions. We don't know how to answer the questions, so can you run interference?' Every time a shadow minister or a member of a committee actually asks a decent question, they take a point of order and wind the clock down because we know that the chairs are protecting the ministers who are completely incapable of doing their job. We know that because the ministers cannot even look up from their prewritten notes during the estimates process.

I put to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that there are probably only two ministers who can look up from their notes in acknowledgement and run a different line if the question is a bit tough. Then we have the chairs who sit there running a protection racket, protecting the ministers to make sure they do not get into trouble with their answers because it is not written down in front of them. I heard the Attorney-General, the former health minister, talk about questioning the public servants. I put to the Leader of the House the reason that the public servants are on the list—and this is the Attorney-General's own motion—is so we can ask questions of those public servants. The reason we do that—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you going to table that?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is the motion. I am happy to table it but it is the motion. It has already been moved. The reason we have to do that is that quite often—and, again, I say there are probably only two ministers who know how to answer the questions—we need to go to the people who are sitting behind the ministers to get the answers because we know that the ministers are not on top of their briefs. We have to do that to get the truth. We have to find out the reasons behind—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for debate has now expired.

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

AYES, 50:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 35:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 1—Dametto.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.06 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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


A Bill for an Act to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Integrity Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 June 2023

Tabled paper: Message, dated 14 June 2023, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[882\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.07 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Integrity Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[883\]](#).

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[884\]](#).

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[885\]](#).

This is the second bill our government has introduced to implement the recommendations from the Coaldrake and Yearbury reports. It demonstrates our government's continuing commitment to building a strong, contemporary and enduring integrity framework for Queensland. With the passage of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 last year, we have: established the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, giving them independent control of their office and enshrining in law that they cannot be directed by anyone regarding their office and staff; strengthened the independence of the Auditor-General by making them an officer of the parliament; and made unregistered lobbying a criminal offence.

These changes are complemented by a suite of initiatives we have progressed to give effect to the Coaldrake recommendations including: investing \$4 million over four years in the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner to better provide integrity advice and regulate lobbyists and establish the Office as an independent statutory body; improving the stability of the public sector through the new Public Sector Act 2022, which provides for five-year initial appointment terms for directors-general; investing \$18 million over five years in the Public Sector Commission to deliver a Public Sector of Excellence with a culture of performance and integrity across government; progressing a review of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010; and developing a framework for independent oversight of complaints about senior executives which commenced on 1 March 2023. This second bill continues our journey and enhances the independence of the core integrity bodies and improves the regulatory framework for lobbying and lobbyists in Queensland.

The report recommends that integrity bodies' independence be enhanced by involvement of parliamentary committees in setting their budgets and contributing to key appointments. The bill achieves this by requiring parliamentary committee approval for funding proposals, key appointments and strategic review terms of reference. Notably, amendments to the five core integrity acts will provide for the integrity bodies to submit funding proposals for budget increases to the relevant parliamentary committee. The committee will be required to consider the proposal and approve in full or in part or not approve the proposal and provide a report to the relevant minister. Committees will have 20 business days to provide the report to the minister. If the committee do not provide a report within the 20 business days, they will be deemed to have approved the proposal in full.

Once the relevant minister has received the report from the committee, the minister will submit the funding proposal and the committee report through the appropriate decision-making process in government. Should the funding proposal not be accepted as approved by the parliamentary committee, the minister will be required to table a statement in parliament, at the time of the budget, that provides the reasons for not proceeding as approved by the committee. This new process for seeking additional funding will establish the parliamentary committees as independent arbiters of the appropriateness and the need for the additional funding.

I note that the new processes do not go as far as some may prefer—to remove funding decisions for integrity bodies entirely from government—but ultimately the executive government is responsible for the way in which the state's consolidated revenue is distributed. This is because executive government is made up of individuals elected by the people of Queensland.

The Auditor-General made representations to government about further strengthening the independence of the Auditor-General by expanding on the Coaldrake recommendation. This potential expansion would align the budgets of integrity bodies to the budget for the Legislative Assembly and replace the role of responsible ministers in determining budgets with the Speaker.

Government has fully considered this more extensive model and sought expert legal advice on its application. Government has been advised that aligning budgets of integrity bodies with the budget of the Legislative Assembly is potentially unconstitutional. The Constitution of Queensland strictly prescribes what the parliamentary appropriations bill, as opposed to the general appropriations bill, must contain. It clearly limits this to the budgets for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Services. It cannot be interpreted to enable inclusion of any other entity's budget.

Further, the budget proposals for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Services are provided by the Clerk of the Parliament to the Premier as the responsible minister, and not the Speaker, prior to the budgets' approval. This would mean that, were we to substitute the Speaker for the responsible minister for progressing an integrity body's budget, the incongruous situation that would arise is an officer of the parliament would have greater independence from the executive government than the parliament itself. I am advised this situation was not contemplated in the report, nor was constitutional change, and as such the government is implementing the recommendation as outlined.

Our government believes that the bill navigates the competing priorities for accountable and responsible government spending and the need for integrity body independence. Both the Coaldrake and Yearbury reports stress the importance of a robust regulatory approach to professional lobbying—one that Queenslanders can have faith in—that promotes transparent and ethical influencing practices. As I committed to last year, anyone working for a lobbying firm, except for administration staff, is to be listed on the register and identified as working for a lobbying firm.

The amendments in this bill shift the focus of regulation from the type of entity that is required to be registered to the activity that should be considered. That means any person or entity carrying out lobbying activity for a third-party client for commission, payment or other reward, whether pecuniary or otherwise, should be registered. There are, of course, types of communication and representation on behalf of a third party that are legitimately not lobbying activity and should not require an entity to be registered to undertake. Consequently, the bill provides clarity that communicating with a representative of the government in the ordinary course of providing professional or technical service to a person is not lobbying activity.

These include such activities as representing a client on a legal matter or a town planner providing technical advice in supporting a development application. In addition, member group organisations such as the Queensland Law Society or the Australian Retailers Association would not have to register, as they are advocating for their members and not a third party. To assist the Integrity Commissioner in managing the register, the bill provides enhanced powers for the commissioner to be able to seek explanations and require remedial action for noncompliance of registration obligations. The bill also inserts a new requirement for mandatory training to be undertaken annually by all registered lobbyists.

A new prohibition against dual hatting is included in this bill. Dual hatting is where a registered lobbyist performs a senior role in a state campaign of a political party during an election period. This bill introduces a legal prohibition which, if breached, will result in cancellation of registration and refusal to register in the future. This legislation also introduces a disqualification for future registration if a registered lobbyist has de-registered and then worked in a senior role on a political party's election campaign. The individual will be disqualified from being registered again as a lobbyist for the term of the new government to ensure the knowledge and networks formed do not give the person an unfair advantage or influence. This disqualification will apply regardless of which political party forms government after the election. The prohibition only extends to senior roles playing a significant part in the strategies and policies of a political party. It does not extend to ordinary party membership nor local candidate volunteering.

The vast majority of our service partners apply and uphold standards of excellence in delivering government services on the government's behalf. However, occasionally a person who has received a service may have reason to complain about the decision making and administrative actions of a non-government provider. The Coaldrake report recommends that the Ombudsman's functions and authority be extended to non-government providers of government services. The bill does this by linking into the existing provisions that provide some limited oversight by the Queensland Ombudsman.

This bill implements and enables several recommendations from the report. Those opposite have complained time and again about how long it has taken to deliver some of these recommendations. I make no excuses for the time we have taken to get it right. Members opposite clearly do not know this, but government and governing are a complex business. Our government is committed to integrity and open and transparent governance. With the introduction of this legislation I am advised that 10 out of the 14 recommendations will be realised, with the remaining four continued to be worked on by government over this coming year. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.16 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 Economics and Governance Committee

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from 15 June (see p. 2049), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.16 am): I am pleased to rise to speak to this budget, as there are a number of important issues with regard to my portfolios, the state of Queensland and my electorate of Maroochydore.

I will just make a reference to the Coaldrake report and the *Let the sunshine in* recommendations that have not yet been tabled in legislation before the House. In accordance with parliamentary rules, I cannot refer to those that are within the legislation just tabled until that bill is debated. In particular, we are still waiting for the provisions around the 30-day release of cabinet records.

I wonder how much effort is going into how the government can find new boltholes where they can bury stuff, because they have used some of the committees and abused the committee process to not be transparent and to bury stuff. The 30-year rule of committees has been taken and abused. There are committee chairs and Labor backbench henchpeople who have deliberately used the weight of their numbers to prevent minutes from being released that show the efforts of non-government members to apply greater scrutiny to this government. This Labor government has abused the committee process. It was originally set up to bring about greater transparency, but now the Labor majority members are not only gagging debate within those committees but threatening those members if they dare talk about what is happening in the committees if they have not released the minutes—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, I will start warning people straightaway. I want to hear what the member for Maroochydore has to say.

Ms SIMPSON: This is a key integrity matter that the government does not want to address. They are happy to try and use committees and abuse the process to bury things and gag members. They then threaten members who try to raise issues within those processes if they dare speak about it because they have been legally gagged behind closed doors.

This budget proves Queenslanders cannot trust the Palaszczuk Labor government to fix the chaos and crisis impacting their lives every day. Revenue has never been higher, but services have never been worse due to the mismanagement of this Labor government. The Palaszczuk government does not deliver on its promises to Queenslanders and Queenslanders can no longer trust this government. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has spent at least \$423 million on the big four consulting firms in the last five years. We know that this amounts to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Sorry, member for Maroochydore. Member for Logan, member for Southern Downs and member for Mermaid Beach, cease your conversation across the chamber.

Ms SIMPSON: The government spent at least \$423 million on the big four consulting firms in the last five years, and that amounts to \$234,000 every single day. The Coaldrake report said—

Part of the problem is an identifiable loss of capacity in the public service which has been accelerated by what is now an overreliance on external contractors and consultants.

An example is KPMG's engagement for the Cross River Rail project, and I will table an excerpt from their website where they talk about evaluating the models for the project. This has effectively put them in the box seat for the procurement phase, and I am sure it helped them get the job to manage

the construction. Now they claim to be locked in, according to the way this website reads, for the operations phase. Is it for a full 30 years of the PPP contract? There are many questions to be answered. I table that excerpt.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Cross River Rail: transforming travel in ...' [886].

That is why the LNP under our leader, David Crisafulli, has announced a plan to ensure that we focus on having independent consultancies that do not suck the capacity from the public sector but actually ensure the key focus is having that capacity within the public service. The state government still do not get it; they do not comprehend what they have done by outsourcing a lot of the capacity into the private sector, into the big four.

We noticed that one in five of the directors-general actually came from one of the big four consulting firms, and that would apply to many of the deputy directors-general as well. Three of the directors-general were with KPMG as partners, advisers or directors; one of the directors-general was from Deloitte; there are those from PwC who are directors-general; and there are a raft of others as directors-general. We want to ensure that the public sector is independent and that it continues to serve Queenslanders first. We want them to be supported not only in a professional way but foremost in the way they service Queenslanders, because Queenslanders deserve that. We want the best public service in Australia. We want to ensure they have the resources they need to capably manage projects such as Cross River Rail.

Let me address some other aspects in regard to funding. I welcome the additional funding in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to implement a number of the integrity recommendations of Coaldrake, but we are still to see the detail of how that is to be rolled out. We want to see that. We certainly want to see when the cabinet documents process will be released. I also believe we need to see, as our leader said, reform of the estimates process and the committee process so that they act transparently and they do not gag members behind closed doors.

Let me talk about ministerial staff. The government's priorities are clearly with their own media and marketing because we have seen a nine per cent increase in communications, media and marketing within government ministerial staff and a 14 per cent increase in ministerial staff, yet police numbers have decreased in Queensland since the last election by 0.6 per cent and disability support workers have decreased by 11 per cent. That is where this government's priorities are. They are not employing the additional police that they promised. An approved police officer is not an actual police officer who can go out and respond to the increasing incidents of youth crime and other crime that our communities are bearing the brunt of. We have seen a reduction in police numbers by 72 since the 2020 election.

The Labor government also claim they increased social housing by 4,000 in the last eight years, but the audited figures show there has been a net increase of only 1,395. That is a big difference. When they start to talk about big targets again, we have to look at the reality of what they have done and they are far short. While we have record numbers of people who are homeless, this government cannot even keep their promise about what they said they would deliver in the last few years and budgets. They are talking about future budgets but they have failed to realise their targets in previous budgets. Social housing grew just 2.7 per cent, while the Queensland population grew 12 per cent. The social housing waiting list has ballooned. In the private sector, we see there has been a failure to meet targets with the release of new land.

This Labor government promise big as to what they will do and then they mislead people about the things they said they would not do—such as no new or increased taxes. The Treasurer promised 26 times not to have new or increased taxes, but that promise was broken. They are continuing to put taxes on GP practices. At a time when GP practices are struggling, the government are actually adding to that burden with taxes and they have not relented in that regard. They did back down on the renters tax, but that was after a great battle to make them realise that taxing some of these very necessary private investments for housing was not going to help get more people into housing.

At a time of a record income and a sugar hit from high royalties, what will be the actual legacy? A lot of the construction is in the outer years; it is certainly not now when it is needed. Many of the projects are only in the planning stage, with the out years still to see substantive funding allocated. Meanwhile, the government wasted \$200 million on the Wellcamp quarantine hub, which Queensland does not even own. Then the red carpet Premier spent \$64,000 on her cabinet Christmas party. That was \$700 a minute for that little flash bash. It just shows us how out of touch the government are with their priorities. They hold expensive Christmas parties while people are living in tents and they fail to meet their housing targets.

I want to talk about my electorate and I certainly want to talk about the need for heavy rail to Maroochydore. The state government first said there would be \$6 million for a business case. Now we see in QTRIP there is \$14 million for a business case.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Logan and member for Mermaid Beach, this is your final warning. Cease the cross-chamber chatter.

Ms SIMPSON: I will start again. I want to talk about rail to Maroochydore. This government were first spending \$6 million on a business study and now they are talking about \$14 million, but there is still no money allocated to put a shovel in the ground and get it started. There is another \$15 million for another public transport study on the Sunshine Coast. That is nearly \$30 million for planning and business studies but there is not a shovel in the ground—no deadlines, no time frames and no commitment.

Meanwhile, the concern is that the \$1.6 billion that was allocated by the previous federal government and was there under the new federal government is now potentially frozen while it is being reviewed. We must see a commitment from this government—not to just sink all its funds into wasteful projects that have not been properly scoped, such as the Gabba rebuild at \$2.7 billion. I would like to see the business case on that. I would like to see the value that is going to be added out of a \$2.7 billion project or better ways to achieve those facilities more cost-effectively. If the government released the business case on that, we might start to believe that this government had a plan in the first place.

In regard to rail to Maroochydore, that corridor has been in place for a number of decades. It is time to get building, not just shift the bulldust on this. It is time to make it happen, particularly with the 2032 deadline of the Olympics and the expected growth into the future. There have been no shovels in the ground, just more consultants—which is this Labor government's way—and no transparency about time frames to unlock that.


I turn to cost of living. We have heard about the Callide coal-fired power station and the fact the government misled the public about the impact this would have on electricity prices. They also misled the public about the time this key generator would be offline.

I want to talk about Mooloolaba Harbour. The harbour entrance is still unsafe. We still have not seen what the permanent solution is that will be put in place from the government, and we have not seen the community reference group convened by the government for something like six months. Meanwhile, once again, fishers are having their trawlers run aground and boaties are saying to me, 'What is the government doing?' They have gone silent on this. They have spent money on processes, but those processes have ground to a halt. There has been no transparency when we must see the right permanent solution, the right transparency and engagement with community, not just hoping it will go away while lives are still at risk and will be at risk until the appropriate actions are taken.

There is also the issue that we have with the M2M, which is the pedestrian and cycleway upgrades between Mooloolaba and Maroochydore. This government is spending about \$2 million on a planning study. The transport minister promised the community when that project was redesigned that the money would remain. It is nowhere in QTRIP. That is a broken promise. There is a need to ensure that cyclists and pedestrians and all the users of that space are kept safe and that the government once again does not throw millions of dollars at planning studies that go nowhere and do not address the issues that people have. I want to see timely and appropriate spending on infrastructure to make sure the Sunshine Coast has the integrated public transport network they need. It is time for shovels in the ground, to back rail to Maroochydore, to back an integrated public transport system and to ensure that we have the right services.

The health minister says that there is no such thing as unfunded hospital beds, yet I have heard there could be as many as 70 beds that are still awaiting appropriate staffing at Sunshine Coast University Hospital. I have also had a cardiac patient constituent approach me who said his doctor had told him that he is on a backlog, that he is beyond the clinical time frames for his surgery, because they have not funded enough of the beds that should be available at Prince Charles Hospital. That is what he has been told. Apparently the health minister has a different view. Patients are waiting far too long. They need to put the money at the front line of services rather than on their cabinet parties and wasteful, never-ending spending on their consultant mates.

(Time expired)

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.32 am): I rise to give my support to the 2023-24 Queensland budget. I would like to first congratulate the Treasurer, the Assistant Minister for Treasury and the entire leadership team for the work they have done in delivering this budget. I am extremely proud to be a

part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is committed to helping Queenslanders with cost-of-living relief. I know many people across my electorate of Ipswich are feeling the pinch right now, like people right across the state. There is rising inflation, rising interest rates and some are really struggling with household bills, groceries, mortgages and rents. When there are Queenslanders out there who are living pay to pay and sometimes having to make difficult choices of whether to buy groceries or pay the power bill, providing relief is the right thing to do.

Our Big Build capital investment spend in this year's budget will also provide Queenslanders with essential services they need. It is the biggest building program in our state's history, and I can see it happening before my eyes in my electorate of Ipswich. It is building the infrastructure for the future, one that will support our state's growth and create more jobs, new industries, better communities and stronger regions.

Our massive investments and cost-of-living relief measures and infrastructure projects can only be done because of our government's commitment to progressive coal royalties. The \$10.5 billion increase in coalmining royalties in 2022 and 2023 means that we can deliver increased concessions and savings for people in Ipswich and all over Queensland, and it means that we can deliver a \$550 electricity bill rebate for all Queensland households and a massive \$1,072 electricity rebate for seniors and concession card holders.

It also means we can deliver free kindy for Queensland children, saving families around \$4,600 a year on kindy fees. We all know that kindy gives kids a better start in life. We know that they have better outcomes in the education system if they have been to kindy. This will be a game changer. This investment alone will mean that more parents, especially women, will be able to go back to work to take on more hours to help meet household expenses.

Our better-than-expected coal royalties are helping to fund our \$89 billion Big Build infrastructure projects such as new hospitals and the expansion of existing hospitals, like the Ipswich Hospital in my electorate. The royalties are supporting our investment in social and affordable housing construction, renewable energy infrastructure and transport infrastructure.

The opposition are supportive of this investment—we hear it speech after speech—especially in their electorates. Coal royalties are contributing \$7 billion to this budget, but I have not heard anyone from the opposition say whether they support the progressive coal royalties or if they would keep them if they were elected. How can they support projects in their own electorates if they do not have this revenue stream? What will they cut first? Our hospital expansion projects? Our electricity rebates? Our social and affordable housing construction projects? Will they cut frontline staff numbers like they did under Campbell Newman? All of this is at risk if the opposition will not fully back progressive royalties. This should be something of concern to every Queenslander. In Ipswich, our local hospital is undergoing one of the biggest expansions in its history, including a plan for 200 additional beds and a new emergency department. All of that will be under threat if the LNP get in at the next election. This would be devastating for Ipswich people who rely on hospital services.

I am so proud to represent the Ipswich electorate, and I believe that Ipswich people deserve the best when it comes to getting good health care. Many people in Ipswich cannot afford to go private and we should not penalise them for that. They deserve a world-class health system. I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government is delivering this for them. Our record \$25.8 billion investment in this budget includes \$9.8 billion for the hospital construction program. There is \$764 million to address ambulance ramping and emergency department wait times. We have a really large hospital in the CBD. We have a dedicated healthcare workforce who do a fantastic job treating patients under pretty demanding conditions. We recognise that the emergency department is under significant pressure. That is why this year's budget invests heavily in the Ipswich Hospital expansion.

We are the fastest growing LGA in Queensland. Our population is set to grow to 530,000 people by 2046. We have the satellite hospital coming on board and we have the subacute hospital setting up adjacent to that. We have a new ambulance station and a new police station coming on board to manage that growth. None of this could be possible without those coal royalties and without the support of a good Labor government.

I am really excited that in this budget we have some money set aside to match the federal government investment to expand the Springfield to Ipswich train line to work on the business case for that. This is going to be a game changer for all of those people moving to our area.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

The Ripley Satellite Hospital will improve access to urgent care in Queensland's fastest growing suburb and ease some of the burden on Ipswich Hospital's ED.

In this budget we are also investing \$26 million out of a total \$85.4 million spend for a three-storey, 90-bed subacute care facility adjacent to Ripley Satellite Hospital. This will provide rehabilitation, geriatric, palliative and interim care services for patients.

Ripley will also be home to a new ambulance station with \$7.3 million invested in 2023-24 to continue construction on the station. The new ambulance station will help improve ambulance response times across Ipswich.

The Ipswich Hospital expansion, the Ripley Satellite Hospital and the new Ripley ambulance station are all vital to our region and will help accommodate Ipswich's future growth. Our progressive coal royalties are supporting the delivery of this vital healthcare infrastructure, and without the revenue from those royalties, those projects would be at risk. This is why Ipswich people need to know if the opposition supports our coal royalties.

We are also boosting healthcare worker numbers to strengthen healthcare outcomes for Queenslanders.

Since 2015, we have employed an extra 909 nurses in the Ipswich region and an extra 201 doctors.

To boost those numbers, we are investing \$10.6 million in the Incentive Transfer Scheme to attract clinicians from interstate and overseas to relocate to Queensland. We will do this by providing up to \$70,000 for medical practitioners and \$20,000 for health care workers to relocate to Queensland.

Outside of the big cities, hospitals have difficulty attracting and retaining medical practitioners, particularly specialists. The shortage of specialists, for example, leads to long wait times for appointments or people having to travel into Brisbane for specialist appointments and treatment. This is an issue for many people in my electorate and so this incentive scheme is very much welcomed.

Transport

Our progressive coal royalties are working hard to deliver the services and infrastructure Queenslanders need, and that includes transport infrastructure.

Our quality of life is very much affected by our commute times and the ease of getting around our suburbs and cities.

Importantly, good transport connectivity drives our state's economy by improving productivity and growth.

That is why I am very pleased to see in this budget our state committing to the delivery of the Ipswich to Springfield rail line with an investment of \$3.375 million to undertake the formal business case of this crucially important project. This amount matches the Federal Government's \$3.375 million commitment, and is bolstered by the Ipswich City Council's contribution of \$750,000. The total investment delivered is \$7.5 million.

This is great news for people living in the Ripley Valley who currently have very few public transport options available to them.

The Ripley Valley is the fastest growing area in Queensland with it set to grow to 120,000 people by 2046. Investing in rail in this area will mean that we can avoid catastrophic congestion on our local roads over the next two decades.

Education

Ipswich schools are big winners in this year's budget with just over \$29 million invested in our electorate's state high schools and primary schools.

I am pleased to see that Claremont Special School will be getting a total of \$7 million in this financial year to build additional classrooms.

Claremont Special School is one of three special schools in my electorate—a higher than average number for any electorate—and each one of those schools are having to manage rising enrolment numbers.

Every child deserves the best when it comes to their education, and that includes children living with a disability. So I am very pleased to see Claremont getting this funding to build new classrooms which will benefit their students enormously.

Bremer State High School will also see an investment of \$8.78 million to build additional specialist classrooms. The brand, new Ripley Central State School opened just this year will receive \$11 million in this budget to continue building more classrooms and learning facilities.

Bundamba State School and Raceview State School will be sharing in a total of \$1.2 million to refurbish their school buildings, and I am excited to hear that Deebing Heights State School will be getting \$73,000 to build a new playground.

Sport

I am pleased to see good investment in sport and active recreation in this budget. Especially at the local level.

In Ipswich, we have great community sport clubs with many talented players, athletes, coaches, and volunteers. Some of the younger athletes will undoubtedly have their sights set on Brisbane 2032.

That is why I am very pleased to see Ipswich Hockey Association receive \$250,000 in this budget to replace their fields' playing surface.

As the patron for Ipswich Hockey Association, I have strongly supported their application funding through our government's Minor Infrastructure Program.

Given that hockey is hugely popular in Ipswich, I know this funding will be warmly welcomed by everyone.

When I visited Ipswich Hockey Association last week to congratulate them, I had the chance to catch up with a junior girls' hockey team who were training at the time. This funding means young athletes like them will be able to train and play hockey on safe, optimal playing fields.

I must also mention that it is fantastic to see this budget investing in women's sport. Last week, I hosted the inaugural Championing Women in Sport Luncheon in Ipswich featuring an inspiring panel of five local sportswomen who have done so much to promote and inspire women and girls to participate in sport.

Our panel was made up of Dakota Davidson from the Brisbane Lions, rugby league players Bo De La Cruz and Veronica White, power-lifter Hani Watson, and BMX champion Holyee-Ann Jackson. Those women talked about what it took to get to a professional level including all the challenges they faced as women in male-dominated sporting arenas.

Our event had several tables of girls from local high schools who came to listen to the inspiring stories of these amazing sportswomen.

With this budget's investment of \$10 million in the Female Facilities and Inclusive Infrastructure Program, we are giving schoolgirls like them the opportunity to train and play at clubs that provide safe, accessible, and inclusive community sporting infrastructure.

We are also boosting sport participation for kids in low-income households by investing an extra \$4.8 million into the \$150 FairPlay vouchers so they can be used for swimming lessons for children aged four and under.

Expanding this program to swimming is a great way to keep our kids safe in the water, and it is just another one of our fantastic cost-of-living measures that our budget can provide to families because of our progressive coal royalties.

Housing

The cost of housing is a challenge for many families at the moment.

Many of my constituents tell me they are struggling with rising rental prices or struggling with higher mortgage repayments due to rising interest rates.

Housing shortages are contributing to increasing homelessness in Ipswich.

On Census Night in 2021, there were 2,126 people who were counted as homeless in the Ipswich local government area. No doubt, that number has risen since then.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is pulling every lever possible to ensure everyone has a roof over their heads.

Our government is committed to tackling the housing supply shortage by delivering an additional \$1.1 billion in this budget to bring our total social and affordable housing investment to \$5 billion. This additional investment means we can build 13,500 social homes across the state.

In this year's budget, we have set aside \$322 million to expand the QuickStarts Queensland program to build 500 more social homes.

Our investment in the QuickStarts program means that Churches of Christ can build a 40 units of social housing accommodation in Basin Pocket providing affordable housing for older people in our community.

Quickstarts will invest \$43.7 million to deliver 166 new social homes in Ipswich to be commenced by 30th of June 2025. This will support more than 138 full-time equivalent jobs.

We are putting in place other initiatives to encourage more Build-to-Rent programs, headleasing, and investing in community housing organisations.

\$28 million will be invested in the Immediate Housing Response Package in this budget to provide emergency accommodation for families living in insecure and unsafe conditions and rental support to help people maintain tenancies. This package will help many families in Ipswich who are finding it extremely tough finding a place to live due to soaring rents.

Last week I visited Rosie's Food Van in Ipswich. They are seeing increasing demand for their meals. This particular winter has also been very hard on people sleeping rough. Local Rosies volunteer, Paul Whewell, noticed an increased request for blankets and has started up a blanket drive to make sure homeless people sleeping rough can stay warm this winter.

But nothing beats having a roof over your head. A house provides dignity, safety, security, and warmth against the winter chill, and that's why our government will never give up on our commitment to build more social and affordable housing.

Conclusion

I would like to commend the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, the Premier, and the Ministers for many of the measures in this budget that are providing relief to Queenslanders at this difficult time such as:

- The \$2.7 million expansion to the School Breakfast Program to ensure young Queenslanders can get a healthy start to their day.
- The record \$3.6 billion budget for the Queensland Police Service which will include \$5 million in this budget to continue work on the new \$25 million Ripley police station. This is in addition to \$102 million to boost police resources and boost intervention programs to combat youth crime.
- The \$315,000 for Foodbank to deliver critical food relief for communities experiencing food insecurity.

- The \$152 million to deliver a suite of initiatives to enhance Queensland's disaster recovery and resilience which will be welcomed in Ipswich given our risk of severe flooding.
- And the \$19 billion in total capital investment over 4 years to support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan delivering new wind, solar, storage and transmission.

We are able to make these investments because our progressive coal royalties.

The opposition can't say whether they will keep those royalties.

Queenslanders deserve to know because our investment in vital infrastructure and cost-of-living measures are too important to cut.

I commend the 2023-24 budget to the House.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.37 am): The Palaszczuk government is building a bigger, stronger, more prosperous, better Queensland. Through this Labor budget, we are delivering critical support to all Queenslanders. Underpinned by our strong decision to introduce progressive coal royalties, we are delivering unprecedented cost-of-living measures to assist all Queenslanders with their electricity bills. There are record investments in health, delivering new hospitals, and state-of-the-art facilities like the new planned spinal unit. There are record investments in social housing to give Queenslanders what they need and deserve—a roof over their head. On this side, we will always work in the interests of all Queenslanders to ensure every Queenslanders gets their fair share. In my local community, that is exactly what is happening.

Budgets are about people, and this budget comes at an important time for the people of the Morayfield state electorate. Budgets are about people and priorities, and this is a solidly Labor budget that responds to the challenges facing Queenslanders. This budget focuses on assisting with cost-of-living pressures, delivering enhanced healthcare services, addressing housing affordability and supporting safer and more secure communities.

The Palaszczuk government's response to these priorities is significant and considered and will be embraced by many people, including the people of the Morayfield state electorate. Local people will be pleased to hear that important cost-of-living relief will be rolled out right across the Morayfield state electorate with every household set to receive an electricity bill rebate of at least \$550 with pensioners to receive more than \$1,000. Extra financial support for housing and homelessness services, for eligible children to participate in learn-to-swim lessons and for the School Breakfast Program to be expanded and extended to more schools is also very welcome news for the Morayfield state electorate.

A Big Build Labor budget for Queensland means a Big Build for the Morayfield state electorate, especially in the areas of health and education. The Big Build supports economic activities, creates jobs and delivers critical infrastructure for growing communities like those of the Morayfield state electorate. This Big Build budget supports the opening and operation of the brand new Caboolture satellite hospital. This state-of-the-art facility is expected to operate from 8 am to 10 pm seven days a week and provide services which include an oral health clinic, mental health supports, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health hub, a sleep clinic and a minor injury and illness clinic for walk-in urgent care for common conditions such as simple fractures, simple infections and allergies, sprains, strains and burns.

This Big Build budget will also deliver a brand new and additional ambulance station at Morayfield for the growing local community. First raised by the Burpengary Community Association and its president, Ed Nixon, and backed in with strong advocacy by me, the state member for Bancroft and the state member for Kurwongbah, there is much support and excitement for this critical infrastructure project which is due to open within the year.

In addition, this Big Build budget will also see the Caboolture Hospital redevelopment and expansion take a huge leap forward with the opening of extra beds, extra services, new facilities and new car parking. This outstanding and collective boost in public health services in the Morayfield state electorate supported by a Big Build Labor budget is further evidence of how Labor governments deliver for local people and local health needs.

The Caboolture TAFE and schools throughout the electorate will also be recipients of this Big Build budget with increased funding for new facilities, upgraded facilities and maintenance.

Further upgrades of the Bruce Highway, Morayfield Road, Beerburum Road and other local transport infrastructure are also a key feature of this year's budget. Connected to this I would once again like to acknowledge the advocacy of my colleagues, including the member for Kurwongbah, for

advocating for a major upgrade of Burpengary train station, which sits on the border of our two electorates. That upgrade received significant funding in this year's budget and I look forward to construction commencing shortly.

The progress for a new PCYC at Caboolture will soon reach an important milestone with planning approvals underway and funding locked in. I have been a strong advocate for this project and I am pleased to see we are now on the home stretch. A new PCYC at Caboolture will fundamentally enhance the level of supports and services available to local young people and it is all part of our Big Build.

As the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, I can say that we are delivering record budgets in these portfolio areas. The record budgets support very significant infrastructure delivery, enhanced service delivery and additional support for the front line. The support is extensive. In fact, it is almost 2,000 words extensive. Mr Deputy Speaker, I now give you notice that the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved the incorporation of the remainder of my speech into the *Record of Proceedings*. I commend the budget to the House.

The speech read as follows—

Take Queensland Corrective Services.

A record \$1.408 billion 2023-24 Queensland Corrective Services operating budget.

A capital budget on top of that will deliver Stage two of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct—\$341 million allocated for completion of main construction.

Here's another example.

\$20 million for pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the future Townsville Correctional Precinct expansion.

Speaker, then there is police.

A record operating budget in 2023-24 of \$3.281 billion.

Additional funding is earmarked for the replacement of the North Queensland Police Academy as part of the new Kirwan Police Precinct in Townsville.

And there's funding to build a new police training centre at Wacol to replace the Oxley Police Academy.

In addition, there's \$50 million for new and upgraded PCYC facilities in centres across the state.

Speaker, this is a very significant investment.

It will benefit communities right across the state, providing young people with the mentoring and activities to set them on the path to a better life.

Then there's Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

A record QFES operating budget will boost fleet, fire stations and community safety initiatives.

A record \$923 million QFES operating budget.

A record \$125 million capital works budget with a focus on new facilities, new equipment and new vehicles.

Record funding for the Fire and Rescue Service with almost \$90 million allocated for new and upgraded Fire and Rescue Service stations, vehicles and equipment across Queensland.

Record funding for the Rural Fire Service with more than \$30 million allocated for new and upgraded Rural Fire Service facilities and for new RFS vehicles across Queensland.

Record funding for the State Emergency Service with funding for more State Emergency Service vehicles, staff and capital grants.

Then there's community safety initiatives including the Bushfire Safety Campaign and Road Attitudes and Action Planning program.

Those important programs receive a combined \$7.6 million funding over four years.

And there's funding to uplift Queensland's aerial firefighting capability during the bushfire season.

Speaker, we are building a stronger, safer, more resilient Queensland.

For example, the record police budget will also progress a \$101.6 million Youth Justice Investment.

This investment will boost police resources to tackle youth crime, as part of the government's total funding package of \$446.4 million over five years.

Included is funding for extreme high visibility police patrols, a new specialist youth crime rapid response squad, Youth Co-responder Teams, additional early action groups and Police Liaison Officer high visibility proactive patrols.

Speaker, specifically the \$101.6 million over five years includes the continuation and expansion of the Youth Justice Investment to boost police resources, tackle the complex causes of youth crime, and support community safety via Fast-track Sentencing, Youth Crime Taskforce, Police Extreme High Visibility Patrols, Cairns Safer Streets and Midnight Basketball, Police Online Engagement and Intelligence Team, Police Liaison Officer High Visibility Proactive Patrols, Specialist Youth Crime Rapid Response Squad and Stronger Communities Initiative: Early Action Groups.

Speaker, underpinning the efforts of police, a major investment in police recruiting has already been announced with \$87.5 million committed to drive a range of new police recruitment strategies over the next five years.

Speaker, our police perform very challenging duties on a daily basis.

They deserve to be safe.

The government has committed additional funding of \$6.2 million to expand the Queensland Police Service fleet of armoured vehicles.

And police deserve the best facilities and infrastructure we can provide.

The record 2023-24 police budget will progress new and upgraded police facilities at:

- Cairns
- Caloundra South
- Clermont
- Cooroy
- Cunnamulla
- Dalby
- Dayboro
- Hervey Bay
- Kirwan
- Longreach
- Mackay
- Maryborough
- Palm Island
- Proserpine
- Rainbow Beach
- Ripley
- Rosewood
- Warwick
- Winton

And in addition, there will be new police accommodation at Mount Isa and Tara.

Speaker, as part of the further enhancement of frontline response capabilities, the government is providing additional funding of \$27 million in 2023-24 to continue the commitment to establish an integrated volunteer marine rescue service.

And there is \$7.3 million for the Marine Rescue Queensland vessel replacement program.

Our volunteers selflessly give of themselves for the benefit of their fellow Queenslanders.

They deserve every support.

Also, the government is providing increased funding of \$16.5 million in 2023-24 to progress the transfer of Disaster Management functions to the Queensland Police Service as part of the government's commitment from the Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

This forms part of the government's total funding package of up to \$578 million to enhance emergency services capability in Queensland.

Speaker, Queensland Corrective Services plays a critical role on the frontline of public safety.

Their vital work often goes unheralded, but the government knows just how important it is.

Speaker, a record \$1.408 billion 2023-24 Queensland Corrective Services operational budget will support the safe management of Queensland's prison population.

It will also enhance supports to protect the community and staff, and deliver programs to reduce recidivism.

Stage two of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct, where more than 1,500 beds will be available when it opens in 2024, has been allocated \$341 million capital funding for completion of main construction.

The modern, purpose-built centre will focus on health and rehabilitation to reduce reoffending, and support more than 800 good, secure jobs giving the local Lockyer Valley economy a boost.

A \$20 million allocation will enable pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the future Townsville Correctional Precinct expansion to manage the demands of a growing prison population.

A \$10 million allocation will enable pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the establishment of a new Wacol Precinct Enhanced Primary Health Care facility located at the Brisbane Correctional Centre to reduce the need to access community-based hospital and health facilities.

Installation of additional bunk beds in high security correctional centres across the state will also progress, with \$1 million of a \$8 million program committed in the 2023-24 budget.

Over the next four years, \$46.3 million will be invested to support essential healthcare, including installing information technology infrastructure in correctional centres enhancing the provision of health care and psychological and disability support services around the state.

This includes responding to recommendations of the Queensland Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report *Hear her Voice* to support the health and rehabilitation of women in custody.

\$1 million to complete the refurbishment at Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit.

Parole Board Queensland's operations will be enhanced with \$23.5 million over the next two years to ensure timely and community-safety focused consideration of parole matters.

The management of serious sex offenders will also be enhanced with an additional \$2.2 million over the next two years used towards staffing and programs to keep the community safe.

The QCS 2023-24 budget also includes:

- \$4.1 million towards upgrades to Woodford Correctional Centre's intercom system to keep staff, as well as visitors and prisoners, safe and secure,
- \$3 million towards plant and equipment at Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct—Stage Two, including for prison industries, and for video conferencing facilities to support enhanced virtual visits for prisoners' families,
- \$63.0 million towards infrastructure works and maintenance and replacement programs,
- \$14.6 million towards other property, plant and equipment.

Recognising the critical work of front-line staff and volunteers, the Palaszczuk Government has provided Queensland Fire and Emergency Services with a record \$923 million operating budget.

In addition, a record \$125 million capital works budget for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) will ensure the State has the best facilities and equipment available.

The 2023-24 QFES budget includes a total of more than \$20.7 million on vital new infrastructure including Fire and Rescue Service stations in the rapidly growing areas of Caloundra South, Mount Cotton Road, Moreton Bay Central and Greater Springfield.

There is also \$5.8 million set to be spent on upgrades and refurbishments to auxiliary Fire and Rescue stations including the country centres of Boonah, Imbil, Mitchell, Emerald and Allora.

Included in the budget is \$17.9 million for the acquisition of land for future Fire and Emergency Services facilities at Hervey Bay, Atherton, Highfields, Beerwah, South Townsville, Wulguru, and Bundaberg East.

Fire and Rescue firefighters will benefit directly from \$18.7 million worth of new and replacement FRS trucks and more than \$12 million of new and replacement operational equipment including firefighting gear, scientific analysis and detection devices, breathing apparatus, and rescue equipment.

The Rural Fire Service will also receive a significant investment of \$16.1 million towards new and replacement trucks, in addition to \$2.6 million on new operational equipment, and \$1 million to continue the retrofit of existing rural fire trucks with potentially life-saving cabin deluge systems.

The State Emergency Service (SES) will receive \$3 million for support vehicles and \$11.2 million in capital grants to be dispersed among the state's 76 SES units. In addition, the SES will receive additional funding this year to employ additional staff.

The State Government has also made a significant investment towards continuing valuable QFES community education programs as part of the 2023-24 State Budget.

Funding of \$2.6 million over the next four years has been approved to enhance the delivery of the Road Attitudes and Action Planning (RAAP) program. The program involves experienced operational firefighters presenting practical road safety advice to young Queenslanders, to educate them about safe driving practices. This funding will assist with expanding the program's delivery into various youth settings in the community, as well as conducting regional tours to reach young drivers across the state.

The Bushfire Safety Campaign, which delivers critical safety and preparedness advice for Queenslanders consider for the annual Bushfire Season, will receive a total of \$5 million in funding over three years, to design and advertise a new campaign.

Speaker, our progressive coal royalties and our strong economic recovery, underpin Queensland's big build—our investment in infrastructure, facilities, resources and our people.

Speaker, those opposite don't support giving Queenslanders their fair share.

Not surprising—as one pundit put it recently.

"Crisafulli has established just one thing: He complains about everything but can't be remembered for anything."

Speaker, that's the cul de sac, the political dead end you find yourself in, when you are not authentic, when you are not committed to a real cause.

That's what happens when you're not committed to giving Queenslanders their fair share.

Speaker, on this side of the House we are committed to delivering Queenslanders their fair share.

And that's exactly what this week's budget does.


Unprecedented cost of living assistance.

Record health funding. Record investment in social housing. Record police budget.

Record Fire and Emergency Service budget.

Record Corrective Services budget.

That's what a good government that governs for all Queenslanders does.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.43 am): As legendary Rugby League coach Jack Gibson would say, my budget reply speech this year is 'deja vu all over again' in terms of my 2022 budget reply speech, which highlighted growing debt, profligate spending on the credit card and recycled projects from yesteryear.

With record coal royalties underwriting their failed financial planning, this government has gone bust in a boom. This budget again is filled with promised projects on the never-never, deceitful figure fudging on the parlous state of Queensland debt and the 'Mr Bean' of fiscal accountability, the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, blaming everyone for the chaos and crisis in the health system, youth crime, homelessness and cost-of-living pressure caused by cost blowouts on government projects and government extortion on electricity prices through government owned power generators as wholesalers to the industry.

With inflation skyrocketing, mortgage stress creeping stealthily through our suburbs and business confidence slumping on the back of this government's taxing regime on all businesses, I can only feel sympathy for Queenslanders trying to understand why their current Labor government has led this slide into economic hardship when we should be Queensland, the boom state. We have record migration and record income from stamp duty and mineral royalties and yet we are wallowing in \$147 billion of debt, racked up by a government unconcerned about the pain they are inflicting on future generations, probably because they think it will not be their problem anyway.

They have lost the blame card of the Morrison LNP federal government in Canberra because their union mates are in control down there. With interest rates rising as the Reserve Bank's only answer to out-of-control inflation, Labor are turning their blame game excuses on to Reserve Bank Governor, Philip Lowe, to deflect their incompetence at appropriately and successfully managing the economy.

Increased taxes, fees and charges are the hallmarks of a Labor government clawing back their indiscriminate spending. Yet real solutions to the health crisis, public housing crisis, renting crisis, youth crime crisis, cost-of-living crisis and police recruitment crisis have not been satisfied by the record income received by this Labor government. In fact, crisis is Labor's middle name.

Has ambulance ramping been cured by the so-called record spend in health? No! Has youth crime been halted by tougher laws and intervention programs? No! Police numbers are down and yet we have a police minister insisting that 'approved' police numbers count in helping to prevent the skyrocketing increase in crime activity, particularly in my patch on the Gold Coast.

I look at the glossy brochure in the budget papers for the Gold Coast and the recycled light rail stage 3 project is featured once again. There is no mention of more funding for police in an area that has taken a large percentage of the population migration to Queensland and a miserly allocation for the start of a new hospital in the northern part of the Gold Coast when the reality is it should have been built yesterday. All we get is more spin about satellite hospitals, which are really day care surgeries, and more drip-feed of infrastructure in an area that endures the pain of population—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Nanango and Minister, please cease your interjection. Minister, you cannot talk from the middle of the chamber. Do not do that again.

Mr STEVENS: All we get is more spin about satellite hospitals, which are really day care surgeries, and more drip-feed of infrastructure in an area that endures the pain of population pressure growth without the necessary commitment of government expenditure required to meet that population explosion.

As the M1 continues to choke with more vehicle traffic associated with that rapid population growth, the drip-feed approach to addressing the economic and pollution problem caused by this Labor government's failure to commit to proper solutions will result in the M1 being the most expensive parking lot in Australia. Four-hour delays are already regular occurrences and anyone heading between Australia's third largest city and Australia's sixth largest city is always fearful of valuable time out caused by this Labor government's inaction on the matter. It is the New South Wales-Queensland border bypass road delay all over again. That was from the Merri Rose era. Then there was the Goss government's delay on the 'koala highway', which cost them government. I have no doubt today's commuters on the M1 can only blame this Palaszczuk Labor government for the delay and inconvenience caused by inaction on this project.

This Labor government crows about how good the 2032 Olympics will be when all international visitors will see is a road clogged to parking lot standard and a train system incapable of handling the overflow numbers in a timely fashion. I cannot believe the hypocrisy of the Treasurer and his government, who suddenly find the wonderful benefits of the coal industry in Queensland. From a government that were embarrassed to say the word 'coal' as opposed to their renewable energy mantra, good old coal has come back to rescue them in their darkest hour of a financial crisis.

I still cannot understand the difference to the world that coal being burnt by China, as opposed to being burnt by Australia, makes to the atmosphere, but it sure as hell makes a difference to the cost of power in Queensland. Every Queenslanders is feeling the pain of higher electricity prices, from the little old pensioner right through to the small businesses that are relying on power. I heard the Labor ministers moaning about job numbers not being mentioned in the opposition leader's budget reply speech. Yet, recently released job data gives me great pleasure. While unemployment fell nationally to 3.6 per cent, in Queensland guess what happened? It rose to 3.9 per cent. By Labor's own measuring stick, this means that this government is failing the Queensland workforce.

This state has an abundant resource industry, a multibillion dollar agriculture industry and is the biggest tourism state of all and yet unemployment rose under this incompetent Labor government. Even their union masters would be shamed by this embarrassing figure so yes, Treasurer, let us talk about your job management. The only job management the Treasurer is concerned about when using his fake Rowan Atkinson smile while selling bad budgetary news to Queenslanders is his elevation to his AWU mate the Premier's job when she leaves parliament by the end of the year. The AWU right faction took a pre-emptive strike on the left's darling candidate for Premier, the member for Waterford, by giving her the challenging role of health minister. I feel either minister will make a fantastic opposition leader in 2024.

With one more budget to go, and treacherous economic winds swirling around 2024, this Labor government has spent all of the political capital gained from the 2015 election, and the people of Queensland have grown tired of the spin, crisis and chaos that has overtaken any ill thoughts about an LNP government that Labor is desperately trying to reinvent.

I note in the glossy brochure for the Gold Coast that there are 1,670 extra nurses, 711 extra teachers, 405 extra doctors and 41 extra firefighters but no extra police. They have run out of ideas in terms of the thin blue line. All we see in Queensland, and particularly on the Gold Coast, is the thin blue line getting thinner.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim—there will be no blue line by the time this government has finished. Has Labor given up on fixing criminal behaviour on the Gold Coast? What about the poor police members who are currently struggling to keep up with the rising crime statistics?

I am pleased about the new building that is going up at Miami State High School, care of Minister Grace Grace, but it is reannounced as a new project when it has appeared in budget papers for the Gold Coast three times before. I think the pyramids in Egypt were built quicker than the drip-feed approach this government takes to infrastructure projects, but any commitments to the schools in my area are welcome.

This 2023 budget is another budget that has been delivered with the consistent gusto and spin of a Labor government that is financially bankrupt of ideas and devoid of planning to address Queenslanders' greatest fears on the cost of living, the health crisis, youth crime, homelessness and the rental crisis. Queenslanders deserve better than this. Hopefully, they will get that opportunity in 15 months time.

I make reference to the blowouts that have caused enormous pain across the board for Queensland taxpayers. We look at the budgeted figures, originally of treasurer Trad, for Cross River Rail of \$5.9 billion. Yes, that is the amount it will come in at. We are now \$3,000 million over that figure. You have to wonder how someone budgeting for expenditure on major infrastructure in Queensland can get the figure so horribly wrong—\$3,000 million out. I think \$1 million is terrific—I would love \$1 million to come through for my electorate—but \$3,000 million is an enormous error to make in budget figures. The blowouts are costing taxpayers right across the board.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I take the member for the Scenic Rim's interjection again. We have not even mentioned the blowouts on the Gabba, and it is only a few years away until 2032. We can guarantee that more cost blowouts will affect Queensland taxpayers in the years to come. I note that the theme of this year's budget from the government is the 'Big Build budget for 2023'. It is exactly the same as the genius in Victoria, Dan Andrews, with his big build budget. That side is plagiarising the wonderfully successful Victorian government that is now sacking public servants and cutting infrastructure. The Victorian Premier is now basically parachuting out of his job because he has destroyed Victoria with his big build project rubbish. That is exactly what we are seeing now from the copycats in Queensland. It will end up in the same mess if they continue on their merry way of spending money they do not have—spending our money that they would like to get hold of through new taxes and increased spending.


In the last couple of minutes that I have remaining, I refer to a matter that I have been quite concerned about in terms of budgetary issues—that is, the transfer of the titles office by the Treasurer to a company that is independent of government, even though it has government employees working for it. It is valued at \$7.6 billion on the government's balance sheet. Now we find out, through the Auditor-General, that the Treasurer has transferred 25 per cent of that valuation to the QIC—about \$1.8 billion in round figures. When the government put that legislation through, there was a commitment that we cannot sell the titles office under any circumstances—that commitment does not apply to the QIC. It has been passed across to the QIC and it will be privatisation by stealth.

We have heard the shadow Attorney-General recant the raids of Public Service funds over the years. It was spot on. This is a worry for public servants in terms of their defined benefit scheme. If I was in that scheme—I am not—I would be very worried about what this government is doing with my finances. They keep saying that it is fully funded, but the reality is that they keep edging it off every which way and getting valuations over 50 years that do not stack up on a 'sell tomorrow' basis. The financial credibility of this Treasurer is shot. They have one more budget to go. We cannot wait until we have a decent LNP government to bring us financial responsibility.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Mermaid Beach, I am advised that you used some unparliamentary language during your speech.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (11.58 am): I rise to make this contribution to the debate on the appropriation bills in my 'reply tie' from Chaps Menswear, Caloundra. What a cracking budget it is for Caloundra. It is a community safety bonanza for Caloundra, with a whopping \$7 million for our new fire station in Aura; another \$6 million for our new ambulance station; and another \$4 billion for our new police station. This is in addition to the extra police—thank you, minister—that have been delivered to the Caloundra station over the last two financial years. This government will double the number of police, fire and ambulance stations in Caloundra—but wait, there's more! There is free kindy for younger families and electricity rebates for seniors. Caloundra will be receiving a permanent MSQ officer to look after our beautiful Pumicestone Passage. Caloundra will finally have a permanent MSQ officer to supervise boating safety, boating speed limits and the navigation channels. This is a terrific outcome because, with our growing population, the passage is busier than ever, and growing up near the passage is an integral part of living in Caloundra.

As always with Labor governments, health and education are priorities. There is a cool million for our Caloundra hospital, which will see a significant upgrade to the kitchen facilities. A staggering \$21 million will be making its way to our magnificent Sunshine Coast University Hospital for ongoing expansion, continuing the excellent work they are doing at the brachytherapy suite and improving disability access at SCUH. Not long ago I spent a very worthwhile five hours touring the emergency department of SCUH and talking to the staff. I give a shout-out to Ben Close and all of the incredible

staff that I met at the SCUH emergency department. A more dedicated and professional bunch of health workers you would be hard-pressed to find. I thank them for their time and for their hard work, and I remind them that this government will always back them and the LNP will always sack them.

Many of our terrific schools will be excited by this budget. I had to wonder at the member for Buderim complaining about a delay in the construction of a school in his community—from a party that delivered exactly zero schools on the Sunshine Coast last time around! I believe that the current minister has delivered six. Meanwhile, \$900,000 will make its way to Glenview State School to upgrade the admin building. There is \$440,000 for Nirimba State Primary School. There is an impressive \$5 million for Baringa State Secondary College for further learning spaces. I give a shout-out to Beerwah State School P&C President Kate and Principal Scott, whose genuine delight was a pleasure to listen to when I told them about \$450,000 coming their way to refurbish their library.

Then there is the incredible investment of nearly \$65 million delivered in partnership with the federal Albanese Labor government to upgrade and duplicate sections of the rail line between Beerwah and Nambour. Isn't it exciting to see this government's great announcement around passenger rail for the Sunshine Coast? There is another \$14 million on top of the \$6 million jointly funded by the state and Albanese governments. I quote—

This is good news for the Sunshine Coast ...

It is an—

... investment planning exercise ... building heavy passenger rail between Beerwah and the Maroochydore CBD.

...

This is the necessary next step.

...

... we have two tiers of government ... [doing] an investment planning study to take this idea forward. So it is the necessary next step. ... there was already a lot of business work done along the CAMCOS corridor ... all of that can be leveraged, which means we are now taking the project forward even further—looking at things like site investigations, surveying, staging options—

and saying to the government—

'Here's how you can invest, how much and where the sites would be.' So this was the next step we needed and I'm delighted that we have really two tiers of government now who have got skin in the game, allocated funding and dedicating resources to take ... a very pragmatic proposal forward.

So said Ted O'Brien, the LNP member for Fairfax. He understands, as the LNP pseudologues on the coast apparently do not, that 40 kilometres of greenfield railway is not like building Lego—a project that is doomed under the LNP because they cannot fund it.

By their own admission, they are targeting \$10 billion in pruning. Then they have to find another \$7 billion because they do not support the Treasurer's progressive coal royalties. They are \$17 billion in the hole before they even sack a single public servant. If you want to get on board with the LNP's cynical data-collecting exercise around passenger rail, please go to their website www.didntliftafingerforoveracentury.com or find them on Instagram with #wedidnothingingovernmentbutnowweareinoppositionitsurgent. This is a budget that ticks all the boxes, and I commend it to the House with alacrity.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2023, introduced by the Hon. Cameron Dick, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. This is another great Labor budget for Central Queensland. We are seeing support for every local household—\$550 off every household's power bill, rising to \$1,072 for concession card holders. Eligible small businesses will also receive an automatic rebate of \$650 on their electricity bill in the next financial year. We are also making kindy free for everyone from next year, saving local families up to \$4,600 and ensuring everyone can access it. This is a huge change that comes from two great Labor values: fairness and equal access to education. This is something an LNP government would never deliver.

There is also \$100 million in funding to be spent on the first stage of the Rockhampton Ring Road over the next 12 months out of our state's \$280 million contribution to this great project. That is \$100 million being spent this year on this important project. It is \$100 million more than the LNP members Michelle Landry and Matt Canavan secured during the almost one decade they were in government.

I am happy to say that there is also funding to get construction started on the catheter lab at the Rockhampton Hospital and ongoing funding for major projects like the Browne Park upgrade, Rookwood Weir, the Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipeline and the Rockhampton to Mount Morgan water pipeline. Overall, there is more than \$4 billion worth of local infrastructure projects that are being delivered in the Rockhampton area with the support of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our per capita infrastructure spend in Central Queensland is 69 per cent higher than it is for Brisbane.

The truth is that Labor governments have a proud record of delivering for Rockhampton. Walking around town, you can barely bowl a cricket ball without the risk of hitting something a Labor government has helped to deliver: the art gallery, the south-side swimming complex, the Yeppen roundabout upgrade, the courthouse, the hospital—not to mention countless upgrades to roads and schools over the years. We will only ever see this kind of investment under a Labor government in Central Queensland. What did we get under the Newman LNP government? Nothing but cuts to our schools, hospitals and services like QBuild. That is what we can expect if the LNP gets in again.

We have heard LNP members, like Michelle Landry and Matt Canavan, opposing the progressive coal royalties scheme. I repeat: they apparently oppose a scheme that ensures Queenslanders receive their fair share of the windfall profits being made by multinational miners benefiting from high coal prices. Queenslanders own those resources, and those progressive royalties are one of the reasons we can deliver free kindy, cost-of-living support and huge investment around Rockhampton. The LNP, it seems, would rather that money goes to shareholders overseas or to multimillionaire CEOs. I am looking forward to watching them try to explain that to voters in Rockhampton at the next election.

As usual, this budget also includes plenty of support for the Rockhampton Regional Council including, as I said, funding to build the Rockhampton to Mount Morgan water pipeline. There is also funding to cover the cost of carting water to Mount Morgan while the council works on getting the project up and running. The Palaszczuk Labor government regularly subsidises council projects through the Works for Queensland program and numerous other grants programs. I am afraid that occasionally that seems to breed a culture of expectation.

Again in this budget, health will see record funding of \$809 million, up \$46 million on last year. The staff of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service do an amazing job, and I thank them for the work they do each and every day. The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

There is \$1 million out of a total spend of \$3.1 million to provide a Mental Wellbeing Safe Haven for Rockhampton.

We will continue to contribute to Queensland's economy by funding quality skills programs and opportunities, including free TAFE and apprenticeships for Central Queenslanders under 25 years of age in priority skills areas.

The Palaszczuk Government is serious about training opportunities and increased workforce participation through Skilling Queenslanders for Work. \$47.9 million has been allocated to develop skills and provide training to 5,265 people in CQ, with 3633 people having secured a direct job as a result of this program.

I have enjoyed attending the graduations where participants have graduated with new skills, experience and qualifications that have help them break into jobs like Individual Support (Aged and Disability) care, horticulture, construction workforces or launch their own small business.

Each of these Certificate Courses build the participants' self-esteem and motivation as well as the general everyday skills that are needed in any workplace. It is great to hear these courses are fostering new small businesses, green thumbs and builders who are looking to contribute to the local economy.

The Back To Work, has provided \$35.3m in payments to 1420 employers in Central Qld to employ 3250 eligible unemployed jobseekers. This is a wonderful program that assists our unemployed gain jobs.

We all know how important education is to securing better life outcomes. This investment is \$74.8 million across Central Qld and supports the government's commitment to good jobs and better services.

It is essential that our schools are maintained and there will be \$1.1 million for school maintenance. There will also be \$1 million for North Rockhampton High School for security fencing, North Rockhampton Special school will receive \$3.8 million of a total spend of \$17 million for additional classrooms. Rockhampton Special School \$8.8 million out of a \$9.5 million spend to construct a new building for learning spaces and \$1.2 million to refurbish E Block. And one of my favourite schools, The Hall School will receive \$10 million towards their new hall out of a \$12.6 million spend and \$244,000 to construct a new multi-purpose court and fencing. Rockhampton State High School will receive \$454,000 to upgrade the tuckshop infrastructure, and Allentown School will receive \$454,000 to upgrade their tuckshop facilities, Waraburra State School will receive \$1.3 million to refurbish their swimming pool, and the list goes on.

Across Rockhampton and Central Queensland we will continue to see an investment in our road infrastructure projects like the Bruce highway, duplication of lanes, intersections and bridge upgrades supporting local jobs and let's not forget the Rockhampton Ring Road in partnership with the federal government with major works to commence in the near future supporting hundreds of jobs.

We will see an infrastructure and upgrade total spend of \$10.2 million on Glenmore electricity substation.

Palaszczuk Government's support through the Works for Queensland and we have seen the Rockhampton Regional Council deliver projects like the Airport upgrade, pathways at the botanical gardens, upgrades to playground equipment, the replacement of the boardwalk along the Fitzroy River and many other projects. We have seen hundreds of jobs supported through this very important program across Rockhampton. Approximately \$42 million since 2015.

In this budget across Queensland is \$1.1 billion in funding for Qld's Big Housing Build. \$322 million for the quickstart construction program, \$452 million additional funding to deliver the existing social housing construction program and \$249 million to retain and upgrade social housing dwellings. Our \$2 billion housing investment fund is now delivering \$130 million each year.

Given my passion for the provision of housing services it is also great to see ongoing funding of \$7.1 million across CQ for specialist homelessness services.

There is so much more in this budget across other portfolios like Child Safety and our Police, Fire and Emergency services and Corrective Services portfolios and very importantly community organisations that provide support for the residents of Rockhampton and Central Queensland. I am pleased to be delivering a great budget for the people of the Rockhampton Electorate. This budget is all about good jobs, better services, and a great lifestyle for all Queenslanders.

I congratulate the Treasurer and Minister for trade and Investment the Hon Cameron Dick on a budget for all Queenslanders.

I commend the bill to the House.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.09 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the 2023 budget bills. In some ways this budget gives us a glimpse of what we could achieve if we took on corporate interests and their massive profits more substantially. By raising the royalties on super profitable coal prices, we gained almost \$15.3 billion in coal royalties last year. That is \$8 billion more than expected. However, Labor's royalties plan is not sustainable. If it is not willing to take on the big banks, gas companies and developers to diversify state revenue, Queenslanders will continue to miss out on billions of dollars for schools and hospitals and housing over the next decade.

The Greens have been calling for higher royalties for years now. Members will recall that in 2020 we were the only ones who went to the election calling for more for Queenslanders and less for mining billionaires. After a 10-year freeze on coal royalties, last year the Labor Party finally caved under a wave of Greens electoral success. Believe me when I say that no-one is happier to see Labor finally stand up to the coal lobby than the Greens, but its higher royalties only apply to coal that is sold at super profit levels, capturing just a fifth of the value of record coal exports. Those exports tripled to \$83½ billion in the last year, but those record high prices are forecast to end in the next few years. Meanwhile, royalties on gas companies—which are, mind you, 96 per cent foreign owned and which doubled their exports in 2022—remain unchanged. In fact, instead of properly taxing gas companies, the government is giving them a \$21 million handout in this budget.

It should be self-evident that we cannot ride the wave of coal royalties forever, especially if we want a government that pretends it cares about climate change. The Greens have proposed to increase to 35 per cent the base rate for royalties on coal and an increase to gas royalties as our exports of both of these scale down over the next decade. Listening to this debate just confirms that the Greens are the only party that has a long-term plan to diversify state revenue. The profits of the big four banks are also up 19 per cent off the back of rate rises. That equates to billions of dollars out of the pockets of renters and mortgagors and into the hands of the biggest banks and big business. Queenslanders deserve a fair share of those profits too which is why the Greens have proposed a very modest 0.05 per cent levy on the revenue of the predatory big banks.

Unlike the major parties, we are also not afraid to take on the private property and development industry. We should be taxing developers' windfall profits with an up-zoning levy and freeing up more housing with a tax on private property investors who intentionally leave homes empty. This budget and this government have put developers first and renters last. This budget has just \$176 million more for housing this year than last. This government is bragging about 500 extra social homes in this budget while there are 47,000 people in the critical-need category on the social housing waiting list and 300,000 Queenslanders experiencing housing stress. At the Labor government's current rate, it will take more than four decades to house every person on the social housing waiting list, and that is assuming that in the middle of a housing crisis the list is not going to grow any further than it is at the moment.

Labor stands here with a straight face and tells us that we should be grateful for its tax concessions to private property developers that might deliver some new so-called affordable rentals in seven years time—not genuinely affordable housing though. We are talking about apartments 25 per

cent below market rents—still insultingly out of reach for most working people because Labor refuses to regulate rent increases meaningfully. In 20 years time those affordable rentals will revert back to market rent. It is money in the pockets of rich developers and crumbs for Queensland renters. It is little wonder that there were hundreds of people outside parliament on Wednesday demanding better. We need a rent freeze now to help renters catch up with inflation. We need a real cap on rent increases and a vacancy levy to open up empty homes across the state and direct investment in tens of thousands of new social housing homes. Instead, we are seeing Labor give handouts to developers.

Again the government wants a pat on the back for its 500 extra homes in the budget, but we all know that a key part of its housing strategy is prisons—prisons for kids as young as 10 years old. We still do not know how much its two new youth prisons will cost, but it could very easily exceed half a billion dollars. There is almost \$10 million in the budget this year just for the preliminary work. We are also bleeding almost \$52 million on dealing with overcrowded adult prisons because all this government knows how to do is lock people up. Despite claiming it is investing in therapeutic responses to youth offending, addressing the causes rather than just the consequences, the numbers reveal otherwise. The vast majority of this government's youth justice package is for more police and prisons, just like the LNP wants. It might as well have its policy written by the Queensland Police Union or the *Courier-Mail*.

A few short years ago the youth justice minister was unflinching in accepting that building more youth prisons was a failure of policy and leadership, and now that appears to be the sum total of its policy on youth justice. While police get more and more money and power, community-run services—those services that we know work—are drastically underfunded. If we continue down this path that the government has been taking, we will never be able to build enough prisons to catch up.

I know many people will be relieved to hear about the energy bill rebates in this budget. That one-off short-term relief is absolutely welcome, but it is not a long-term plan. We could permanently cut energy bills by bringing our whole energy system into public hands, cutting the marketing costs and the bonuses for those private energy company CEOs. We know that the government took more than a few leaves out of the Greens book last year when it released its Energy and Jobs Plan, and this budget proves without question that we can use higher mining royalties to build more renewable energy. That is great. It is fantastic.

Government members interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: Everyone is chiming in to agree with me here. This is what we have been calling for for years now—and I am happy to give credit where it is due—but it is still backing new coal and gas, its emissions reduction targets are still on a par with those of the former Morrison government and it still plans to allow half of our energy system to be privately owned. The government's climate credentials really fall apart when it comes to gas. CleanCo, our publicly owned renewable energy company, will spend almost \$30 million on its Kogan North gas project this year. That is CleanCo—\$30 million, one year, gas project. Clean gas, hey? There is \$21 million in the budget in handouts for private gas companies to expand their operations in the Bowen and Galilee basins. Yet again this government is cosying up to the very people—the very companies—that are making the climate crisis worse.

The budget also shows that the government has lowered its ambition significantly when it comes to public transport usage. Although fare revenue is expected to recover to about the historical pre COVID average this year, it is now forecasting fare revenue in 2024-25 to be just \$358 million compared to the projection last year which was \$414 million. That is a substantial drop in expected patronage. Even with fare revenue recovering slightly, this still only covers about 17 per cent of the total cost of delivering public transport in South-East Queensland.

There are various reasons why more people do not use public transport in Queensland, but it is absolutely unequivocal that cost is one of those reasons. For a fraction of its current budget, the government could cover 100 per cent of the cost of public transport—not the 80 per cent or 90 per cent subsidies we have seen in recent years but 100 per cent coverage of the cost and make it free. Free, frequent and accessible public transport would be a far better investment than the continued multimillion dollar spending on wasteful road widening and duplication projects. In that frame, obviously frequency and reliability are really important but the quality of our infrastructure and our services are also important to public transport users, so it is frustrating that the government still has not committed to funding to upgrade the Taringa train station in my electorate to make it compliant with federal disability standards. It frankly beggars belief that this busy station right near a hospital, shops and community facilities is still only accessible by stairs, and this is one of the best used train stations in the network.

We also need funding to create better connected buses in the inner west and to begin planning work on an inner-west transitway, including a cross-campus bus link at UQ and bus lanes on Sir Fred Schonell Drive. I have my eyes on the Centenary Motorway planning study that is due to finish this year. If community feedback, including my own submission, is genuinely taken into account, that study should recommend a western busway, including dedicated bus lanes along the motorway or otherwise alongside the \$270 million duplication of the Centenary Bridge, or we will be stuck with just another road-widening project that does nothing for public transport and ultimately makes traffic congestion worse.

I recently finished a community survey of locals' experiences at the notorious Bardon roundabout, and the transport minister can expect to hear from me soon with some of their stories. I do not think the minister will be surprised to hear their account of how dangerous this roundabout is and that the government really should have allocated funding in this budget for upgrades and a speed limit reduction on Metroad 5. I will address the minister directly on those issues.

I am really glad to see the state government has put another \$160,000 into the planning process for the Witton Road bikeway, which will hopefully, one day soon, link the Centenary Bikeway to the new Indooroopilly Riverwalk, replacing a dangerous gauntlet along Witton Road and what can only be described as a hair-raising intersection at Kate Street, Indooroopilly. I was more than happy to support council's application for that further state funding, alongside the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group. Both of us put in letters of support for that project. We are up to a total of \$300,000 of state funding for that project now, even though council are shaping up to take four years to do just this design work, finishing in 2024 rather than 2022. It will be two years overdue at best. It is more than a little bit ridiculous to hear the local LNP councillor has been feigning disappointment about not getting state construction funding for the Witton Road bikeway when they are two years late on finishing the design.

I am even more disappointed that council has not got its act together to even apply for state funding to complete the other huge missing link on the same corridor—that is, protected bike lanes on Lambert Road linking the Indooroopilly Riverwalk to the UQ Esplanade. This is all the more urgent with news just weeks ago that a student at Indooroopilly State High School was doored—someone opened their door on him while he was riding home on Lambert Road. It has been on the priority route map since at least 2017, but after 20 years of an LNP council they have not even produced a concept design.


We know now that our local push for this upgrade is working because the LNP councillor recently held a round table to think about when they might start planning to possibly build the first part of this link, but at this rate every kid at Indooroopilly State High School at the moment, and St Peters probably, would have almost graduated by the time anything happens. My youngest will graduate from Indro High in 2036. Fingers crossed we can see something done before then.

Frankly, the whole model where council waits on state funding once a year to do even the smallest bit of work on fixing up the cycling infrastructure has to change. The LNP council are happy enough to widen roads without any state funding and the state similarly will commit serious funding to road projects almost sight unseen. We need a more efficient process for cycling infrastructure.

There is money in this budget for much needed new buildings and refurbishment at Indooroopilly State School, which I absolutely welcome. Around a further \$1 million is allocated for maintenance and minor works across other schools in my electorate, which I am pleased to see. I am still really concerned that we do not have any commitment for new infrastructure at Indooroopilly State High School. The government seems to be relying solely on enrolment management to fix overcrowding rather than stumping up the cash that is desperately needed for new buildings and facilities at a well-loved and outstanding local high school that so many people want to send their kids to.

It is really disappointing that the process for delivering a new primary school in Brisbane's inner west has stalled and that the previous budget allocation has simply been removed in this year's budget, as far as I can tell. The government has promised it is still committed to delivering the school and if they are planning on breaking that promise they will absolutely need to explain it to the families across my electorate with kids in overcrowded classrooms, with limited play time and reduced facilities at their school. The budget does include something of a stop gap: \$19 million for upgrades at inner west primary schools. It is a pretty substantial sum, starting with \$4 million this year. It is a good sign that we have some big funding going into the westside, but I still have a lot of questions that I will refer to the minister. The department really needs to get on with identifying a new site for the school, ideally in Taringa where the three under-pressure catchments converge, and allocate funding from the increased land acquisition budget towards it—that is that increased \$174 million for school land acquisition which is up from \$65 million last year which I welcome.

To conclude, this budget is a case of what could happen if we started properly taxing corporations' super profits. Queenslanders still are not getting their fair share. We can make sure our health and education systems are fully funded, get out of coal and gas and make a fair transition plan for resources communities and house every Queenslander. To do this we need to take on the big banks, property developers and gas lobby together. While Labor gives handouts to property developers and the gas industry, the Greens are fighting for a real increase to mining and gas royalties, a big bank levy, a windfall tax on developer profits and a levy to stop investors leaving homes empty.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (12.23 pm): I congratulate the Treasurer on his budget. It is a budget focused on cost-of-living relief, creating jobs and delivering Queensland's largest ever infrastructure pipeline, the Big Build. Regional Queensland is a big focus in this year's budget. The budget contains cost-of-living relief for every Queensland household. It continues our biggest hospital infrastructure program, with more job-creating projects from Coolangatta through to the cape. Of the \$20.3 billion for the Big Build, 65 per cent of that is going to regional Queensland, supporting around 38,500 jobs. The Big Build means more good jobs and better services right across the state because the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing what Queenslanders need us to do and that is provide good jobs, better services and support for our great lifestyle.

We know that cost-of-living pressure is something being experienced by Queensland families. It is tough. That is why this budget is putting money back in the pockets of Queenslanders using our publicly owned assets, delivering a dividend for Queenslanders: \$550 off every household power bill; \$1,072 off power bills for pensioners and concession card holders. There will also be free kindy for all kids, saving families around \$4,600 a year.

I have been listening to the speeches of those opposite and I have not heard them say once that they would keep progressive coal royalties, which are delivering \$7 billion to our budget. How can those opposite support these projects and this funding in their electorates if there is going to be a \$7 billion black hole in the budget? That means they will cancel the Big Build and cut frontline services right across Queensland just like Campbell Newman did. They have already announced they want to cut \$10 billion from infrastructure. The member for Chatsworth has admitted to a secret plan for \$2 billion in cuts and he has backed it in since he made that comment.

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, order!

Mr BUTCHER: Before I talk about my portfolio areas I would like to take a moment to highlight what this budget means for my local community of Gladstone. Gladstone is an industrial powerhouse of Queensland and this budget delivers investment in our income generating assets and industries. Everywhere I go people are talking to me about hydrogen and renewables and how Gladstone is at the forefront of these developments so it was great to see in the budget that has been delivered over \$370 million to progress the development of renewable projects right across Central Queensland, in particular Gladstone. This includes investments in CleanCo and CS Energy—our publicly owned energy generators—only possible because we kept our assets in public hands.

There are some more big ticket items for Gladstone that I will get to shortly, but I wanted to start by highlighting some of the smaller announcements—in dollar figures—which are initiatives that will have a big impact on our community: \$3 million has been allocated for roof replacement, generator upgrade and the refurbishment of the pathology lab at the Gladstone Hospital; \$15.3 million for the construction of a new classroom and refurbishment of Q Block at Gladstone State High School; \$11 million for Toolooa High School to construct a new building and a new hall at that fantastic school. I acknowledge Principal Harrison for his work.

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide!

Mr BUTCHER: Central State School students will also benefit from a new hall to the tune of \$5.8 million; \$130,000 has been allocated to upgrade the accessible amenities at Benaraby State School—I know how much they have been looking forward to that.

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, I will give you a warning if I have to ask you to come to order one more time.

Mr BUTCHER: Thank you. So rude, the member for Callide. Gladstone students will also benefit from funding to continue the school breakfast program.

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr BUTCHER: For those listening and watching, that is the rudeness of the member for Callide. That is your local member and he should be ashamed of himself. The amount of \$865,000 has been allocated to build a housing and homeless hub in Gladstone that will offer food, shelter, clothing and vital support services to our people. I make particular mention of the increased accommodation and fuel subsidy under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme for Gladstone locals who need it most. But there is more: \$115.4 million to the great Gladstone Port; alternative port access road funding locked in; \$83 million for the Gladstone State Development Area; \$20.8 million for Powerlink upgrades; and \$2.6 million to the Clinton Industrial Estate.

I do not want to run out of time so I will turn to my portfolio area where there is so much going on. Our government's track record on water infrastructure is strong, investing \$4.5 billion and creating 2,940 jobs since 2015.

In this budget, our big water build continues with: increased investment in Rookwood Weir; a down payment on raising the Burdekin Falls Dam; the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline is locked in; the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline is locked in; the Paradise Dam is locked in; and the state funding for the Mount Morgan pipeline is locked in. In his budget reply, the Leader of the Opposition whinged about the cost of Rookwood Weir. Well, guess what? We are building that water infrastructure. It is not cheap but it is an investment in the future for our irrigators. Every time we hear the LNP whinge, which is often, about how much something costs it means they are going to cut it.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

As I was saying earlier, the people of Gladstone will benefit from some very important initiatives aimed at tackling the cost of living and improving services, including:

- \$550 off every household power bill
- \$1,072 off power bills for pensioner and concession card holders
- And \$650 off power bills for eligible small businesses

Back to my portfolio, the Palaszczuk Labor Government continues to deliver for regional Queensland. More than \$1.7 billion of funding for water infrastructure and planning, supporting water security projects right across the state.

I'm proud that this Budget has allocated an additional \$440 million for one of the state's most important projects, making safe and raising our largest dam, the Burdekin Falls Dam.

This project is using our progressive coal royalties and reinvesting them in our regions.

If those opposite had their way—progressive coal royalties would go, and infrastructure projects like this would be cut.

Once complete, the two-metre raising will unlock more water and more opportunities for North Queensland—up to 150,000 megalitres of new water allocations.

This project will future proof North Queensland's water security, growing existing industries like agriculture and delivering opportunities for emerging industries like hydrogen.

Not only that, the project will also provide more than 350 jobs during construction.

This year's Budget also progresses the Paradise Dam Improvement Project, providing \$116.4 million this year to continue pre-construction activities.

This work will support around 250 jobs during construction and will deliver long-term water security for the Bundaberg region.

In Central Queensland, the Palaszczuk Labor Government is increasing the investment in Rookwood Weir, with \$156.7 million to be spent this year. This project is supporting 320 local jobs right now.

Like many others around the country, we are seeing a range of factors adding to financial pressures on our projects, and Rookwood Weir is no different.

Rookwood Weir has faced six wet weather inundation events—a product of an unprecedented level of rain in the wet seasons that had a significant impact on construction timeframes and costs.

Despite all these challenges, Rookwood Weir is on track for completion by the end of the year.

The Big Build is happening right across the state. The Palaszczuk Labor Government is a step closer to bringing water security to the Southern Downs.

The Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline project has \$300 million locked in. In this budget we have \$13.4 million spent this year to support pre-construction works.

What's not to like? More water security for Toowoomba and the Southern Downs and more jobs for regional Queenslanders—in fact, more than 400 jobs.

In addition, Toowoomba Regional Council will receive \$15 million over four years to deliver treated water to the communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton.

Southern Downs Regional Council will also benefit from this game-changing project, receiving \$8.5 million over five years for network monitoring to reduce losses and leaks in its water network.

The Gladstone Area Water Board will spend \$548.5 million for the construction of the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline. This project will create 400 local jobs with more than 25 apprenticeships.

This 117-kilometre pipeline will run from the Lower Fitzroy River in Rockhampton and connect to Gladstone Area Water Board's existing water network at Yarwun.

The pipeline is just the sort of project recommended by the Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development expert panel—investing in water infrastructure closer to where the water falls, using local water resources effectively and developing regional water grids.

If that sounds familiar, it's because the Bradfield Panel recommended this for Central Queensland.

It brings us more urban water security. It supports established and existing industry. And it secures more water for future focused job creating, clean industries. Like renewables and green hydrogen for Gladstone.

Speaking of green hydrogen and renewables, the budget also allocates \$8 million over two years for a detailed business case to look into sustainable long-term water for a growing green hydrogen industry in the Gladstone region.

That's the kind of long-term and forward planning that this Government is delivering.

I am pleased to advise the Palaszczuk Labor Government has allocated \$11.7 million over three years for a First Nations Water Strategy.

This funding will strengthen engagement with First Nations communities. It will also promote cultural inclusion when it comes to water planning across Queensland.

This follows the passing of the Path to Treaty Bill earlier this year, where the Palaszczuk Labor Government outlined a firm commitment to build stronger partnerships with First Nations Peoples.

First Nations Peoples will be empowered to participate in decisions about water that has also played a critical role in their lives—in culture, custom and identity.

There are so many more projects in this Budget that are vital to keep water flowing across regional Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is committed to making sure all Queenslanders have safe and reliable water and sewerage services no matter where they live, so we've allocated \$2.6 million for an Urban Water Risk Assessment to identify drinking water and water security challenges across remote and regional communities.

Working with Local Governments to identify and tackle challenges before they become problems.

\$22.8 million will continue the 15 per cent irrigation price discount. This is an important measure and will help keep irrigation prices as low as possible for eligible growers, and helping keep food prices low on the shelves.

\$7 million has been allocated for Cloncurry's water supply through the Community Service Obligation.

\$10.8 million has been allocated as part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$40.4 million contribution to the Mount Morgan Pipeline.

Our support for the State Council of River Trusts continues with \$300,000 allocated to support the important work of River Improvement Trusts across Queensland.

Queenslanders can count on the Palaszczuk Labor Government to deliver water projects needed across the state, no matter where you live. Our record is now more than \$5.2 billion since 2015.

To be clear, we are pro water infrastructure. We're a government that's delivering water infrastructure across Queensland. But we need to make sure projects stack up, environmentally and economically.

Building our Regions is a program that I'm particularly passionate about. Under the Big Build, Building our Regions will continue to strengthen and improve water and sewerage infrastructure and planning projects throughout the state with a \$28 million investment this year, part of the \$70 million in total that has been allocated for Round 6.

The Building our Regions program has already supported 3,180 construction jobs, and this continued investment will create even more regional jobs.

These vital, though unglamorous, projects ensure regional Queenslanders have efficient, reliable water and sewerage infrastructure now and into the future. It is also a crucial funding program that helps local governments maintain their infrastructure.

With these investments, Queenslanders can rest assured that urban water, sewerage and irrigation water supplies are stable, safe and affordable.

The hugely successful Made in Queensland Grant Program continues with \$32.2 million invested in Queensland manufacturers, helping them adopt new technology, gain international competitiveness, productivity and innovation.

Made in Queensland has created and supported more than 5,400 jobs, and the investment in this budget will ensure even more manufacturing jobs are made in Queensland.

I want to also make mention of our Manufacturing Hubs and the incredible work they deliver. Our six Manufacturing Hubs are supporting businesses to adopt the machinery, technology and processes they need to advance their businesses.

The budget invests \$16.7 million towards the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program because we know that that this financial support helps grow good, secure jobs, in workshops right across Queensland.

Together, the Palaszczuk Government's investment in these two successful grant programs has seen more than 6,400 jobs supported and created.

We expect this to rise to more than 9,200 jobs on completion of all projects. The projects will generate more than \$165 million in private sector investment for our state.

I'd like to pause to reflect on that. That's more than 9,200 jobs created and retained by our Queensland based manufacturers by the time all the currently funded projects are completed. And we know jobs in manufacturing are good, secure and well-paid.

The Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Hub will also receive \$7.2 million over four years to continue its vital work in leading edge robotics for manufacturers.

This ARM Hub has had a stellar year, celebrating its third birthday and even helped a local startup manufacturer send their product into space—the sky isn't the limit, it's just the start for Queensland manufacturers.

This Budget and these priorities make it clear we are serious about manufacturing in Queensland and there is no better place to manufacture than Queensland.

This is a Big Build that delivers big for Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Will those opposite support this measure that has delivered so much for Queensland?

As Minister for Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, I'm proud to stand behind this Budget and what it promises for regional Queensland—that's good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle today, and into the future.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.30 pm): I rise to speak on the Palaszczuk government's outstanding 2023-24 budget with cost-of-living support for Queensland families, an enormous \$20 billion capital infrastructure investment and a surplus that the federal government would be proud of. The budget handed down by the Treasurer this week is an outstanding Labor budget, with the welfare of Queensland at its heart. This is further brought to life through our continued strong investment in hospitals and health, in policing and justice, in housing and in our Energy and Jobs Plan, which are all funded in part by progressive coal royalties that ensure Queenslanders reap the deserved benefit from a fair share of the profits created by the minerals beneath their feet.

This is a budget that, at its core, shows what the Palaszczuk government is all about. Ours is a government with a strong plan for Queensland—not just words and slogans but real policy and real action. Our plan is not to cut more than 600 jobs at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, as the LNP did when in power as part of their agenda of cutting, sacking and selling.

As Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I could not be prouder of what this budget will deliver for our primary producers. As the Treasurer said in his speech on Tuesday—

Regional Queensland delivers our economic success ... through the food and fibre that is recognised around the world for its sustainable quality. Queensland's reputation for high-quality agriculture is a competitive advantage that must be maintained.

Our produce is the best in the world and, as minister, I want to make sure our primary producers are supported to expand on their remarkable record of putting outstanding food on the table for Queenslanders and indeed, the rest of the world.

Before I delve into the detail of this budget, I would like to thank our industry representatives who joined me online on Tuesday to discuss what this budget means for them. They included the QFF, AgForce, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, the Nursery and Garden Industry Association of Queensland, GrowCom, the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, David Foote from Cattle Australia and Australian Country Choice along with other stakeholders from across our state. Their feedback has been invaluable and we are proud to work with them for the benefit of our state's agricultural sector.

The budget includes a \$550 million investment into agriculture and fisheries, with a targeted focus on our state's biosecurity and drought resilience. The LNP has not been vocal on whether they would keep progressive coal royalties, which are delivering \$7 billion to the budget. How can they support agriculture in Queensland if there is going to be a \$7 billion hole in the budget? That just means the LNP will cancel the Big Build and cut frontline staff across Queensland, just like Campbell Newman did when he cut my department. They have already announced that they want to cut \$10 billion from infrastructure and the member for Chatsworth has admitted to a secret plan for \$2 billion in cuts.

Queensland faces more biosecurity threats than any other state. The threats of pest and disease are always knocking on our door, from air and from sea. Those are threats that could decimate our world-class agriculture if given the chance. The Palaszczuk government is determined not to give them the chance. We recognise these threats and remain ironclad on our commitment to fortify our defences against pests and disease. That is reflected in a bumper biosecurity budget.

We are investing \$61 million over the next four years to do our bit to combat fire ants. That money will go towards the National Fire Ant Eradication Program, which is co-funded by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. That is in addition to funding for the program that was brought forward in our previous budget. The program is the most successful fire ant program in the world. Nations such as the United States, China and Japan have struggled to contain the spread of that pest but it has been contained to just South-East Queensland, thanks to the program. Since the first detection in Brisbane in 2001, if left unchecked, by now fire ants would have spread as far north as Bowen, as far west as Longreach and as far south as Canberra. Put simply, when it comes to fire ants we are doing our part.

We are also doing our part when it comes to the national fight against other pests and diseases. A sum of \$35 million over five years, and \$7 million each year after that, has been committed to the National Biosecurity Strategy. It is a cohesive plan that will ensure that all states and territories are working together with the Commonwealth to protect us all from biosecurity threats. It does not matter if a pest or disease crosses the border in Victoria, New South Wales or the Northern Territory; it can still pose a serious problem for Queensland. That is why it is so important that we are working together and never have we worked together better than with the federal Labor government at the helm.

The biosecurity investment in this budget does not end there. We will invest \$22 million over five years and \$2.5 million every year after that to address increasing animal biosecurity risks. This includes combating foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and other diseases that can severely impact Queensland livestock. We will also invest \$21.7 million over the next 5 years and \$2.8 million each year after that to prepare for plant pest and diseases.

In terms of drought, for the first time in a decade, less than ten per cent of Queensland is drought declared. Only the Diamantina and Bulloo shires remain officially in drought. While the lush green pastures and good conditions are here now, we know they will not always stick around.

Standing here once again as the farmers' friend, I am proud to have delivered another agriculture budget that will protect Queensland's food and fibre from biosecurity threats, provide assistance for farmers to be as drought prepared as they can be, and invest in creating more jobs and prosperity for rural and regional Queensland. The cost-of-living relief and major capital works benefits delivered in this budget will make a real difference to all Queenslanders. It is a plan that can be delivered by a strong and stable Palaszczuk Labor government, which will continue putting Queenslanders first.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Queensland has withstood searing droughts before, and with drier conditions on the way, we know there is every chance we will experience them again in the future.

The Palaszczuk Government remains the best friend to farmers, and we are steadfastly committed to helping our primary producers and agribusinesses to be drought resilient.

We will invest \$100 million in loans over 2 years, and \$48.5 million over the next 3 years for programs and grants in the name of drought preparedness—expanding on previous funding commitments.

This funding will help farmers to install vital infrastructure like water tanks and feed storage.

Infrastructure that will help Queensland farmers to stay resilient when the river runs dry.

Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap

This year I released the Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap, with the support of the Queensland Farmers' Federation and AgForce.

A guiding document to assist primary producers and agribusiness owners continue the great work they are doing in reducing carbon emissions right across the supply chain—from paddock, to plate.

I'm proud to say this budget supports continued implementation of the Roadmap.

Sustainable fisheries

Since our election in 2015 the Palaszczuk Government has recognised the importance of protecting Queensland's abundant and healthy fisheries.

To ensure that our children, and their children, and their children will be able to enjoy fresh Queensland seafood, or throw a line in to catch barra or whiting.

All part of our great Queensland lifestyle, and all extremely important to protect.

That's why we're proud to be continuing our investment in our Sustainable Fisheries Strategy in this budget, to the tune of \$11.7 million over 3 years.

We will also be investing \$22 million over 4 years for the implementation of Independent Data Validation, monitoring commercial fishing activities in order to provide more accurate data on protected species interactions.

Forestry

The Native Timber Action Plan is supporting a competitive and sustainable timber industry in Queensland while also making sure we're doing our bit for conservation.

In this budget, we'll commit \$2.1 million to continue delivering the Plan, and I'm looking forward to continuing to meet regularly with timber leaders in Queensland to forge a successful path for the industry.

It was only on Wednesday I met with Parkside Timber to discuss the Palaszczuk Government's support for the industry, and how that will support them in their future endeavours.

RED Grants

Our Rural Economic Development Grants—better known as RED Grants—have provided \$12 million for agribusinesses and primary producers so far, supporting the creation of more than 2,500 jobs in Queensland's rural communities.

The Palaszczuk Government backs the bush, and we're backing RED Grants for the bush with further funding once again.

Another \$3.3 million has been allocated for further editions of this successful program.

Rural communities

Cost of living issues that are being faced right across Australia are at the top of the list of concerns for many Queenslanders.

This is certainly the case for many primary producers, and indeed, right across rural and regional Queensland.

It's important to note that the significant investment our government has made into measures like Cost of Living Rebates through power bills, free kindy, learn-to-swim vouchers, and accommodation and fuel subsidies for rural and regional Queenslanders who are travelling for essential healthcare—all of these measures will help our rural communities.

The Palaszczuk Government is ensuring the wealth derived for our state from the soil of rural and regional Queensland is flowing back to the bush.

This budget's strong investment in regional Queensland is clear to see in the \$20 billion capital works program.

65 per cent of that money has been committed to projects outside of greater Brisbane.

The scientists in my department undertake some of the finest agriculture research in the world.

Blazing a trail for bigger, tastier and more resilient crops.

Testing and trialling new agricultural technologies that will help our farmers achieve better yields.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to support the excellent work of DAF scientists, with \$4 million towards upgrading research and operational facilities.

In much the same vein, we're also committing \$1.5 million to upgrade infrastructure and equipment at the Gatton Smart Farm.

We continue our focus on animal welfare with \$600,000 for the Young Animal Protection Society in Cairns to upgrade adoption facilities.

I am also looking forward to soon releasing the animal management taskforce discussion paper regarding proposed dog attack law reform, and announcing a consultation period. Watch this space.

Our government is also recognising the great work the Country Women's Association does in rural communities throughout Queensland, committing \$500,000 in grants to the Association for infrastructure upgrades.

Ferry Grove

There is a great deal to be excited about in this budget for my local electorate of Ferry Grove.

Our cost of living measures will make a big difference.

In fact it was just last Saturday I was at the Open Day of the Mitchelton Pre-School Centre. One of the centre executives was extremely complimentary of the Palaszczuk Government's free kindy initiative.

It's feedback like this that shows that our plan is helping members of the community.

In addition to cost of living measures like free kindy and energy bill rebates, there are a number of cash injections into local programs and projects that will directly benefit my community.

I'm proud to see this budget continues delivering important investments in upgrading local schools.

In April I was on hand to help turn the sod at Oakleigh State School in Ashgrove for the construction of a brand new hall, as part of our Great Schools Great Future program.

This budget continues delivering funding for that project, with \$5 million out of a total of more than \$8 million to be invested this financial year.

I'm really look forward to getting back to Oakleigh and seeing the finished product when it is completed—it will be a fantastic addition to the school.

Mitchelton State School students can look forward to a refreshed F Block building, with \$700,000 allocated in the budget to refurbish it.

This budget also continues delivering funding for the \$15 million construction of new facilities at Mitchelton Special School, \$1.2 million to upgrade amenities at Ferny Hills State School.

Almost \$850,000 will go towards important general maintenance and upkeep of our local schools as well.

And the investment is flowing for more than just our local schools.

A \$200,000 commitment has been made for the development of the Hills District Community Hub.

The Palaszczuk Government always backs local TAFEs, and that continues with a \$280,000 investment into the Grovely TAFE that will go towards training infrastructure and maintenance.

As Minister in charge of agriculture I am particularly pleased with this investment in Grovely, as it is a TAFE campus that is renowned for the delivery of horticulture and animal studies courses.

King's Birthday Honours

And before I conclude, there is one more acknowledgement I would like to make.

I would like to congratulate Bernadette Ditchfield, my Deputy Director-General of Agriculture, and Malcolm Letts, my former Chief Biosecurity Officer, who have been awarded Public Service Medals in the recent King's Birthday Honours.

Their work—especially during our COVID response—was integral to the ongoing success of the agricultural industry in this state during uncertain times, that helped see our sector continue to thrive.



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the budget debate. A budget sets out a government's priorities. Therefore, with the chaos and crisis that we have seen booming in health, one would hope that we would see some priority for that. With the youth crime crisis in my community and more broadly across the whole of Queensland, one would hope to see a priority for that. With a cost-of-living crisis, again, one would hope that the government would act. We hear their words—

Ms Boyd: Have you read the papers?

Mr WATTS:—and we hear that they are acting.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr WATTS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I ask that she turns her microphone on so that the people of Queensland can hear her nonsensical interjections and so that we can make sure that they are recorded by Hansard.

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

Mr WATTS: The member for Pine Rivers.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Toowoomba North is addressing people directly across the chamber, which is against the standing orders.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to direct all comments through the chair. I remind members to let the member speak.

Mr WATTS: Let us look at the cost of living, which we hear a lot about. At the same time as we hear about the cost of living we also hear about an increase in debt to \$140-plus billion. The question is: when a government incurs debt, whose debt is it and who pays for it in the future? Of course, this intergenerational debt will be paid for by the sons and daughters of Queenslanders. By increasing the debt to \$140 billion it would seem that we are not actually addressing the cost of living in the long term.

In addition, in one quarter we have seen a 32 per cent increase in the cost of electricity. Some of the hardworking members of my community, particularly in Toowoomba, are fundamentally dependent on that electricity to be cheap and available through winter so that they can keep warm. I am concerned that the cost of living has not been addressed as widely it should be. I am also concerned about the debt going forward.

Let me come to the crime crisis because I have repeatedly asked in this chamber for the number of police rostered on in Toowoomba. We find that either the department or the Police Service are hiding the numbers by saying it is too much work to get those numbers. Since the last election, we know that the numbers across the state have dropped by 72. What the people of Queensland and the people of Toowoomba want is the truth not about approved positions but about what boots are actually available on the ground. I asked a very simple question: during January how many general duties police were available to be rostered on? I was told that that is too complicated to get. I explained the other night in the chamber that someone who misleads this House can face serious charges. I am told by people in the Police Service that it is not too difficult to get that information.

I again ask the minister to be aware that I will be pursuing those numbers. The people of the Toowoomba community deserve to know how many officers are available for rostering so that it can be clear that the youth crime crisis and the chaos caused by this government changing the legislation—and having this generation grow up with no consequence for their actions—has repercussions in terms of Police Service resourcing. That is the crime crisis.

When it comes to the health crisis, we hear an awful lot about spending on hospitals. I welcome the \$50 million that has been allocated in this budget to the Toowoomba Hospital. I welcome the fact that we now have a tender. Everybody in Toowoomba knows that originally we were looking to get a \$2 billion tertiary hospital with increased levels of service, because we are the service centre for South-West Queensland. We did not get that. We will be split across two campuses. We have \$1.3 billion, of which 95 per cent is allocated beyond the forwards of this budget. That is actually off in the never-never. It will be funded at some future point by some future government—certainly beyond the next election.

Whilst I appreciate the \$50 million will mean that some earthworks will be done and that we have a tender, it is not enough to solve the health crisis and it is not enough to service my community in the coming decades—not by any stretch. The government should be allocating resources for a hospital not to service today's needs but to make sure that, when we build a hospital, for the lifetime of that hospital it will be able to service the needs not just of my community but of the wider south-west region. It should be a university hospital, a tertiary-level hospital, with a serious level of services so that we do not have to heli-vac people to Brisbane all the time and they can be treated locally by the very competent staff we have in Toowoomba. I thank all the staff for the work that they do, but they deserve a built environment that allows them to deliver the services the people of Queensland, Toowoomba and Darling Downs demand. We do see an increase in some doctors, though, and that is a good thing. The Premier's office has increased—I think it is 98 more spin doctors. Obviously that means they can get the message out that the hospital has not been funded adequately until beyond the forwards.

To be fair, there is some good news. I have been working for some time with the community at Toowoomba North State School. The P&C, the teachers, the students and the staff should be thanked for coming together as a community to push to try to get a sports hall enclosed, which is what we were looking for. To the education minister's credit, she has gone beyond that and will now build them a new sports hall. This is a very deserving community. I am sure they all would like to make sure that I thank the minister for spending that money in the community. Unfortunately, in this budget only \$300,000 has been allocated, but that is a really good start. That will build them a substantial facility when they get the full \$8-plus million for the hall. I thank the minister for that.

There is also some money for car parking at Fairview Heights State School which the P&C, the staff and the community have been lobbying for with me as their strong local voice. I appreciate the minister listening and providing some money to bitumen some more car parking there. There are a couple of other schools for which we still need to do some work, particularly around safety. One is the Stuart Street junction just near Toowoomba State High School at Mount Lofty. It is a safety issue on a foggy morning travelling down the hill to the staggered junction. We have had several accidents. I would like to think we can invest in that road and make it a much safer junction prior to a real tragedy happening. At the moment, it has been only financial expenses and temporary visits to the hospital to get services, but that is something that I think should be done. Out the front of Wilsonton State High School there has been a call for a scramble crossing because so many kids cross the road and they

end up piled up on one corner of Richmond Drive and North Street and they fall off the kerbs. If we can turn that junction into a scramble crossing, it will be so much safer for them. I would like to see whether that falls into the funding allocated for making school areas safer in terms of roads.

Those at Rockville State School have simply asked for their crossing to be highlighted as a pedestrian crossing so it can be used out of school hours for as well by people coming backwards and forwards to the school. There are a couple of opportunities for us that did not come up in this budget, but hopefully we can work on as the year goes on.

In terms of roads in my electorate, something the community has been calling for for some time—and we have done activity around it—is a roundabout at Kratzke, O'Brien and Highfields roads. There is money in this budget for that. It is not clear whether it is for next year, the year after or the year after that, but hopefully before 2027 we will finally get a roundabout there to help that junction work smoother.

The real opportunity for Toowoomba is the north-south corridor connection—building a new New England Highway effectively—to take pressure off the existing New England Highway as traffic tries to get to town. Sometimes it takes five or six attempts to get through a set of traffic lights at peak times. It is inefficient for the city and is certainly inefficient for transport that is trying to use the New England to get north and south around Toowoomba. To its credit, the department has been working on a plan. We need to make sure this plan has much wider consultation, because there are certainly some issues around the environment and koala habitat in the north. There are definitely some issues around future development restrictions in the south on land that at some point in the future may well be very developable as Toowoomba grows. I would hate to see a dual carriageway put straight through that land when we have a corridor a little further west which is a part of the Gore Highway and bypass that could be used. I think there are some sensible solutions available there. I encourage the department to work harder with the community to explore those solutions and to explain, if they are not going to work, why. Let us as a community understand so that we can all move together and get on with getting this road connected, because it will definitely help the city grow and make it more productive, more efficient and more livable for people trying to get around.

Recently, we had an outbreak of fire ants in Kleinton at Highfields. That is of great concern. I did see that there was a cut in the biosecurity budget, which was also concerning. I know that the issue of fire ants is outside of that budget, but we must be ever vigilant on biosecurity. Fire ants are a potential absolute disaster for both horticulture and agriculture. If they get to Toowoomba and establish a foothold, I point out that we are a logistics hub for pretty much the whole of the east coast. Obviously, we are all dependent on income and jobs opportunities from agriculture and horticulture. I urge the government to throw everything it has at this to make sure that fire ants do not gain a foothold in my community. I ask the community to be vigilant and to go to the various websites—my website, the department's website and the minister's website—to understand what we are looking at and make sure we have an awareness about it.

I am concerned about the Olympic legacy for Toowoomba. It seems that we might get a couple of rounds of soccer matches, but we do not have an athletics track for 165,000 people in Toowoomba and the wider Darling Downs area. We do not even have a throw circle, yet the best throwers have come out of Toowoomba for both the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics. We do not have a circle that even has a proper netting around it and a flat surface. I think we can do much better with our Olympic legacy.

We also do not have enough female change room facilities. If we really want to get serious about making sure females are participating in sport, we need to upgrade those facilities. If ever there were an Olympic legacy I was looking for, it would be an athletics track, female change room facilities and other athletics such as throws being able to be accommodated in our area.


When it comes to social housing, I was concerned because not only on a statewide basis do we see a reduction in the number of new builds but also in Toowoomba we see a million dollars cut out of the budget in new builds. I acknowledge that not everything is necessarily a new build but, if we want to increase capacity in the rental market, we have to build new homes. Cutting the budget by a million dollars is not going to achieve that. That was disappointing to see. It just goes to show the failure of the government to deliver in my community on these things. To see the housing budget cut at a time when costs are increasing in that area means that we will not be able to deal with the housing crisis caused by this government that my community is experiencing.

There is another opportunity that I would like to talk about briefly. Several of the environmental groups have asked me to start pushing for Redwood Park to be recognised as a national park. I think that is something we should consider as part of the protected area estate. I think the escarpment not

just at Redwood but generally gives good prospects for that. It is land that is hard to develop. It is land that provides good habitat for many of our native species. I think it is land that we should protect, whilst allowing ecotourism and other kinds of eco activities to go on in those areas, so I encourage the minister to look at that.

I want to mention payroll tax briefly. Toowoomba is not getting the regional exemption. In Toowoomba we never quite know whether we are in the south-east corner or outside the south-east corner. What we find is that when the government is spending money we are outside the south-east corner and when the government is trying to raise money we are included in the south-east corner. We are two-time losers when it comes to the government's treatment of Toowoomba. Either we are in the south-east corner or we are not. To be honest, it does not really matter which one you pick. It matters that you are consistent, so the payroll tax exemption should be looked at. Chaos and crisis and a failure to deliver are hallmarks of this government.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.51 pm): I am proud today to speak to this year's Appropriation Bill, introduced by our Treasurer, the Hon. Cameron Dick. What a fine Treasurer and what a fine budget, I must say. This is now my ninth year of supporting a strong state Labor budget with cost-of-living relief, jobs, infrastructure, health, education and housing all at its forefront.

We are delivering \$550 in cost-of-living relief straight to Queensland households through their electricity bills. I have already had calls to my office about how helpful that will be. For vulnerable households with electricity concessions, the relief is nearly double, and there is a \$650 rebate for eligible small businesses as well. My biggest motivation—and most members in this place know this—to run for parliament was to make sure that we kept our electricity assets in public hands. We have and that is why we can deliver these dividends for Queenslanders, right when they need it most.

Our \$89 billion four-year Big Build capital infrastructure program is phenomenal for our state and will support around 58,000 jobs in the next financial year alone. It is exciting to see the number of clean energy projects, including the largest pumped hydro project in the world, getting their start in this budget thanks to our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. There is also money for dams—I know those opposite love dams—including \$12 million over two years for a safety upgrade at North Pine Dam, located at the southern end of my electorate and mostly in the electorate of my neighbour the member for Pine Rivers. I know that this will make residents in Whiteside and Joyner very happy and, once completed, we will be able to raise the dam's capacity back up over its current level of around 70 per cent.

Another budget item that will make residents in the south of my electorate happy—and many in the north too who commute towards the city for work—is \$15 million to deliver an upgrade to the intersection of Dayboro and Youngs Crossing roads. I look forward to working with the Moreton Bay Regional Council on this project. I will just put on the record once again that I still want to see consideration given to another river crossing to the west of this intersection as part of the longer term Moreton Motorway planning process. There are plenty of powerline corridors that could be utilised for roads as well.

For public transport commuters in and around Burpengary there is great news in this budget—almost \$15 million for the Burpengary station accessibility upgrade. The project tender has been awarded to Hutchinson Builders. Earlier prep works commenced back in February and locals will soon see a lot more high-vis activity on site. There is a bit more money for the Narangba station parking extension too. I am sure the minister is sick of me knocking on the door about this one, but it is a project that is very close to my heart and I will be jumping for joy when it is delivered.

We have increased health funding by almost 10 per cent. There is funding in the budget to operationalise our new satellite hospitals, with both the Caboolture and the Kallangur facilities set to benefit my constituents by providing non-urgent health care close to home. It was great to tour the Caboolture Satellite Hospital with the health minister a couple of weeks ago. I want to thank the previous health minister for her work in delivering these revolutionary new medical spaces as well.

The Caboolture Hospital redevelopment, worth almost \$400 million, is also nearing completion, with a new and expanded emergency department, an expanded special care nursery, a day chemotherapy unit, more beds and more parking set to come online this year. This budget continues funding for construction of new ambulance stations at both the north and south borders of my electorate in Morayfield and Lawnton. We did the sod turn at Morayfield last month. I know that the member for Morayfield, my neighbour, Minister Ryan, is very excited about that as well.

In education, we are making kindy free for our little Queenslanders from next year, saving new kindy families \$4,600 and allowing parents and carers some time to get back into the workforce or take on more work if they choose to. While we are talking about our little people, I will mention the new SwimStart vouchers we are funding for families with children aged zero to four. They will be able to apply for up to \$150 each. With the cost of living rising across the nation, I know swimming lessons can seem a luxury for struggling families. This program is set to help them out.

More on our education investment: the nine state schools in my electorate will share in a million dollars of maintenance and minor works money, with a classroom block refurbishment also funded for Burpengary State School.

Mr Whiting: Hear, hear!

Mr KING: I know the member for Bancroft is particularly passionate about Burpengary State School. It is Narangba State School's turn for some big ticket love this year, with \$3.5 million in the budget to build additional specialist classrooms and fund two refurbishment projects. I want to acknowledge Principal Angela Bell, who is new to the school this year, on these great early achievements and I commend the hardworking P&C there as well. I look forward to working with the school community to deliver these improvements.

I want to once again thank the Treasurer for delivering this amazing budget, as well as acknowledge the tough economic climate in which it is delivered. Those opposite have not agreed to continue our revenue stream of progressive coalmining royalties. That is not surprising really when you consider that the head of the Resources Council's anti-Labor campaign is a former LNP minister. I do not know how those opposite are going to fund the promises they have made without the progressive coal royalties. I know of a few ways they could do it. They could sell assets like they did last time. We hear from those opposite, 'Labor sold assets.' The LNP sold over \$10 billion of assets when they were in power last time. I have tabled documents in this place again and again that show that. That is one way they fund their promises. They also fund things by sacking and cutting services.

If they do not accept the coal royalties, it would seem the LNP would rather see struggling Queensland families choose between food and rent, struggling seniors choose to be cold for fear of their energy bills and struggling workers unable to put petrol in their cars than ask their mining mates to share the billions and billions in profits they make from Queensland's natural resources. I do not think that passes the pub test.

Sometimes we have to make tough choices. I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk state Labor government that is making those choices for the benefit of our battlers, delivering cost-of-living relief, good jobs and better services, and continuing to invest in our great lifestyle here in Queensland.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Delivering for Queensland and Moreton Bay

In addition to the projects in the Kurwongbah electorate that I've mentioned, this budget includes:

- \$1m to begin work on a new Moreton Bay Housing and Homelessness Services Hub.
- \$52.9m for social housing in Moreton Bay.
- Built-to-rent tax concessions for eligible developments providing affordable homes with cheaper rents.
- \$72m for First Home Owners Grants, a program that has delivered almost 7000 grants worth over \$115 million to new home owners just in the Moreton Bay region since the Palaszczuk Government came to power.
- \$9.7m for Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs—and I want to give a shout out to the Youth Development Foundation who've been doing some really great work down at Old Petrie Town.
- A new youth detention centre at Woodford.
- Youth Co-responder teams for Moreton Bay, to deal with and divert at-risk young people in our communities.
- \$87.5 million over five years to recruit more police, and
- A record operating budget for the Queensland Police Service in 2023-24 of \$3.281 billion.
- \$14.8m towards our billion dollar expansion of Redcliffe Hospital.
- Over \$200m for the Resilient Homes Fund, helping people affected by flooding to repair and retro fit more flood proof homes.

- \$13m more for our Modern Manufacturing Initiative, helping businesses improve their processes and adopt new technologies.
- \$234m over five years for waste and resource recovery—and Speaker, I never waste an opportunity to say how much my community loves our Containers for Change program!

This budget progresses our Path to Treaty, continues our offering of free TAFE places, invests \$68.6m in our Rebuild of QBuild, and funds subsidies for businesses to hire eligible unemployed job seekers. It allocates \$4.3m for more food and emergency relief (including vouchers, food parcels and help to pay utility bills), and \$2.7m over two years to expand delivery of school breakfast club programs.

There's also \$13.4m in QCAT funding over 4 years which I know will make some of my constituents very happy, and \$16.3m over four years for wraparound seniors services such as expos and tackling social isolation.

I mentioned our historical Cost of Living Rebate, \$550 for every Queensland household at the beginning of this speech, and at a cost of \$1.435 billion, Speaker, I think it's worth mentioning again.

And Speaker, we are delivering all of this while bringing the budget into surplus. Because we've made the right choices, the responsible choices for the benefit of all Queenslanders. I commend the Bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (2.00 pm): I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the honourable Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, the member for Woodridge. I congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and his team. What a great budget it is for the Queensland that we serve, for all Queenslanders regardless of where they live, and for all Queenslanders who live in my electorate of Mansfield. This great Labor budget addresses challenges in health, housing and cost of living impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, mass interstate migration, labour shortages, increasing interest rates, record inflation and nine years of neglect by the federal LNP government. This budget creates jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and delivering infrastructure—the Big Build—building the economy of the future. This budget delivers health and education infrastructure for the future success of young Queenslanders and cost-of-living measures for the prosperity of our great state.

All Queenslanders will receive a \$550 cost-of-living rebate off their electricity bill in the next financial year. As a former school principal and still passionate educator, it comes as no surprise that I have worked hard to secure more than \$22 million for our local schools in the Palaszczuk government's 2023-24 budget. Like most suburbs in Brisbane, my electorate experiences a shortage of green space. To help address this, \$1.6 million will light every school oval in the Mansfield electorate, and I thank the Minister for Sport for his support. Free kindy from the beginning of 2024 will save local families \$4,600 per year. The early years is the most important time for cognitive development and learning. Our government will ensure that every child will be afforded the opportunity of early education regardless of their postcode.

The Palaszczuk Labor government can deliver this record investment in education because of our courageous revenue initiatives through ensuring Queenslanders get paid for the resources they own. I have not heard from the opposition whether they will continue progressive coal royalties should they win government in 2024. We know that if they do not it will leave a significant black hole in service delivery and the BIG Build the Palaszczuk government has planned for Queenslanders.

We know that during the time the LNP was in office they tried to privatise cleaners in schools, for example. I know at the time I had 35 cleaners working in my community who were all fearful of losing their jobs. We know that they tried to put every school principal in Queensland on a contract—1,250 of us—and there is certainly not one cleaner or school principal who would ever vote for the LNP in the future. In fact, 1,460 people in my electorate lost their jobs from 2012 to 2015, and there is not a day that goes by in my community where I am not reminded of those people who lost their jobs. We know that when people lose their jobs they lose hope, they lose dignity. We know that our government acknowledges the dignity of work. We know there will be significant cuts in services, jobs and certainly in the Big Build that the Palaszczuk government has planned for Queensland.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Education

A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. When I was elected to this Parliament, I vowed that I would strive to ensure the Mansfield Electorate became a hub of educational excellence, the reason that many young families flock to our Electorate every month is to access our high performing schools. I am proud of the schools in my Electorate, and the quality education they provide.

As a former school principal and still a passionate educator, I know the importance of investing in teachers, the teaching and learning process and school infrastructure for my community.

\$22 million for local schools in the Palaszczuk Government's 2023-24 Budget.

This includes:

- \$10.1 million (of \$16.2 million) for Rochedale State High School to deliver a new hall facility as part of my 2020 Election Commitment;
- \$9.8 million (of \$11.1 million) for Wishart State School to build new classrooms;
- \$600,000 for Rochedale State School to refurbish their Administration Block.
- \$450,000 (of \$508,000) for Rochedale State High School to support the Rochedale Academy of Sport and
- \$400,000 (of \$424,000) to install oval lighting at Mount Gravatt East State School.
- \$361,000 (of \$650,000) for Upper Mount Gravatt State School to renew the carpark; and
- \$940,000 for maintenance of State Schools across our entire community.

Free period products will be made available to every Queensland state school. Queensland charity Share the Dignity will be provided with funding to expand our initiative and install vending machines with free tampons and pads at every Queensland state school that needs one. Access to free period products can make a real difference to children, especially students whose families are doing it tough, have unstable accommodation or are fleeing domestic and family violence.

The Palaszczuk Government platform of jobs, health and education continues to guide our Government in every decision we make.

Since being elected in November 2017, I have delivered more than \$200 million to our local schools.

I congratulate the Minister for Education for her commitment to the children of Queensland. The Palaszczuk Government has a clear vision for education, we believe that a quality education transforms lives, it is the best investment that we can make for the future of Queenslanders and for the future prosperity of our great State.

Acting Speaker, as said, the Palaszczuk Labor Government can deliver this record investment in education because of our courageous revenue initiatives through ensuring Queenslanders get paid for the resources they own.

This act is really a statement of values, rather than about figures and economics, this decision reflects so clearly the deep and strong Labor values held so dearly by the Treasurer and this Labor Caucus, something we can all be proud of.

I've been listening to the speeches of those opposite and I haven't heard them say that they would keep progressive coal royalties, which are delivering \$7 billion to this budget. How can they support projects in their own electorates if there is going to be a \$7 billion hole in the budget?

They've already announced they want to cut \$10 billion from infrastructure.

This means they will have no choice but to cancel the Big Build and cut frontline staff across Queensland, just like Campbell Newman did. In fact 1360 people across my Electorate lost their job during these years. My community has not forgiven those opposite and they will never forget!

Communities and Housing

Social isolation and loneliness is a well-documented and researched new world issue identified prior to the pandemic, but which has been exacerbated since Covid-19. Since my election in 2017, I have worked closely with the University of Queensland, School of Psychology and Sociology, the Mt Gravatt Community Centre and the Queensland Community Alliance to proactively address this important issue in my community. The employment of social workers locally (known as link workers) as part of our Nation leading Ways to Wellness Program which has attracted ongoing funding by the Palaszczuk Government. I am proud of this program, the international interest it has attracted and the significant outcomes achieved to date for our local people. I am equally honoured to have chaired the Parliamentary Committee who conducted a State wide inquiry into this important social issue that significantly impacts the lives of Queenslanders and the future economic prosperity of our State.

Through my work as Chair of the Community Support and Services Committee and its parliamentary inquiry, the 2023/24 Budget also commits \$125.6 million over 4 years and nearly \$19 million ongoing to help address social isolation and loneliness and support Neighbourhood and Community Centres throughout Queensland. This is an outcome I know my entire Committee is proud of regardless of their political association.

This will result in an increase for our Mount Gravatt Community Centre's operational funding to \$248,024 per annum, up from around \$126,000. Further, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre will receive \$145,131 in 2023-24 for the continuation of the Ways to Wellness program.

Health

To address the challenges in our health system, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered the largest investment in new hospitals and new beds in Queensland's history, with the 2023-24 State Budget providing additional funding of \$24.15B for our health and hospital system.

Queensland's health response to the global pandemic has drawn accolades globally and has ensured a strong economic response.

The delivery of 7 Satellite Hospitals, one locally in Eight Mile Plains, to enable our acute hospitals to continue safely managing patients via alternative models of care worth \$265 000 000 is welcomed by my community.

This budget allows for the recruitment of a further 200 ambulance operatives state-wide, bolstering services within the Metro South Region and providing increased frontline ambulance services and greater access to emergency health care.

One in two people in Queensland will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime. Our Government will not leave behind those families suffering mental illness with \$733,774 in 2023-24 out of a \$2.8 million over 7 years to provide Mental Health Funding Program services, addiction, substance abuse and suicide. This funding will focus on rehabilitation care, additional community care units, adolescent day programs and Step-Up Step-Down Services to help people transition from hospital. This is the biggest investment in mental health services in Queensland—ever.

Sport

The Mansfield Electorate is passionate about sport and so am I. I have secured \$8 million over three years for Hibiscus Stadium \$3m in 2023-24 of \$8m to expand their basketball courts.

The Mt Gravatt Youth and Recreation Club will receive \$750,000 (of \$1.5M) for their Stage 2 Development.

TAFE, Training and Employment

Acting Speaker it is also pleasing to see a continued strong commitment by the Palaszczuk Government to free TAFE for Queenslanders under 25. This is valued immensely by the young people in my community.

Further, \$850,000 in 2023-24 is allocated for ongoing maintenance investment in training infrastructure at Mount Gravatt TAFE.

The Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work Programs since 2020 have afforded 63 people in my community the dignity of work. The Mt Gravatt Community Centre deliver many of the certificate courses to assist disadvantaged locals.

\$17.6 million is allocated in 2023-24 to fund more training opportunities and increase workforce participation through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program.

More than 43,000 Queenslanders have secured a job as a direct result of their participation in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program since 2015.

Police

And we're keeping Queenslanders safe.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver from 1 July 2020 an extra 2,025 police personnel over the next 5 years. In this year's budget full time equivalent QPS positions are set to rise from 17,549 in 2022-23 to 18,350 in 2023-24.

Transport and Main Roads

We are delivering another record investment in road and transport infrastructure, \$32.1 billion over 4 years supporting an estimated average 25 200 jobs for Queenslanders.

- Upgrades to M1 Pacific Highway—one of the state's busiest roads. The Pacific Motorway Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade will continue.
- QTRIP 2023-24 to 2026-27 invests \$9.6 billion towards rail infrastructure.
- Cross River Rail \$6.3b
- \$1M was allocated in 2022/23 for the Prebble St Bike Way at Rochedale partnering with the Brisbane City Council. Further, a \$500,000 was also made at this time to begin the Priority Safety Upgrade to Ham Road for Mansfield State Primary and High School—this funding was supposed to be matched by the Brisbane City Council under the Local Road Improvement Program. It is disappointing that this bikeway and the Priority Safety Upgrade has still not been delivered by the BCC to date.

It's been an honour to work with Minister Mick De Brenni to deliver a new Rochedale Bus Station and Park 'n' Ride.

This new infrastructure costs approximately \$750 million and will make a real difference by cutting commuting time for families living in Rochedale.

The project includes:

- 485 vehicle parking spaces (including nine accessible spaces and charging bays);
- undercover storage for 30 bikes;
- kiss 'n' ride bays; and
- pedestrian and bike connectivity.

This is part of the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade and is estimated to support 721 jobs over the life of the project.

Small Business

Small Businesses play an important role in my community. Our strong health response meant that we got back to business as usual. Many small businesses in my Electorate have benefited from the interest free loans and the recent Business Basics Grants.

Environment

\$17.3 million is allocated in 2023-24 to extend and accelerate conservation of koalas in Southeast Queensland, part of the Southeast Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025.

I acknowledge Minister Farmer for the recent koala fencing to prevent koalas crossing Cavendish Road at Mount Gravatt TAFE. I also thank our local environment groups whom I share an enduring and special relationship with as together we care for our community.

Our strong health response in Queensland has ensured the foundations for the best possible economic recovery. The Palaszczuk Government's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 continues with investing for job creation. The greatest investment any Government can make is in the people they serve.

We're focusing on growth sectors like renewable energy, wind, solar and hydrogen, cobalt and vanadium.

This budget strengthens the core pillars of the Palaszczuk Labor Government: healthcare, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs.

It is a true Labor Budget: we are building more schools, better roads and a workforce for tomorrow, equipping Queenslanders with the skills they need to succeed and unlocking the opportunities our state requires to grow and flourish.

This is what Labor Governments do, and this is exactly what the people of Queensland elected Labor to do!

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk government's strong health response has put us on the road to economic recovery.

My community understands that strong and proven community leadership, and a good strong, stable government is what is needed at all times, but especially in times of global economic headwinds.

I am proud to stand part of a Queensland Labor Government led by our Premier who has a vision for this great State of Queensland.

The 2023-24 State Budget ensures a progressive Queensland will be one more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges which lie ahead. This will be the work of one Government, a Labor Government and the result of only one party—The Australian Labor Party.

I commend this Bill to the House.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (2.04 pm): It is a privilege for me to rise and speak on the budget. I will start by talking about some of the local projects, opportunities and wins that we have had and then I will talk about why we probably did not get more that we deserved. Finally, I will talk about what this government has done to let Queenslanders down.

Starting with local issues, in the education space we were very pleased to see a couple of schools, the Lockyer District High School and the Lowood State School, both receiving near on \$800,000 for upgrades to facilities there: D block in the case of the Lockyer high school and block P and the OLA at the Lowood State School. There is \$1.38 million for maintenance and minor works for our schools. That is an increase of \$200,000 from last year, so I appreciate those few things.

We had a couple of other wins, including the Lowood pool upgrade and car park there—a \$690,000 build—and \$3.2 million for the Brisbane Valley Highway. Both of those are reannouncements that happened over the last couple of years. In the case of the Brisbane Valley Highway, I was pleased that my colleague the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, and I were able to get \$14.4 million for the Brisbane Valley Highway. This is another one of the road safety improvements we have seen there. We do have \$341 million for the next stage of the South Queensland Correctional Centre at Gatton. That is a much needed facility for the criminal justice system. As I have been saying to the minister for many years now, we must make sure there is as much local procurement happening at that development as possible. We do not want to see people travelling from all over South-East Queensland and taking the riches from there. We want to see as many local jobs used on that site as we possibly can. That would be greatly appreciated.

Fortunately, we do see enough funding—and I will say 'enough' funding—to see our Police Service and frontline services in the Lockyer maintained to the current levels. I would love to see a few more police, and I will continue to fight for those across the Lowood, Gatton, Laidley and Helidon police stations, the Forest Hill Stock Squad, the Criminal Investigation Branch and the Child Protection Investigation Unit. Of course the nurses at the Gatton and Laidley hospitals will be looked after as well as our fires and SES. There is sufficient money in the budget for each of those services, so that is a good thing.

In terms of the good things that the government has done in this budget, I share the Leader of the Opposition's comments that the free kindy opportunity of \$4,600 and power rebate of \$500 for families increasing to up to \$1,000 for some of the disadvantaged in our community are great initiatives, but do not be hoodwinked. The \$500 and \$1,000 rebates are the people's money who have paid for the electricity; it is just being given back by the government. It is just the same as the \$175 per

household the government gave back in the rebate. It was very welcome, but it was part of the \$780 profit per household across Queensland. I wonder just how much profit is being made from those electricity generators to give \$500 back. I think it might be about \$1,000 per household so perhaps that could be increased.

The reason I say it could be increased is that, as the Treasurer proudly boasted, the \$12 billion surplus this budget delivers says very clearly that this government is not listening to Queenslanders. When you are in the middle of all manner of crises, including health, housing, youth crime and cost-of-living, it is just crazy to boast about surpluses. It says to me that you are taking more from the community than you need to.

I am suggesting very strongly that there are other measures the government could take. I have spent 16 years in local government and every time a budget comes around, including the six budgets I have now seen in this place, I have always begged to differ when people brag about surpluses while people are doing it tough. It says to me that this government is not listening to Queenslanders. If they were listening to Queenslanders, they would certainly be paying down debt or introducing other cost-of-living measures for people. I mentioned before the power issues, but there are many other costs that the government passes on to Queenslanders.

I mentioned the cost-of-living crisis but I will also look at the youth crime crisis. There is a \$12 billion surplus, and I will just talk about that for the community out there who do not understand these numbers because they are very large numbers. There was \$3.2 billion for the Police Service last year and that has increased to \$3.6 billion this year—that is to run the complete service across the state—and here we are talking about a surplus of \$12 billion. It is astounding. The coal royalties and the price of coal have contributed greatly to that. I welcome some of the services that are being delivered across the state by those royalties, but the government are not listening to Queenslanders and they are not putting controls in place to stop these costs from escalating. Power is one of those costs. It has increased by 32 per cent and we are told it is going to increase by another 21 per cent this year. We need to see those measures employed so that Queenslanders can get the benefit.

I want to touch on the youth crime crisis, the health crisis and the housing crisis collectively. This is really an indicator that we have a government in chaos, a government that does not understand and a government that is not listening to Queenslanders. The government is more worried about its own internal affairs than it is about Queenslanders.

Let us look at the youth crime crisis. We need to see resources and laws provided for the Police Service as well as cross-government arrangements with youth justice, child safety and education with some early interventions that can happen across education. I remember speaking to the former principal of the Laidley school, Chris Muir, when I was the officer in charge of police at Laidley. I said to him, 'Can you tell me who your 10- and 11-year-olds are who are turning into my 15- and 16-year-old problems?' He said, 'Jim, I can do better than that. I can tell you the five- and six-year-olds who are going to be your 15- and 16-year-old problems.'

Those kids in the schools are an enormous handful in terms of the behavioural management aspects of teaching. They distract the teacher from their contributions with other youth and they are a big drain in terms of resources. I suggest very strongly that a future LNP government will look in greater detail at this. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Auditor-General and asked for a review of those early intervention programs so we can see what is working and what is not and then replicate what is working across the state because there are some good things happening. From my own learnings in Laidley, I know there is a great program occurring between the Hatton Vale State School and the Laidley District State School called Together 4341. They are doing great work with the youngsters, and I have mentioned that in this House before.

I turn quickly to the health crisis. I have listened intently when the new health minister has been talking about delivering extra beds. That is great to see extra beds, but it was only 12 months ago that the AMAQ were saying that we needed 1,500 extra beds now. We are playing catch-up with those beds and it will be another couple of years before we see those 1,500 beds and those problems in the health system stop.

The government have been boasting about this big spend across the state. The health issue is one area where it is a hoax—in that 95 per cent of the funding for the projects are actually going to be delivered after the next election in October 2024. That is a real concern to me. It is okay to make announcements, but they have to be within reach of the Queensland community so they actually believe the government. That is one of the government's failures in this budget—that they are not able to bring Queenslanders on the journey.

I also mention the housing crisis. We have all heard about the \$2 billion housing fund but it has delivered very little in terms of additional social housing support for Queenslanders. We have 50,000-odd people on the wait list, which has grown by 20,000 over the last couple of years. Those people are doing it tough. Having spoken to my colleagues in parliament from this side—and I am sure those in the government ranks are seeing the same thing—we have been seeing people coming to the electorate office over the last few months complaining about being moved from housing and not being able to get rental properties. There is enormous pressure in that space. I am told by a local real estate that the rental pool in the Lockyer is down to as low as 0.4 per cent. There is just no stock available for people to be able to make use of those properties.


I have mentioned the \$12 billion surplus. One other aspect we have heard through our State Development and Regional Industries Committee is the blowout in the cost of projects. Why is that important? It means there will be less money available to deliver on the roads, infrastructure and other services in our community. The Auditor-General in report No. 16 of I think 2021 examined \$52 billion worth of infrastructure projects and said that the lack of planning and the lack of control saw increases in those projects of between 11 per cent and 21 per cent, which equated to \$6 billion to \$8 billion. They are very worthwhile projects, but as I said in Wednesday's debate there is a lack of control regarding the project management of these projects and they are not being delivered on time and on budget. That is a real concern for my community.

We want to see money spent on the Warrego Highway with a grade-separated interchange at Glenore Grove. I know the minister has said to us that it is a five-year horizon. Well, this is one year down and I would love to see it in the forward estimates and start to see some rubber hit the road. I look forward to fighting with the state government to see additional funding from the federal government to see that \$120 million overpass at Glenore Grove, which is what I am told it will cost. That will stop the crashes as well as deliver a clear route to Toowoomba when it is flooded. It is embarrassing that we have a major highway and major freight route but as soon as there is a flood—albeit a major flood, which happens about 10 years on average—that road is cut. That stops the freight through to the west and north and south because it is the major freight route. It is not just the Warrego Highway where we want to see additional funding. If the waste was stopped and redirected to all of these areas, we would be in a better position in the Lockyer and Somerset regional council areas.

I mentioned the Warrego Highway. We are fighting to see the Summerholm Road interchange upgraded to see a deceleration lane from the eastbound traffic down to the south. There is a spot there that only two or three cars can use at the moment, so very often there are cars staged into the fast lane. We also want to see money for the Laidley Plainland Road and the Forest Hill Fernvale Road. These major roads through our community need to be upgraded, as well as the Gatton Helidon Road and the Mulgowie Road. I recognise that the Lockyer and Somerset regional councils are doing a lot of work in the flood space, and that is a great thing, but we need additional funds from this government. I know an LNP government will deliver those things for our community.

I turn to the other issues we need in my community. There are 36 schools in our community. There are two schools that have had some upgrades and there were only three last year. We have a growing community with the population out to the west and there is enormous pressure on our community and our schools.

I also want to place on record my concern about these announcements of hydro schemes across the state. They are great projects, hydro projects, but when you are talking about \$16 billion of a jobs plan and there is none being allocated for those projects over the next few years, again, it is a hydro hoax, not to mention the lack of money being funded to local government. We have seen funding for Queensland jobs cut from \$120 million to \$88 million, down \$42 million. That is 47,000 workers that local government have had to deliver for. It is not good enough by this Queensland government. Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.19 pm): Queensland is such a great place to live and work. I know it, my constituents know it and so do the tens of thousands of people who have flocked to Queensland in recent years. However, if you listened to the speakers from the LNP, you would have to wonder why they, or in fact anyone, would want to live here. One after another, they stand up here with not one good word to say about Queensland or anything that goes on here. Criticising this, whinging about that, they make Queensland sound like a dud place—oh, that is right, that is exactly what the member for Mudgeeraba calls our fantastic health workers. I know firsthand the impact that these words have constantly on our frontline workers and public servants is shocking. However, history shows that those opposite have little or no regard for these important hardworking people in our state. No-one, particularly the people of the Bayside, will ever forget the shocking sackings of the Newman era.

I am hopeful that the LNP do not really believe all of their terrible negative comments, given that they seem to be reading from the same song sheets. In fact, I am not actually sure what I will do if I hear one more 'rivers of gold', 'sugar hit', 'crisis this, crisis that'. I guess they are just repeating the lines they have been given by their spin doctors, with not an original thought amongst them. We heard not an original thought from the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply.

We are a parochial mob here in Queensland. We stick together and always look out for each other—well, perhaps I am being a little bit generous, I think, because we all know that those opposite do not get it. By and large, Queenslanders—and I know all Baysiders—look after each other, whether it be during the pandemic, the floods or the fires, because that is the Queensland way. Looking out for Queenslanders when they need a hand—that is the Queensland way and that is the Labor way. Equity and opportunity for all.

In this budget, we are delivering the biggest cost-of-living program and our state's biggest building program, all with a surplus of \$12.3 billion. This is all due to our strong economic management.

I am thrilled to talk about the many cost-of-living measures. Where to begin? There is so much to talk about—in fact, \$8.2 billion worth. Electricity, for example: there is a \$550 rebate for electricity customers, as well as eligible concession holders who may be eligible for up to \$1,072. Free kindy—fabulous! 15 hours per week for kindy kids starting in 2024. The great news is that this means an average saving of over \$4,500 for many families. This means that there will be so many more opportunities for Queenslanders to return to work, further easing household pressures.

The SwimStart program involves 30,000 vouchers valued at \$150 for eligible children under the age of five to learn to swim, which is really important in the electorate where I live because we are on the bay. This will ensure that families, all families, will be able to enjoy our beautiful Queensland lifestyle.

We are justifiably proud of how we faced the pandemic. Together, arm in arm, we got our vaccinations, we socially distanced and we followed the rules. We looked out for each other and we are renowned around the world for our response. Our \$9.8 billion is a commitment to the health of Queenslanders because we know that in order to have a strong economy and a strong and productive state, we need healthy Queenslanders. This investment will include 200 more paramedics, new and replacement ambulances and cost-of-living allowances for nursing and midwifery students in regional and remote Queensland.

Under the Palaszczuk government, Lytton is well and truly recovering from the litany of failures under the LNP. This year's budget will see so many benefits for all. Our families will be benefitting from the free kindy and electricity concessions. There will be further investment in community safety, training with the fantastic Skilling Queenslanders for Work, saving koalas acceleration program, partnering with the Quandamooka land and sea rangers, significant investment in healthy land and waterways and, of course, the expansion of the great mobile police beat vehicles.

Queensland's Big Build sees \$89 billion invested in health, schools and transport, including over \$25 million invested in our local schools. Manly State School, Darling Point Special School which has a special place in all our hearts and Wynnum State School are all receiving significant new buildings or upgrades to provide state-of-the-art learning facilities for our kids.

The Lindum Station Precinct improvements continue with upgraded signalisation and station upgrades on target. Wynnum Tennis Club and Wynnum Golf Club will both share in close to \$300,000 to provide important upgrades to the clubs.

I commend the Treasurer for this budget. It recognises that whilst we face challenges with tough economic headwinds, high inflation and interest rates that Baysiders are experiencing with higher costs of living, our government's progressive coal royalties mean that we can take on these challenges. The Treasurer has delivered a budget that supports all Queenslanders because that is the Labor way; that is the Queensland way. I commend the bills to the House.



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (2.25 pm): I was listening to the opposition leader's budget reply speech yesterday. Sixteen months out from the election, it should have been his manifesto for Queensland about who he is and what he stands for. It should have outlined what he has to offer as an alternative government, and it should have paid respect to Queenslanders by actually outlining his plans for them. It is all very well to talk about cutting consultants here and putting someone on a council there and the government should be doing this and that, but really it was little bits and pieces that he had written down as he sat down for a cup of coffee, written them on the back of an envelope like a shopping list and then chucked them into his budget reply speech.

He wants to be the Premier of Queensland and we still have no vision from him. We have a little bit of a shopping list with a lot of whining around it to give it a bit of bulk and colour. I want to ask the opposition leader just what is his vision for Queensland. What are his plans for our economic future? What are his plans for Queensland communities? What are his plans for the social fabric of Queensland?

I do need to go directly to the youth justice part of his speech since he spent so much time talking about it and so much time in the budget reply speech talking about victims with elephant tears. If he did care so much about victims, where is his plan for addressing the real impacts for youth crime? Where is his response to the victims of crime report which the Premier commissioned and was tabled several weeks ago? He does not seem to have noticed that. Where is his actual plan for youth justice, and not just three-, four- or five-word slogans that will add anything to our own strong plan?

This is what our plan is about: strong laws, with the number of serious repeat offenders in detention increasing and the length of time they are in detention increasing; record investment in prevention and early intervention and detention, with new detention centre beds built and to be built; adopting the best ideas on early intervention that are based on evidence; early intervention and prevention that is showing real results; and supervising, detecting, policing and arresting and courts detaining serious repeat offenders.

I say to the opposition leader: how dare you insult victims with your slogans that give false hope because there is nothing behind them. They are literally three-word slogans.

On the other parts of my portfolio, what did the Leader of the Opposition have to say in his nearly hour-long budget reply speech, we all had to sit through, and the 19 tweets he did yesterday? We have scoured them. Did the opposition leader say anything about small business, those people who are the heart and soul of the local community, the people who account for over 97 per cent of all Queensland business and employ almost half of the private sector employees? No, he did not. Did he say anything about employment or jobs or workforce shortages that are the number one issues facing business? No, he did not. Did he say anything about skills and training which are the very pathways that get people into jobs and opportunity? No, not one mention.

In our budget, we respond to every single one of those issues, and the number one issue which is facing every Queenslanders—and I have heard those opposite talking about how we do not know what Queenslanders are talking about every single day. Every single day, every single person talks about cost of living—it does not matter who you are—and that is what this budget responds to.

There are the energy rebates for individuals and businesses as well as free kindy for four-year-olds accessing up to 15 hours of kindy. Mums have said to me, 'This helps me get back to work.' The other rebates, subsidies and concessions are going to make such a difference to so many people. We promised a budget that was going to ease cost-of-living pressures. It is a national issue and that is exactly what we are delivering in spades.

We have the Big Build on education, health and transport infrastructure. These are the things for the people. That is why it is a Labor budget, and it is being funded by progressive coal royalties. We have all listened to members opposite. They have a big whinge and then they finish their speech saying, 'I'm getting a hall at such-and-such a school,' or, 'I'm getting this upgrade, but I also want \$3 million worth of this and \$5 million worth of that.' How do they think they are going to pay for it? I am keen to hear today whether or not they are supporting progressive coal royalties, because that is the way we actually get funding for those sorts of things.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have lots to say about what is happening in the rest of my portfolio and in my local area, but I have permission from the Acting Speaker to incorporate the remainder of my speech into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

But Speaker I would like to refer to that part of the Budget that relates both to my portfolio and to my beloved electorate of Bulimba.

On my portfolio:

This Budget makes an investment of almost \$1.35 billion in skills, training, employment and small business support.

The funding will help deliver quality training and career pathways to meet Queensland's increasing workforce demands now and into the future.

And support to Queensland's small business sector, which is such a vital contributor to the state's economy.

- A total of \$86 million is being invested to revitalise and upgrade training infrastructure to deliver key projects such as:

- the Eagle Farm Robotics and Advanced Manufacturing Centre.
- the expansion of Great Barrier Reef International Marine College in Cairns to deliver world-class maritime training.
- the Bohle Renewable Energy Centre at the TAFE Queensland Trade Training Centre (Bohle) in Townsville.
- \$29.8 million over three years to replace the vocational education and training (VET) information and communication technology systems, this includes \$8.8 million in 2023-24.
- \$4.6 million over two years for the Women in Trade Apprenticeships Mentoring Program to boost the ranks of women in trades and increase retention and completion rates.
- \$5 million over two years for cyber security support initiatives for small to medium enterprises, with funding held centrally.
- Support for the establishment of Queensland Indigenous Business Network to provide support and advocacy for the growth of First Nations businesses.
- Up to \$1 million committed to assist with the development of the Cairns Indigenous Training Centre to provide First Nations people in the Far North with a tailored trade training facility.

Speaker

Queensland's economy is going from strength to strength and the 2023-24 State Budget reflects that strength.

This is great news for Queensland in terms of employment.

In fact an extra 280,000 jobs is forecast for Queensland by 2024-25.

To help address the demand, the 2023-24 State Budget will allow for the continued delivery of the Good People. Good Jobs. Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032.

The Strategy, which was launched last year, has already delivered or started delivery on 23 key initiatives.

This is set to expand considerably over the next financial year.

The Queensland Government is not just focused on the workforce needs of today and those of the future but we are committed to ensuring there is the right alignment of training with workforce challenges.

The Big Build announcement highlights unmatched job opportunities across the State as we embark on a very exciting future.

Our economy is diverse and expanding into new industries, requiring the training system to anticipate and deliver a skilled workforce to ensure continued economic growth.

Fee Free TAFE in 2023, which is delivered by TAFE Queensland and Central Queensland University, will continue to be available for Queenslanders looking for a pathway to their dream career or even a career change.

To date, over 32,000 Queenslanders have been supported in Fee Free TAFE courses across more than 80 qualifications.

In addition to some of the newly funded programs, we will also continue our unwavering support of the lifeblood of our communities and our economy—small businesses.

We will provide a number of programs to support them, including:

- the successful Big Plans for Small Business grants programs.
- \$5 million over two years for cyber security support initiatives for small to medium business.
- We will continue to support our small businesses through payroll tax rebates including 50 per cent for Apprentices and Trainees being extended until 30 June 2024 and extending the discount on payroll tax for eligible regional businesses.
- \$650 energy rebate for small businesses.
- A Queensland Indigenous Business Network to provide support and advocacy for the growth of First Nations businesses.

I continue to be so proud of the incredible work being carried out by our Employment, Small Business and Training and Youth Justice departmental staff.

And have been delighted, as I have travelled around the state in my newly aligned portfolio with Director General Mr Bob Gee, to hear the genuine hope that that alignment between skills and training and employment—and youth justice—holds for so many stakeholders and staff.

And this brings me to the youth justice part of my portfolio.

Our commitment in Youth Justice includes \$446.4 million in whole-of-government funding over five years to focus on community safety, tackle the complex causes of youth crime and help boost police numbers.

In 2023-24, the department has a record expenditure budget of \$396.5 million so it can continue to deliver on youth justice initiatives and services.

A wide range of intervention and diversionary programs will receive increased funding of \$189.5 million over five years to complement the tough new laws introduced this year in the Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023 that target serious repeat youth offenders.

This will support our youth co-responder teams, intensive case management, the specialist youth crime rapid response squad and On Country programs, with a focus on support for regional Queensland.

The allocation of \$78.1 million over four years to extend and expand youth co-responder teams, includes new teams for Toowoomba, Brisbane South, Ipswich, Fraser Coast and Mount Isa.

Our co-responder teams are made up of police and youth justice workers who engage with young people to deter offending. And we have already seen a 95% compliance rate by the almost 60 000 young people our teams have already engaged with.

Intensive case management will be expanded with \$30.1 million over four years, to allow youth justice workers to focus on specific young people at risk of becoming involved in the youth justice system. We have seen a 51% reduction in offending frequency with this program, and a 72% reduction in the proportion of crimes against the person.

We know Intensive Case Management works.

The Budget also provides \$25.4 million over four years to extend and expand the Intensive Bail Initiative for repeat offenders with complex needs. We have already seen almost 9000 contacts through this program.

Early evidence shows us these programs and services are working to reduce reoffending and increase community safety.

We will also introduce a new specialist youth crime rapid response squad involving police and youth justice workers to target high-risk offending with \$5 million over three years for the youth justice aspect.

And I want to take a moment to again mention Jonathan Thurston and the wonderful work he's doing through his JT Academy.

Yesterday I had the honour to stand up with the police minister and the Premier to announce \$4.73 million support for the JT You Got This program.

This is a 10-week program for young people at risk of entering the youth justice system. And we already know it works.

It's exciting. It's innovative. And I'm very much looking forward to seeing it rolling out.

While early intervention and prevention are key to keeping Queensland communities safe, we know there are young people who will commit crimes.

And those young people must—and will—be made accountable, which is why we are investing in youth detention, with new beds coming online to ensure those who need to be detained are in age-appropriate facilities with onsite education.

To that end, \$8.8 million has been allocated in this budget for preliminary work and procurement activities for a new youth detention centre at the Woodford Correctional Precinct in South-East Queensland and to finalise a site for a new youth detention centre in Cairns.

Both centres will include design elements to support rehabilitation, including small accommodation units, multi-purpose areas for education and training, and spaces for cultural connection.

Speaker I was so delighted to see some great commitments for my beloved electorate of Bulimba.

The new Assembly Hall at Seven Hills State School will be built this year.

There'll be \$800 000 to refurbish Block A at Murarrie State School—and Principal Craig Marshall could not have been more excited when I rang to tell him.

And \$600 000 up do unplanned maintenance and minor works at our local state schools.

Speaker in an inner city electorate like ours, where public transport is such an important means of addressing traffic congestion, I have been delighted at the budget allocations for our train and bus infrastructure.

Following on from the significant work that's already been carried out at Murarrie and Cannon Hill stations in previous years.

This year we'll see the major upgrade at Morningside Station being undertaken.

And further work for the ticket office and toilet at Cannon Hill station.

And we'll spend \$7.3 million of the \$12.4 million allocated to upgrade the Cannon Hill Shopping Centre bus interchange.

\$314 000 has been allocated to Foodbank at Morningside to help feed some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

Our wonderful local arts organisations Vulcana Circus and Backbone Youth Arts are receiving funding. They give such delight to so many.

Speaker I want to thank the Treasurer and his team for his remarkable Budget.

A budget that responds to the needs of Queenslanders.

Now and in the future.

That is brave and strong.

That is a Labor budget.

And that I am proud to support as a Minister and local Member.



Dr ROBINSON (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland budget bills. I commend the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, and shadow Treasurer, Dave Janetzki, for their budget reply and challenging the budget failures and putting forward solutions to the current crises we face.

The Queensland budget confirms that even the rivers of gold extracted by Labor's heavy taxation measures will not restore the trust in government that has been eroded by eight years of broken promises. While there may not be a budget deficit this year, there is something worse than that; there is a trust deficit.

The Treasurer's rivers of gold have failed to repair frontline services or to deliver long-term cost-of-living relief. They have extracted \$60 billion more than forecast less than three years ago, but the Redlands Coast, particularly the Oodgeroo electorate, has little to show for it.

This budget fails to deliver long-term solutions to the cost-of-living crisis; to solve the youth crime crisis; to heal the Queensland Health crisis; to adequately address the housing crisis; to deal with our high debt levels; to reform our high levels of tax, levy, charges and fees; and to deal with a culture of project overruns and delays.

After eight years of this government being in power, Redlanders can no longer trust them to fix the problems they have presided over. Their constant state of chaos and crisis means they have stopped listening to Redlanders. However, the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, and the LNP hear their voices and we are acting on them. David recently visited Redlands Coast and held a health crisis town hall, joining our new LNP candidate for Redlands, Rebecca Young, and me to listen to the stories of local people at Redland Hospital. I thank him and Rebecca for caring, and I know our local community does, too.

The budget invests little in Oodgeroo to solve the current crises in housing, youth crime, traffic congestion and cost of living with locals doing it tough with price hikes in power, rent and food—and power bills will rise by 21 per cent from 1 July. Little has been invested in the Oodgeroo electorate across a range of state areas: education, roads, public transport, policing and community safety. North Stradbroke Island received a little, but the Dunwich Harbour upgrade that was promised as part of the SEQ city deal does not seem to have had any funding allocated yet. If there has, it is yet to be declared. There is nothing clear yet in that regard.

Straddie residents have, sadly, gotten used to not being involved in decisions about their island and lives, and they tell me that on a regular basis. The chaos in the Redlands is made worse by the Redlands not having its own regional action plan. Rather, it is lumped in with Greater Brisbane. It is much harder to get to the bottom and hold the government to account.

Sadly, the 2023 state budget confirms what Redlanders already know: the Palaszczuk government is addicted to announcements and unfunded promises in the never-never. This budget proves that the Premier and Labor govern by announcements but does not always deliver. Therefore, nothing she says about the future can be trusted. Sadly, when the government fails to deliver in the Redlands, instead of owning up to it and fixing it Peter Beattie style and getting it back on track, they hide the truth from the public and when caught out, they make more announcements. Redlanders will not be fooled by the smoke and mirrors of new promises when current promises are not being honoured and delivered on.

The complete chaos and crisis at Redland Hospital highlights this incompetence. Despite the great work done by the staff at Redland Hospital—our doctors, nurses and others—often under very trying circumstances, the people of Redlands have lost confidence in this government's ability to provide adequate health and medical services for our rapidly growing city. The sad fact about Labor's shame at Redland Hospital—and it is on the public record—is that Redland Hospital had no ICU, no intensive care unit, during the pandemic. There were chronic bed shortages and long waiting lists not to mention some of the worst ambulance ramping on record. Labor promised to fix the record high ambulance ramping at Redland Hospital that was at its worst levels in history at 73 per cent and still remains dangerously high at 63 per cent.

Labor promised in the 2020 election that the stage 1 Redland Hospital expansion would be built in 2022 with an ICU and 32 new beds—that was the promise. However, 2022 came and went, and even another budget year does not fully deliver it as promised. The budget proves you cannot trust Labor to deliver. Labor has also promised the stage 2 Redland Hospital expansion, but the AMAQ and sources inside Metro South fear it has been indefinitely delayed and mothballed. There is still some confusion, despite new announcements, about that.

On the issue of the so-called Redland satellite hospital, while additional health facilities are welcome and much needed, this facility should have been accurately named to create a reasonable expectation of the services available. It should not have been prioritised and built at the expense of the real hospital upgrade already promised, and there are still questions to be answered. First, the satellite hospital was announced in the budget papers; I believe the 2020-21 budget had its own line item called the 'Cleveland satellite hospital'. Labor promised in their budget, clearly laid out, a satellite hospital in Cleveland. That is clear, etched in their budget papers. What else could that mean with the word 'Cleveland' in it? However, someone decided to shift it without adequate explanation, without clear

reasoning and without consultation. Consultation was promised; it was meant to happen, but nobody that I am aware of was part of that consultation process. The promised funding was whisked away and sent to another city, another place. Labor just broke a budget promise between budget years.

The government had thought it covered its tracks, but someone forgot to update the 2020-21 and 2021-22 budget regional action plan maps for Brisbane and Redlands. The project was itemised as No. 36 in the listings, but it vanishes from the map. Further, residents were told about the consultation, but it was tightly controlled if it was held at all.

When you just take things out of the budget and move them around for political purposes, people do not trust you. This budget has a deficit, a trust deficit. Instead of prioritising the delivery of previous election promises such as the Redland Hospital upgrade, promises at the real hospital, they put the real hospital upgrade on the backburner where it still sits today. Redlanders know you cannot trust Labor promises—not in past budgets and not in this one.

We see a history of how this government has treated Redland Hospital and its staff. There is much more I could have said on that today—and I have been saying it on the record and I will continue to say it. I will stand up for my hospital as well as the staff, nurses and others against this government that has brought chaos and crisis to the hospital. An LNP government will restore stability and heal the health crisis at Redland Hospital caused by failed Labor policy.

That brings me to the new promise on mental health. Any new promises at Redland Hospital, no matter how good they sound, will be met with some suspicion until the 2020 election promises are first honoured and the promise clarified. I have a question on notice in the system and I am hoping for an honest answer from the health minister. Hopefully, we get to the bottom of what is really happening there.

There are a whole range of things that we could talk about in terms of education. There has been some good investments made in Cleveland District State High School, Wellington Point State High School and in other schools. I would like to see continued investment in my schools and in non-government schools. There have been some media reports and questions raised around what will happen with non-government schools and funding. I hope that the government will continue to invest, as in the past.

There is much that could be said on homing and homelessness. North Stradbroke Island's Quandamooka people still do not have the homes that they were promised in the last eight years. There has been a lot of talk, but no delivery.

Redlands is not immune from youth crime. It is a lovely area. I have addressed this issue regularly, and will continue to. We need more police, and not police numbers to be cut. Our laws need to be strengthened, and there are a whole range of other measures the LNP has put out to bring the change that is needed.

In conclusion, this budget does not solve the chaos and crisis in Oodgeroo and the Redlands Coast. It does not provide a fair share, in my view, to the Cleveland district or to North Stradbroke Island, nor does it adequately relieve the cost-of-living pressures that Redlanders are experiencing.


Mr Acting Speaker, with your indulgence, I wish to conclude my speech in the debate on the budget with a short statement. After much deliberation, I have decided not to recontest the Queensland election in 2024. It will be five terms, and over 15 years of service as the state member for Cleveland and Oodgeroo, by the time I complete this term. I feel that I have run my best race. I have run it strongly, I have given it my all and I achieved much of what I set out to do when I started in 2009. I want to run other races outside the political sphere, to be honest—things that have been on hold and on my heart.


Our family needs are also changing. I have four grandchildren, and I love my 'Poppy time'. It is very hard to compete with that. My lovely wife, Julie—whom I want to thank—and I are also the primary carers for our mums, who are in their 80s and 90s and are not getting any younger. My wife and adult children would like to see a bit more of me too, I believe. It is my hope that a local female will be chosen and go on to become the new member for Oodgeroo. She would create history by becoming the first female member of parliament for Cleveland/Oodgeroo on either side of politics in the 30-plus years of the history of the seat. That is something I would dearly like to see happen as I leave.

I want to thank the good people of the Cleveland/Oodgeroo electorate for your support, and the trust that you have placed in me to represent you in this House and in the community. I will continue to work hard for you until the last day of this term. Announcing my intentions now allows plenty of time to

have the best local candidate for Oodgeroo out in the field who can hit the ground running. We refuse to take for granted the strong support of local constituents over the last 14 years. I am confident that the next LNP candidate will work hard and have the trust of the people, too.

I thank LNP leader David Crisafulli for his support over the years. He is a colleague, and someone I count as a friend. I wish David and the team every success in forming government at the 2024 state election. I remain committed to working hard to see a change of government. Over the years I have been honoured to have served in several roles, including: shadow minister for main roads, marine infrastructure and fisheries; shadow assistant minister for the multicultural community; shadow assistant minister for international student attraction; shadow parliamentary secretary for apprenticeships and trade training; and in government as the deputy speaker of the Queensland parliament. I thank my lovely wife, Julie, my family, my amazing staff, supporters and friends and my colleagues here in the parliament—all of you. It has been an honour to serve alongside you all. It really is a great privilege that we have to serve in this parliament, to serve our local constituents and to serve together—mostly in agreement. Finally, I want to thank God and my saviour Jesus who has given me the energy and strength to serve the people of my community every day. There is plenty of time to say more, so I will leave that for a later date. I wish you all God's richest blessing. Thank you.

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I will add a few words. Thank you for all you have done for your community and for this parliament. You have certainly served your community well, and will continue to do so until the next election. You have been a passionate advocate for the things that you believe in. On a personal level, you and I have had many discussions around difficult topics that this parliament has dealt with and have done so respectfully, even on those things that we do not necessarily agree on. I think many members of this chamber have a much better forehand or backhand thanks to the work that you have done as the co-chair of the parliamentary Friends of Tennis. Just yesterday we had a conversation in the coffee shop about the need to get more time on the tennis court. I am glad that you will be able to achieve that when you are not having that 'Poppy time'. Thank you, member.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (2.45 pm): I, too, acknowledge the previous speaker, his decision and the dignified way in which he spoke on that issue in the House today.

This budget helps to ease the national cost-of-living pressures that are impacting Queensland while investing in health care, housing and infrastructure for our growing state. It sets Queensland up for the future. There is major investment in our Energy and Jobs Plan—a plan which unleashes new industries and jobs, particularly in regional Queensland. All of this is only possible because Queenslanders own their energy assets. We are making sure that they are receiving a fair share from progressive coal royalties. We have heard much this week about the \$550 cost-of-living rebate for every Queensland household, and more for Queensland small businesses, too. We have heard a lot about the support for seniors, pensioners, and concession card holders who will receive \$1072 in cost-of-living relief through their electricity bills.


What we did not hear yesterday from the Leader of the Opposition was any support for those measures. Instead, we were subjected to what can only be described as misleading complaints, indulgent slogans and a policy vacuum. On this side of the House we have come to expect nothing less from those opposite—a cluster of conservative complainers. It was shocking to hear how blatantly the Leader of the Opposition prioritised corporate profit over cost-of-living relief. We heard that he does not back progressive coal royalties. We heard that the Leader of the Opposition does not back Queensland's Big Build. We heard that he does not back the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Worse still, we heard that he does not back our energy workers who are delivering it. Instead of having the opportunity to applaud local workers who are absolutely busting their gut to get the Callide generator fully back on line, the opposition leader instead opted to kick those workers in the guts. As the *Courier-Mail* said today, that is not real leadership. Instead of thinking of the distress in the community and the families of the workers who were involved in the incident in 2021, he put on a show for the news cameras in order to score cheap political points. That is not leadership.

He did not stop there. He then put on his tinfoil hat and regurgitated the hoaxes on the deep storage of renewable energy. Instead of actually reading the budget papers and understanding basic economics, he opted to side with the unholy coalition of his backbench conspiracy theorists, the cosplay senators and, worse still, the Greens.

Instead, on this side of the House, we have committed to spending on pumped hydro, delivering \$6 billion for Borumba Pumped Hydro, which will benefit communities right across this state, but primarily in South-East Queensland in electorates like Nicklin and Caloundra. We have committed \$1 billion for the Pioneer-Burdekin, the battery of the north. These are real coal royalties going back into our regions. It is right there in the budget papers in black and white. Does the opposition seriously think that Stephen Burt and his 100-strong workforce of drillers are out there in the Pioneer Valley working for free? Is the LNP so out of touch with real Australians like Stephen? They should be incredibly embarrassed about those remarks. Is it that they cannot read or they will not read because they just do not believe in it—just like they would not read the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition revealed the first element of his secret energy plan, ripped straight from the playbook of Scott Morrison. He announced that they are backing the new version of CoalKeeper. The Leader of the Opposition told the mums and dads of Queensland yesterday—those being hit hardest by record global coal and energy prices—that he wanted that situation to prevail forever. The LNP's secret energy plan is to burn coal until the planet burns. Every man, woman and child deserves to know that the LNP's plan is to turn their back on net zero, to turn their back on 100,000 jobs for Queenslanders and to leave our forests and our farms to burn. The LNP are not just unfit for office in this state; they are unfit to ever be given the responsibility for managing this state's economy, its environment or the livelihoods of Queenslanders—and they know it.

The Leader of the Opposition must come clean about why he does not back Queenslanders. He must come clean about why he does not back our budget measures. He must come clean about why he does not back our Big Build. He has yet again backed down to big business. Queenslanders know that they can count on the Palaszczuk government to have their backs. Only through Queensland's progressive coal royalties can we deliver real cost-of-living relief to all Queenslanders. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.51 pm): I rise to address the appropriation bills for 2023-24. First, I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the cabinet for a great Labor budget for Queenslanders. It is a great budget. Do members know how you can tell it is a great budget? It is because those opposite are whining. A key performance indicator is when LNP members whine. They know that Queenslanders love this budget.

Let's jump on the train and go for a ride around the Maryborough electorate to look at what is in this budget for the Maryborough electorate and for Queensland. We know about the \$8.2 billion in concessions for people who are doing it tough in relation to the cost of living. How good is that? That is a Labor government putting money back into the pockets of people, not the pockets of private companies. It is not public money going into the private sector. That is what I love about the Labor Party and this great Labor government, led by a very good Premier.

I mention trains. At Torbanlea, one of the biggest train-manufacturing facilities in the Southern Hemisphere will be built. There will be lots of jobs building 65 new trains through the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program—a \$7.1 billion investment around Queensland and 1,200 jobs. This is absolutely magnificent—Queensland trains built by Queenslanders for everyone across Australia to use. I call them maroon trains, because we have parts coming from Townsville, Ipswich and Rockhampton to Torbanlea. That is a commitment from the Palaszczuk Labor government to keep regional Queensland going, to keep the skill base in my great electorate of Maryborough.

In terms of education, some really good money is being spent at Howard State School, Albert State School, Sunbury State School and Maryborough West State School—money being invested into the schools that educate our young ones. Not only that but there is more money for the maintenance of our schools.


In terms of roadworks, there is money for the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road intersection upgrade and Oregon Creek Road on the way to Toogoom. This should keep the member for Wide Bay happy. He is experiencing a bit of relevance deprivation at the moment, due to what is happening in federal parliament. He keeps banging on about money for the Tiaro bypass, but it is not happening. There is money for the Tiaro bypass in the budget, so hopefully that will make him happy. Hopefully he will look at the forward estimates to see what will happen with the Tiaro bypass.

In terms of health, there is funding for the PTSS. Members on this side of the House have been working with the new Minister for Health on the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme in terms of increasing the travel allowance and the accommodation allowance. The health minister has been absolutely brilliant. We have made deputations to the health minister and given her evidence from residents in our electorates who have to travel to receive health care. She has listened, taken it on board and acted.

In terms of emergency services, there will be upgrades to the Maryborough Police Station. We are getting the rural fire training centre. There will be more money for the Queensland corrective services system. The great correctional centre in Maryborough employs a lot of good people in my community.

You know that the KPIs of this budget have been achieved when those opposite get upset. They talk about chaos and crisis. The only chaos and crisis is on the opposition side of the House. There is none on this side because we are working for the people of Queensland. We are putting Queenslanders first. We are making sure Queenslanders are not being left behind. This is what a good Labor government does. When those opposite talk about chaos and crisis, they are talking about what is happening internally in their party, not what is happening in Queensland. That is the problem with the opposition. The opposition is lazy and out of touch with the community. They go around with slogans. Sometimes I think they are working for one of the big marketing firms, instead of doing what this great Labor government does. We look after Queenslanders. That is what we do.

We are putting money back into the pockets of Queenslanders. We are providing electricity rebates and 15 hours of free kindergarten. I heard one LNP member say that 15 hours is not enough. One thing I know is that we will see 'David the pruner'. Those opposite will have garden companies shortly, because they are going to prune everything. They will not only prune the shrub; they will take the shrub right back to the base. That is what will happen if the LNP comes to government. This is a fantastic Labor budget delivered by a great Treasurer. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.57 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government's budget fails to deliver long-term solutions to the cost-of-living crisis, fails to fix the Queensland housing crisis, fails to fix the Queensland youth crime crisis and will not fix Queensland's health crisis. In fact, service delivery in Queensland has never been worse. Despite those opposite sounding like a broken record when they proclaim there is a record health budget, the harsh truth is that this budget provides no solutions to the Queensland health crisis.

Like everything with Labor, you have to look at the detail and not the announcement. What this government did not tell us is that 95 per cent of the funding for its promised health and hospitals announcement will be spent after the next election. The Premier has spent only one per cent of the total budget of the health and hospitals announcement this year, and the budget papers show that just five per cent will be spent in the next two years.

The record health budget is yet another announcement with no action. The state of our healthcare system has never been more dire. Ambulance ramping was at 15 per cent when the government came to office. It has skyrocketed to a staggering 43 per cent at the Gold Coast University Hospital, with Robina following close behind at 42 per cent. The growing numbers on the elective surgery waiting list are equally concerning, reaching a combined total of 7,460 for Robina and Gold Coast University hospitals. The waiting list for the waiting list has swollen to a staggering 40,534 for GCU and Robina. Due to a staggering lack of foresight and planning, these numbers are only set to rise higher and higher.

The new hospital proposed for the northern Gold Coast—the Coomera Hospital—will not be open until at least the back end of this decade. The first stage of delivery will deliver fewer beds than are required today. The government's announcement of the Coomera Hospital is just that: an announcement. We need it open now, not at the back end of this decade.

For those of us on the southern end of the Gold Coast the situation is particularly bad. With the impending closure of the ED at the Tweed Heads hospital, one in four people who attend the Tweed ED are southern Gold Coasters and all of these people will be forced into the Robina ED or the Gold Coast University Hospital ED, and why? Because the Tugun satellite hospital is not a real hospital. You cannot go to the ED in the Tugun satellite hospital because it does not have an ED, it does not have any overnight beds and it does not have an operating theatre and is not open 24/7. If your child breaks their leg like my son did over the weekend, you cannot take them to the Tugun satellite hospital for surgery. You cannot rush to the Tugun satellite hospital if you are having an asthma attack. If you need emergency treatment, the Tugun satellite hospital cannot treat you. Let us call this what it is and start delivering those services that the community needs in respect of a hospital.

Mr Boothman: It's a clinic.

Mrs GERBER: I take that interjection: it is a day clinic and not a hospital. This government should be calling them what they are and focusing on delivering those missing services. Those opposite lost control of Queensland Health a long time ago. No matter how many times you reshuffle the deck—no

matter which combination of ministers you try—this Labor government remains in a constant state of chaos, and the budget blowouts are a symptom of this. The budget papers show that the Currumbin Eco-Parkland has blown out by \$24 million, and the project has not even gotten off the ground.

Let us not overlook the deplorable state of public transport on the southern Gold Coast—a true debacle. The light rail has blown out by a whopping \$500 million and all the while the transport minister refuses to meet with our community and hear the community's concerns around increasing densification facilitated by the expansion around the loss of parking and the additional congestion that might be caused by the route, around the ecological and cultural heritage impacts and around alternative modes. But, no. Instead, this Minister for Transport and Main Roads can find time to meet with his Labor mates in Palm Beach—which he thought was in Currumbin, mind you—and take a photo instead of meeting with the community about its concerns for light rail. This government is hell-bent on railroading our community without listening to it. If this government was listening at all, it would know that what the community overwhelmingly wants is heavy rail extended to the Gold Coast Airport, but for decades heavy rail on the Gold Coast has been ignored by this government. Under Labor, our community's aspirations for improved public transport options have been persistently ignored, leaving us to bear the brunt of insufficient connectivity, inadequate infrastructure and the total car park that is the M1.

Then there are the critical road projects that remain unfunded, like fixing Tallebudgera Connection Road. Wildlife and motorists are being injured and killed on this road but the Palaszczuk government has repeatedly dodged the commitment to fund safety improvements, instead announcing that the Safer Roads Sooner program might consider funding that upgrade. More announcements and no action from this Palaszczuk Labor government! I have spoken in this place on multiple occasions about the dangers of Tallebudgera Connection Road, particularly for our koalas. In November last year Hernando was tragically hit and killed, becoming the 98th koala to be killed or injured along Tallebudgera Connection Road since 2010. Our community identified the problems and provided the solutions: fix or replace the flashing wildlife awareness lights, put lighting along the road, and install better signage and fencing in certain areas. We took the campaign to the media and I brought it to the floor of this parliament. We forced the minister to promise to consult with the community on these wildlife safety measures. That was back in December last year, and we are still waiting.

Last week the minister came down for a photo opportunity and reannounced replacing the wildlife flashing lights, but while we wait for the minister to take action more koalas have been hit by cars. Last week I visited Roberta at Currumbin Wildlife Hospital—yet another koala hit on Tallebudgera Connection Road waiting for the minister to take real action to make it safer. How many more need to be hit? Enough is enough! No more announcements. No more photo ops. Get on with the job. We need action to make that road safer for our wildlife and for our motorists.

Whether it is about the protection of koalas or of course the light rail, this government simply does not listen. If the minister had bothered to consult with residents, like he promised, before making the announcement, he might have included better lighting as part of the road announcement. Instead, this government broke its promise to consult—no consultation has happened—and without the appropriate lighting I fear that motorists will continue to hit and kill our wildlife along that road.

It is not just Tallebudgera Connection Road that needs action. The community and I have been fighting for improved parking facilities for Tallebudgera State School. In a recent desperate attempt to collect their children safely, some parents took to parking along Tallebudgera Connection Road. Let me be absolutely clear: I am not advocating for parking illegally on shoulders of the road, but what speaks volumes is the response from the transport minister. He decided that a simple stroke of a yellow line would suffice as a solution—'Job done. Nothing to see here. Fixed the problem.' Never mind that parents still cannot park safely to collect their children from school. It is all so disheartening to find that this budget still does not provide any funding for Tallebudgera State School to have more parking options for parents to pick up children safely from school. Our kids and our local families deserve better.

Then there is the Currumbin Creek Active Transport Bridge. The minister was failing to make good on this election commitment, so he rushed the planning. It literally looked like he cut and pasted a bridge from Google and stuck it in the middle of Currumbin Creek. It absolutely did not fit with our beautiful creek and estuary. As a result of community pressure this had to go back to the drawing board, but how much is it going to cost the taxpayer. No doubt it will be delayed now. How can this incompetent government not get critical infrastructure projects right?

In my remaining time I want to shed light on the glaring omissions in this budget. We are in a youth crime crisis and this budget has no extra police for the Gold Coast. The thin blue line has never been thinner. Since September 2020 there are 72 fewer frontline police officers across Queensland,

but guess what? The number of the government's media and spin doctors has increased by 98. We have weaker laws and fewer police in the middle of a youth crime crisis and the Premier is hiring more spin doctors to cover it up.


Then there is the grievous oversight in terms of the failure to fund the meningococcal B vaccine in the School Immunisation Program. Earlier this year I shared the story of the Fidler family, who lost their beautiful daughter Bella to this virus at the young age of 23. Meningococcal B is a life-threatening illness that mostly affects our young people. While the state's vaccination program includes vaccinations against meningococcal, the meningococcal B strain is not included and is the most prevalent strain. It has a mortality rate of one in 10, and one in four people are permanently disabled. The cost of privately funding this for parents is too much in a cost-of-living crisis. The state government must prioritise the protection of our children and move much faster on this. Meningococcal B must be included in the immunisation program for our kids. This state government should be acting in the same way that other state governments have acted to protect their young people.

Finally, there is a cut in this budget that threatens our beautiful beaches and our economy, and I am talking about the cuts to biosecurity while our community battles an alarming surge of fire ants. If these introduced pests make it to our beaches, it could be catastrophic. Disturbingly, the state government's own warning sounds a dire prophecy of a future where our cherished beaches may become unusable. This government's 10-year eradication program has proven to be an abject failure, and now astonishingly the government has chosen to cut biosecurity funding by almost half.

Resoundingly, this budget is a huge disappointment. I am so proud to be part of an LNP team that genuinely listens and cares. We are a team that will deliver for Queenslanders. Unlike Labor, we will not promise one thing and do the opposite. We have already committed to reliable, affordable and sustainable power. We will implement maintenance guarantees on power plants so that Queenslanders do not suffer under increasing power bills. We will ensure there is affordable car registration and licence fees. We will ease the housing crisis to help bring down rent costs by ensuring every dollar generated by the Housing Investment Fund is used to build new homes. We will heal the health crisis and make hospital data available in real time, improving our health system and increasing transparency—something the other side knows nothing about.

We will put the rights of victims above the rights of criminals. We will put a victim on the Sentencing Advisory Council and we will ensure a victim's commissioner is appointed. We will put an end to this government's reliance on consultants and handing over millions of taxpayer dollars to the big four consultancy firms. We will give our police the laws and the resources that they need to combat youth crime and the crime crisis that is gripping our state. Our blue line has never been thinner. Police are acting with one hand tied behind their back with weak laws because this state government watered down the laws eight years ago and now we have a generation of youth criminals who know they are above the law and cannot be touched. We on this side of the House will ensure that our police have the laws that they want and deserve and we will ensure that they have the resources to combat the crime crisis. There are 72 less police officers today than when this government was elected in 2020. They have completely failed on their commitment to increase the police force.

In just under 500 days Queenslanders will have a choice to make. They will have a choice between a Labor government that is full of announcements and no action or an LNP government that will deliver real solutions for Queensland. They will have a choice between a Labor government that is all chaos and crisis or an LNP government that will deliver stability and hope. I am so proud to be on this side of the House. I am so proud to be part of an LNP team that is the listening to Queenslanders, that is earning their trust and that will deliver for our great state. Queenslanders deserve so much more than this rubbish budget and they deserve so much more than the rubbish Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill 2023. These are important measures that address the cost-of-living pressures that are affecting all Queensland households. I would like to thank the Treasurer and cabinet and the department for all their hard work in providing this budget that touches on the things that mean real change for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is serious about addressing the national cost-of-living pressures for all Queenslanders. In the last election we campaigned on the promise that we would be a government for everyone. That is why I am proud to say that as part of the Palaszczuk government's 2023 budget we are announcing the biggest electricity support package in the entire country. Each and every Queensland household will be receiving \$550 off their electricity bills. Elderly and the most vulnerable Queenslanders will get extra relief: up to \$1,072 per household, including a rebate partly funded by our new Labor Commonwealth government.

Education is another big winner in this budget. Research has shown us that early childhood education is a crucial part of a child's development, offering lifelong benefits and encouraging a love of learning. We know that kindy leads to much better long-term outcomes for children. That is why, in an historic step for early childhood education in Queensland, we have moved to make kindy free for Queensland families. Any child who is eligible and attends a government approved kindy will be able to do so for free from 1 January next year. This is a momentous occasion for Queensland families. Besides Victoria earlier this year, we are the only other state in the country offering free kindy for families. It is just part of our record \$17.8 billion education spend: \$2.1 billion in infrastructure for Queensland schools in this financial year alone; \$48.3 million for teacher housing in rural and remote areas; and an extra \$29 million for playgrounds and tuckshop upgrade programs.

We have implemented other cost-of-living measures to support households and businesses: over \$500 million per annum to continue uniform tariffs so that Queenslanders living in regional areas pay similar prices for their electricity as people living in South-East Queensland—we can only do that with publicly owned electricity generators; \$35 million over three years for small- to medium-sized businesses to support them to reduce their bills; while \$6.2 million will be for ongoing regional support. The budget also sets aside \$5 million to provide Queensland farmers with relief from the charges for pumping water during periods of drought.

From the opposition we had a serious bunch of whining. Indeed, the Leader of the Opposition opened his budget reply yesterday remarking that looking after each other in times of need is the Queensland way. While that is certainly true, we know that supporting our most vulnerable certainly is not the LNP way. We on this side of the House are the party of hope and aspiration. We understand how important it is to keep our assets in public hands.

The progressive coal royalties our government has enacted has led to the biggest infrastructure investment in the history of our great state. There will be many Queenslanders, particularly among our most vulnerable, who will benefit from this. The contributions from the members opposite and the complete lack of details on how they will fund any of their plans or how it has been costed are shambolic at best. The scurrilous personal attacks on the government and the denigration of our Public Service are a great shame. The fact that they are led by those who see themselves as leaders is even worse.

This debate and the one preceding it has shown that the LNP has not changed its ways. They continually punch down on the most vulnerable. They are nothing but ill-informed and ignorant bullies. Queensland and the Sunshine Coast deserve sensible, compassionate and responsible government, not the ranting vitriol and fictitious plans delivered by their LNP members. I will continue to advocate in the best interests of my region and all Queenslanders without regressing to the gutter politics pursued by others. This is the way. Mr Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Housing

Right across the country—and the world—we're seeing housing pressures having a serious impact. Unfortunately, Queensland is no exception to this. That's why the Palaszczuk Government is taking serious and ambitious action on housing in Queensland. We've made record-breaking investments in social and affordable housing. This includes:

- \$322 million into QuickStarts Qld, as part of the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, which will build an additional 500 social housing homes.
- \$249 million to retain and upgrade dwellings for social housing.
- \$130 million every year from the \$2bn Housing Investment Fund, which is invested in affordable and social housing.

The Housing Investment Fund is of particular note here, as our colleagues in Canberra are currently trying to pass the Housing Australia Future Fund—effectively a federal iteration of Queensland's Housing Investment Fund. It is self-evident that the arguments being put forward by the federal colleagues of the member for South Brisbane and the member for Maiwar are completely without merit, and only exist to delay real action on housing like we have taken here in Queensland. I implore you both, with respect, to lobby your federal colleagues to change their tune on this. To stop playing politics and start getting houses on the ground, now. The delay in the HAFF means a delay in more homes that we could be building for Queenslanders right now.

We've all seen how housing future funds make invaluable contributions to social and affordable housing stock. We've seen that they are an ideal way to pull funding for housing out of the election cycle. We know that the answer to housing security isn't to leave it at the mercy of the government of the day, but to set up these funds, separate from the government, with an investment mandate that means they're constantly adding to our social and affordable housing stock. It's the answer to so many of the problems we face today. I sincerely hope your peers in the Senate come around to seeing that too.

Back on the topic of the budget—we've committed a further \$128 million to improving housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, including dedicating funding to roll out the second First Nations Housing Action Plan and funding to deliver housing supply in Queensland's rural, remote, and regional communities.

We've expanded the Helping Seniors Secure Their Homes initiative, which is backed by \$30 million in funding. In my own electorate of Nicklin, we're seeing half a million dollars invested into homelessness support services, and a further \$7.9 million invested from the Housing Investment Growth Initiative, which will help it in delivering 8,365 social and affordable homes for vulnerable Queenslanders. This Budget will build on our 74,000 existing social houses—places that thousands of Queensland families already call home—with another 600 social homes under construction at this very moment. Right across the country, and indeed the world, we're seeing the effect of housing pressures. That's why this Budget locks in record spending for social and affordable housing and sees us continue our work with the private sector, community housing organisations, and financial institutions to build, buy or lease more homes for Queenslanders. Our strong economic performance, thanks in no small part to Treasurer Cameron Dick, means we can continue to build on our record investment in housing. I'm privileged to be a part of a government that takes action for the sake of Queenslanders in need.

Health

In this week's budget, the Palaszczuk Government is undertaking the largest spend on affordable and accessible health care in the history of Queensland. We've delivered a record health budget that aims to reduce ambulance ramping, ease pressure on emergency departments, and reduce surgical and specialist wait times.

The 2023-24 State Budget also invests in women's healthcare and mental health services, noting that for the first time in Queensland's history, we have a Minister for Mental Health. This represents our commitment to a modernised health care system that recognises the ever-evolving nature of public health challenges.

Queensland Health will receive \$24.2 billion, a 9.6 per cent increase compared with last year's health budget. We've committed \$764 million of that to reducing ambulance ramping and improving access to emergency departments. We're investing \$224 million into clearing up surgery and specialist clinic backlogs, including continuing the planned care recovery initiative created during the pandemic. A \$34.8 million boost to women's healthcare to continue the Growing Deadly Families Strategy, expansion of outreach obstetrics and gynaecology services and fund the development of a 10-year Queensland Women's and Girls' Health Strategy.

Nambour General Hospital

The budget also sees \$7.1 million go towards the Nambour General Hospital Redevelopment in my own electorate of Nicklin. The redevelopment project has been going on since 2019, and despite the obstacles we've faced thanks to the pandemic, and supply shortages—

- increase capacity of emergency care
- increase capacity of wards for surgical and medical patients
- include a new same day rehabilitation unit
- refurbishment of cancer care services
- a new central sterilising unit

The redevelopment has already delivered more mental health beds for patients, a new purpose-built space for renal dialysis, and a new medical imaging department, as well as a new courtyard and drop-off zone near the emergency department, and a new kitchen. Nambour General Hospital is a vital part of the local community, and this redevelopment will ensure it can serve residents for decades to come. The redevelopment means additional general beds, improvements to emergency care and access to additional mental health beds. It will also deliver increased capacity in medical and surgical services and an increased volume of low acuity surgery. The hospital has continued to operate throughout the redevelopment, and it's been great to see patients already benefiting from the new renal and mental health units. This redevelopment is crucial for the future of our health services in my electorate and will enable Nambour General Hospital to support patients recovering from strokes, surgery, and a range of other conditions.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital

We've also invested \$21.6m into the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, which goes towards the continued construction of SCUH. The funding also supports the 738 beds that will be delivered at the completion of stage 3. The investment will support the Sunshine Coast Health Institute as well as the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Patient Access and Coordination Hub, facilitating care closer to patients' homes.

Other health budget highlights include:

- \$586.1 million of additional funding for a new 10-year deal for LifeFlight emergency helicopter services, and a further \$18.6 million for a new 3-bay hangar at Sunshine Coast Airport.
- \$150 million for a new mental health facility for Redland Hospital.
- \$22 million to provide a \$5,000 allowance to each final year nursing and midwifery student on placement at a rural or remote Queensland Health facility.
- \$42 million over four years to support women living in rural and regional Queensland to safely birth closer to home, reducing the need to travel to larger centres and support their health and mental well-being.
- \$70.3 million over four years to increase Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme rates by an extra \$10 per person per night for accommodation and 4c per kilometre for mileage.

Addressing the Leader of the Opposition's statements about ambulance ramping, I suggest he confer with his federal LNP counterpart and ask why his government condemned our health system to this death-by-a-thousand-cuts austerity. Both the member for Broadwater and he are part of the same State branch of the Coalition! Why not ask him why he wanted to make

Australians pay out of pocket to see a doctor? The LNP's record on healthcare in this state speaks for itself. Their record federally speaks for itself. Publicly funded healthcare is one of the great immovable Labor Party contributions to this nation. To this State. It's something that the Liberal National Party will ever be able to kill, no matter how hard they might try.

Education

Research has shown us that early childhood education is a crucial part of a child's development, offering lifelong benefits and encouraging a love of learning. We know that kindy leads to much better long-term outcomes for children. That's why, in an historic step for early childhood education in Queensland, we've moved to make kindy free for Queensland families. Any child who is eligible-aged and attends a government-approved kindy will be able to do so for free from the first of January next year. This is a momentous occasion for Queensland families. Besides Victoria earlier this year, we are the only other State in the country offering free kindy for families. Free kindy is just part of our record \$17.8 billion education spend in this budget. It also includes:

- \$2.1 billion infrastructure investment for Queensland schools in 2023-24 alone
- \$48.3 million for teacher housing in rural and remote areas
- Extra \$29 million for playgrounds and tuckshops upgrade program

Crime

The 2023-24 State Government's record \$3.281 billion operating budget for the Queensland Police Service will fund key initiatives to support community safety. Our record police budget will also progress a \$101.6 million investment in youth justice, boosting police resources to tackle youth crime. We've included funding for extreme high visibility police patrols, a new specialist youth crime rapid response squad, Youth Co-responder Teams, additional early action groups and Police Liaison Officer high visibility proactive patrols.

A new key focus of driving early intervention youth initiatives is the announcement of a \$50 million program over two years to build additional Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) in priority locations. A major investment in police recruiting has already been announced with \$87.5 million committed to drive a range of new police recruitment strategies over the next five years. As part of the further enhancement of frontline response capabilities, the government is providing additional funding of \$27 million in 2023-24 to continue the commitment to establish an integrated volunteer marine rescue service to ensure a sustainable model to enhance the marine rescue volunteer capability for on-water safety across Queensland. There is \$7.3 million for the Marine Rescue Queensland vessel replacement program. And the government is providing increased funding of \$16.5 million in 2023-24 to progress the transfer of Disaster Management functions to the QPS as part of the government's commitment from the Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. This forms part of the government's total funding package of up to \$578 million to enhance emergency services capability in Queensland.

In my own electorate, this means \$4.9 million into the replacement police facility in Cooroy. This is on top of prior delivered commitments such as the new \$8.3 million police facility in Nambour, which was opened almost a year ago. Our Queensland Police officers are world class, so this record budget will go a long way towards assisting police in tackling youth crime and strengthening our recruitment pipeline. I commend this bill to the House.



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (3.16 pm): I rise today in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2023-24 state budget. Resources is one of the key drivers of the state's economy, supporting around 75,000 jobs, mostly in regional Queensland. This budget continues our commitment to work with industry to grow and transform Queensland's resources sector. We are focused on helping ease the national cost-of-living pressures on Queenslanders while investing in critical infrastructures like health care, housing and infrastructure. Many people are doing it tough, so it is important we come together to help those in need by doing what we can. We are proud to own our public assets. This means we can directly help ease the cost of living impacting on Queenslanders.

The resources industry plays a key part in this through the royalties it generates which allows us to invest in infrastructure and services—in particular, in regional Queensland. Our progressive coal royalty tiers means we are getting a fairer share from current high coal prices. This allows us to build new infrastructure and invest in better services while supporting good jobs and easing cost-of-living pressures throughout the state. The resources industry is a key part of Queensland's economy and that is why, through this budget, we will continue to implement the vitally important work of the Resources Industry Development Plan. We are delivering several key actions as part of QRIDP, none more significant than the Queensland Resources Common User Facility. This is another example of how important our progressive coal royalty tiers are. They are supporting not only Townsville but also the future of the resources industry.

Those opposite need to come clean about whether they support this fair arrangement and if they do not they need to detail what they plan to cut because they cannot have their cake and eat it too. This \$75 million facility in Townsville will support the development, extraction and production of critical minerals like vanadium. It is one piece of the puzzle that will transform our critical minerals sector into a true pit-to-product supply chain. If we do not manufacture our future, others will do it for us.

Another important piece of the puzzle in supporting our resources industry and unlocking the potential of critical mineral deposits is CopperString 2032. We announced earlier this year that the Palaszczuk government would own and build this \$5 billion project which has the potential to unlock \$500 billion worth in critical minerals.

Thanks to our commitment to investing in regional Queensland through our progressive coal royalties, there is \$594 million for CopperString 2032 in this budget. Let us be clear: if the LNP do not support our fair progressive coal royalty system, CopperString is gone. There is a simple question that those opposite need to answer: will they support our progressive coal royalties? We know the LNP has a chopping block ready to go and regional Queensland will suffer because of it.

We know Queensland's gas industry will play a vital role in underpinning the reliability of the electricity market as we introduce more renewable energy sources. The gas industry now supports about 5,000 full-time equivalent jobs while also supporting employment growth in the manufacturing sector and local businesses. That is why in this budget we are supporting the industry by investing \$21 million over the next two years to create a frontier gas exploration program. The grants will support appraisal activities that unlock gas sources in the Bowen and Galilee basins. By providing industry the investment certainty it needs to develop those basins, we will help ensure Queensland's gas supply remains reliable and affordable for many years to come.

I would like to address some of the comments the member for Condamine made in his speech budget reply speech. This government and this budget back the gas industry. If those opposite were interested in the gas sector then they should engage with APPEA, the industry and the Commonwealth government instead of ignoring it and pandering to the whims of the Queensland Resources Council, which has dropped the ball when it comes to supporting the gas industry in these turbulent times.

The silence of the member for Condamine has been deafening, so it is a bit rich for him to come in here and speak up now. Since last year, I have held five round tables with the gas industry to discuss the challenges they are confronting as well as practical ways in which the government can help. I have also travelled to Canberra to speak to federal Minister for Resources, Madeleine King, and my department has provided two submissions into the review of the code of conduct for gas market participants. We will continue to work with the industry moving forward.

Regarding island resorts, the member for Condamine needs to pay attention to the work already being done. Unlike those opposite, we have taken action, which is something that the Newman-Crisafulli government did not do. The member for Condamine is clearly not across his brief as he had no idea that action was being taken by my department in relation to Double Island. My department is working with other agencies and stakeholders to see what work needs to be done to revitalise our islands and what that will mean moving forward.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

This budget also provides funding for the continuation of our successful Abandoned Mine site program.

This program has already had some successes and I want to pay tribute to the hardworking Technical Services team within my department for the work they've done on the old Collingwood Tin Mine in Far North Queensland in particular.

I'm proud to say that:

- there were 10 direct jobs created across the life of the project.
- another 60 indirect jobs were created.
- the workforce included local Traditional Owners involved with water management, revegetation and operating earthworks equipment.
- 75% of expenditure was with local businesses.
- 90% of expenditure was with small and medium sized businesses.
- 55% of expenditure was with indigenous owned corporations.

And that's just on one project.

The Abandoned Mine site program not only does vital work remediating legacy sites across Queensland, but it also supports good jobs in regional communities.

Supporting and improving our state's landscapes is also supported through this budget.

It was this government that revamped the natural resource funding program by creating the Natural Resources Recovery Program last year.

We've had two rounds of the program so far and they've proved extremely popular.

From the Cape through to the Southeast and everywhere in between we've backed local organisations to help restore soils and improve the resilience of our state's natural landscapes.

We're working with farmers, graziers, Traditional Owners and their local communities on activities ranging from gully repair to fencing off and protecting native vegetation on stream banks.

The Natural Resources Recovery Program is not only boosting local communities, but also creating good jobs in regional Queensland.

And this program will continue to be supported under this government with another \$10 million on offer in the 2023-24 financial year.

My Department is steadfast in its commitment to work with our Traditional Owners as part of the Palaszczuk Government's Path to Treaty.

The Path to Treaty is a broader commitment to reframe the relationship between the Palaszczuk Government and Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Just last week I had the honour of accompanying the Premier and some of my other Cabinet colleagues to a ceremony that restored K'gari as the rightful name of Fraser Island.

As part of that ceremony, I had the pleasure of transferring more than 19 hectares of K'gari land back to the Butchulla people.

They will now hold this land as aboriginal freehold land forever for the benefit of the Butchulla People.

I can assure the House we will continue to recognise Indigenous languages through place names, in the spirit of truth-telling and reconciliation as we walk the Path to Treaty.

It allows all Queenslanders to come together in a joint commitment to one another, to our land, water and winds.

Earlier this year the Palaszczuk Government delivered key reforms to the way the state's stock route management system is operated.

Councils are now able to retain more of the stock route revenue fees to reinvest back into network maintenance and make it easier for drovers to access and update stock route maps and management plans.

Stock routes have a rich cultural heritage in Queensland, and we will continue to support councils and farmers maintain and improve this important network.

Resources has also committed nearly \$10 million of additional funding over the next four years focussed on communicating and educating landholders to strengthen understanding of responsibilities under the vegetation management framework.

With this Budget the Palaszczuk Government continues to back a diversified and resilient resources industry that grows, transforms and thrives.

This is a budget that will keep investing in increasing the sustainable productivity of our land resources.

And that means backing good jobs and stronger regional economies, leading to great Queensland lifestyles.

And there is no greater lifestyle choice on offer than in Townsville.

Through this budget we are investing in the capital of the north through a number of projects.

As a former principal it's exciting to see funding in this budget for school upgrades and maintenance in my electorate.

This includes \$13.1 million to construct additional specialist classrooms and deliver a new performing arts facility for the school.

Before becoming the member for Townsville, I was principal at Pimlico State High School and even then, the performing arts centre was being discussed so I'm proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Government that is delivering this project.

The sod has already been turned and construction has begun.

This budget backs our schools in Townsville with better services and better facilities for the kids in our classrooms.

In my electorate this budget is investing more than \$27 million for school infrastructure in the Townsville electorate which is another example of this government investing in better services for Queenslanders.

We are also delivering free kindy for kids in Townsville and throughout Queensland which is a fantastic way of easing the cost of living on young families.

This government will invest in the future of our youngest Queenslanders through initiatives like this and as a former teacher I'm proud to see it being delivered.

A specific project I would like to highlight, which I know will be welcomed by Townsville, Magnetic Island and tourists, is upgrades to the visitor trails on Maggie.

Magnetic Island is the jewel in Townsville's tourism crown and we know its natural assets are what draws so many people there.

As part of this budget, we're investing \$608,000 out of a \$2.6 million total spend to upgrade these trails—we have already seen work done on the island as part of this program and I look forward to seeing that continue.

Magnetic Island is not the only island in my electorate that will receive funding through this budget.

Palm Island is an incredibly diverse and at times complex place which is why as the local member and Ministerial Champion I am pleased to see significant funding for the community to help with important infrastructure.

There is \$9 million for important infrastructure upgrades as well as a new home economics building at Bwgcolman Community School.

Education is key to making sure young people have opportunities in the future and that's why investments like this are important.

Also on Palm Island we are working with council on aerator upgrades at the Solomon and Francis Creek Dams to help suppress blue green algae with \$400,000 as part of the budget.

Another exciting project I would like to highlight which I have advocated for is \$87,000 for Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

This funding will be used to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of community identified physical activity opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

I've worked closely with Mayor Mislam Sam to secure funding for this program because we both know it will make a big difference to the Palm Island community.

Investing either indirectly in health through programs like this or directly funding infrastructure is an unashamed focus of the 2023-24 budget.

There is a record \$24.2 billion being spent in health.

I'm pleased to see a significant investment in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service through this budget.

This includes the biggest upgrade to Townsville University Hospital since it was constructed.

This facility is the only tertiary hospital in the region and the hardworking staff help so many people which is why these upgrades are so important.

We will always back our health workers with the facilities they need, and this budget does just that.

I also want to highlight the budget's investment in Moranbah Hospital—a project that I know is important to this mining community.

As the Minister for Resources, I've worked collaboratively with Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker on this and I'm proud to see Moranbah Hospital being funded as part of our record health budget being delivered by the Palaszczuk Government.

Another key part of this budget is our investment in community safety initiatives including the new Kirwan police facility.

This budget provides \$446.4 million in whole of government funding over five years to support community safety, as well as resources to tackle the complex causes of youth crime and help boost police resources.

The Kirwan replacement police facility at the former 1300 Smiles Stadium site is another important part of this budget.

We are backing the Queensland Police Service with a state-of-the-art facility—something the LNP refused to back at the last election—rather they wanted a harness racing track.

We back our police while the LNP sack our police.

It is also important that we work in the early intervention space to address youth crime and this budget does just that.

As announced by the Premier this week the government will partner with the Jonathan Thurston (JT) Academy to expand its innovative JTYouGotThis program.

The program is to help young people at risk of being involved in the youth justice system.

As part of the budget, we are investing \$4.73 million in this year's state budget to support the program.


Other programs I welcome as part of the budget to help community safety is \$4.2 million in funding for Street University in Townsville, continuing the Townsville High Risk Youth Court, and a Fast Track Sentencing pilot—these are just some of the initiatives in this budget.

This budget backs the people of Townsville by helping ease the cost of living, investing in infrastructure which is important for the future of the city, and which will support good jobs and our great lifestyle.

However, all of these investments are at risk of being abandoned by the LNP because they won't commit to backing our progressive coal royalty tiers.

It is this government that will back all Queenslanders and all of Townsville.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.22 pm): I start by saying that everything has become about announcements with this Labor government. Sometimes they are made on multiple occasions, yet still nothing is delivered. I will give an example. In 2020 an explosion at the Grosvenor mine left six miners horrifically injured and five jets were required to medivac them out of the Moranbah Airport. Much was made of the heroic efforts of the doctors, the nurses and everybody else involved, including the first responders, at the Moranbah Hospital. They triaged and stabilised the injured so that they could be safely taken by air. It was lucky that Moranbah Airport could accommodate five jets to do the job.

Meanwhile, for years in Gregory we have been arguing that Blackwater needs a new hospital. The existing hospital is the original one gifted by Utah in the 1960s. As a quick Google image search will show, Blackwater does not even have an airstrip anymore. Blackwater truly is the little town that could. It produces billions of dollars worth of coal royalties from its open-cut and underground mines. It

is the key hub for both rail and road transport and it supports an outstanding beef industry. Injuries in those industries have the potential to be catastrophic. Moranbah's hospital is a beacon compared to Blackwater's. As I said, there is no airstrip, let alone one from which a jet could take off.

After the Grosvenor explosion, the community made another concerted effort to rectify matters. In March 2021, I wrote to the health minister—and I will table this document—advocating for funding to upgrade the hospital. I was able to tell the minister that the planning and business cases were completed, the hospital board had signed off on it and it was supported by both the mining union and the Queensland Resources Council. That was on 15 March 2021.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 March 2021, from the member for Gregory, Mr Lachlan Millar MP, to the former Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, regarding proposed redevelopment of Blackwater Hospital [887].

The minister's response for the 2021-22 budget was very positive, but concerns started to mount when no action was taken. However, in April 2022 a ministerial media statement re-announced the project. I will table this document as well. Members know the old saying, 'All flash, no cash.' This was the second flash and still no cash.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 21 April 2022, from the former Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the Gregory Electorate Office, containing a media release titled 'Palaszczuk Government delivers \$104 million for 5 new rural health facilities' [888].

The project was to be delivered in early 2023, but we are really passed early 2023. The minister said that the new facility would be operational in early 2023. Guess what? There are not even doormats at the hospital. Not a hole has been dug. Not a spade has been taken from the back of a ute to dig a hole. Not a sod has been turned. Therefore, this week's announcement of partial funding of over \$13 million is the third flash. Will we ever see the cash? While the people of Blackwater are making a major contribution by producing the coal to pay for the Treasurer's \$89 billion Big Build, they are still waiting for a modern hospital with a new helipad.

To give members context around the people of Blackwater, it is the one area where the Labor vote is strong. It is strong. They have May Day marches. They support the Labor Party but the Labor Party does not support Blackwater. We can see that because the current hospital would not accommodate a major emergency at the mine north of Blackwater or the mine south of Blackwater. If we had a catastrophe like we saw in Moranbah, the current hospital would not cope. We do not even have an airstrip anymore to medivac injured people out. We have been calling for a hospital for well over four years. Everything has been put in front of this Labor government to build a hospital. We need that hospital and we need it urgently.

That is why the promises made by the government on Tuesday will be taken with a grain of salt. We have to ask ourselves: why would this time be any different? On the one hand, our Central Queensland coal is underwriting the whole show; on the other hand, the Labor government is promising to close all coal-fired power stations all by 2035.

Meanwhile, in having raided the earnings of those same power stations, it would seem that maintenance was not at a premium at Callide C when it blew up in August 2021. Things just get worse. Three units are now affected, a new date for a return to operations keeps getting pushed back, the overseas equity partner has gone broke and Jim Soorley has quietly slipped away from the chair of CS Energy. We were told by the minister that the problems at Callide would have no impact on electricity prices. Indeed, Minister de Brenni has committed to lowering electricity prices hundreds of times. Many voted for Labor for that exact reason. Minister de Brenni is now paying all Queenslanders a record rebate to drive down their power bills.

Coalmining families help produce record royalties for the Labor government. The Labor government uses the coal mining royalties to pay rebates so that Queenslanders can keep the lights on because Labor's mismanagement blew them up and we are all meant to applaud that as some sort of compassionate record achievement. I bet that the portion of the money that comes back as an electricity rebate to Central Queensland households will be reported as royalties flowing back to the regions.

The most recent CPI data showed Queensland's energy bills rose by 32.5 per cent in the March quarter. We have been told to expect them to go up in July, probably by more than 20 per cent. It is a difficult and serious situation. If it is difficult for serious journalists, imagine how difficult it is for the average Queenslanders to make sense of the bizarre world we now share.

In budget after budget we have been told about record health spends, yet ambulance ramping has gone from 15 per cent when the Palaszczuk Labor government was first elected to 43 per cent now. There are over 58,000 people on elective surgery waiting lists. As my constituents in Emerald will

tell you, there are even more on the waiting list for specialist appointments to get to the surgery waiting list on time. When they do make it onto a surgery waiting list, one in four patients will not get their surgery within the recommended time frame. The health problems seem to go on and on. I do not have the time to touch on the emergency departments, radiology or public dental chairs but we all know about the issues there.

Another thing that we were promised in 2020 was renal dialysis for Longreach. We were promised two chairs. We are still waiting for renal dialysis for Longreach. As the previous minister for health and, I am sure, the current Minister for Health would know, there are a lot of families in the Longreach area and around the Central West who have to move away from Longreach, away from their families—they have to move to Rockhampton or Townsville—to receive renal dialysis. I even have constituents who have had to hire a caravan and live in a caravan park in Rockhampton to be able to receive their renal dialysis and have not been home for six months to be with their family. That is heartbreaking. When I hear about the so-called satellite hospitals for the Greater Brisbane area and the 11 to 14 renal dialysis chairs in each hospital—or something like that—my heart just breaks for the people of Longreach.

What about the people of Emerald in the Central Highlands? There is a population of over 35,000 people in the local Central Highlands area, yet there is no renal dialysis in Emerald. People who need renal dialysis have to jump on the Greyhound bus and travel three hours to Rockhampton, stay overnight, travel for three hours back and then do it for another two days. Sometimes they spend most of the week on a bus trying to get their renal dialysis. It is simply not good enough.

The Central Highlands, the Bowen Basin, is the heart of the mining industry. No-one can dispute that. They pay their fair share in royalties, but the agricultural industry—the biggest beef herd in Australia is in the Central Highlands—pays its fair share of taxes. It also plays a significant role in the Queensland economy when it comes to trade with our major export partners such as Japan, South Korea, China and the US, yet it receives very little in this budget.

It looks good in a brochure. These brochures look fantastic—full of colour and diagrams—but this is the issue. I will start with the outback region. There is \$1.5 million for the next financial year out of an \$8 million total spend for the refurbishment of staff accommodation, upgrades to pathology and pharmacy services and the rectification of structural, electrical and mechanical services at the Longreach Hospital—only \$1.5 million for next year out of an \$8 million spend. Here is one on which we have been campaigning for a long time—in fact, I brought the stakeholders to Parliament House to meet with the ministers—and I see as a great project. The project is the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone. We have only \$3.5 million for the next financial year out of a \$7 million total spend to support the establishment of the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone. I support that wholeheartedly. It is a great initiative, because one of the biggest issues we have in Western Queensland is the supply of reliable electricity. How many times have we seen burnouts in local towns such as Blackall, Barcaldine, Longreach and Stonehenge? When that happens, a lot of their microwaves, toasters and electrical equipment in the kitchen basically have to be written off. We do not have reliable electricity in the Central West. I believe that projects such as the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone will be of great benefit. How about the government give us all of the money so we can get on with it and get it done—not \$3.5 million; let's get the \$7 million out there.

I love this one: the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha, package 2. It is about roads. My colleague the shadow minister for transport and main roads would love this. He has seen this so many times not only in Brisbane and in South-East Queensland but right throughout regional Queensland. It is supposed to be a total spend of \$45 million for strengthening and widening the pavement of the Capricorn Highway. We desperately need that for the Capricorn Highway because it is dangerous. Past Anakie and at least all the way to the Belyando River, it is a road that is extremely dangerous. Obviously, grey nomad holidaymakers use it. B-triples that support the beef industry use that road. How much will the government spend to strengthen and widen the pavement on the Capricorn Highway even though it promised \$45 million? It will spend only \$2.5 million. I think we would probably get about one, two, or three kilometres for that. All we get is \$2.5 million.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order, members! Those members who are not in their seats will refrain from interjecting.

Mr MILLAR: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Here is another example of throwing some crumbs to the income-generating areas of the Central Highlands, where most of the money is coming from to pay for this budget. This is a classic example of where we are not accounted for at the moment. I refer

to the Springsure Aquatic Centre renewal and upgrade. The pool will cost \$5 million. We have been given \$1 million. I do not think we will even dig the hole for that. We are given \$1 million out of a total \$5 million spend.


Here is something that is concerning and is desperately needed. Let us talk about the Woorabinda Multipurpose Health Service. It is desperately need in Woorabinda. They work hard to try to get anything. It is a good community that needs the support of the government. In terms of the promise of a total spend of \$17.2 million for the replacement of the existing facility to deliver a new accommodation building and an additional 10 beds for the Woorabinda Multihealth Health Service, all we will get next financial year is \$9.8 million. It seems that we are just getting crumbs of money. It will eventually get completed—maybe in four, five or six years. We are not quite sure. We will have to start again.

Of course, it would be remiss of me not to talk about agriculture and the passion that all of us on this side have for agriculture. At a time when our valuable beef industry is on tenterhooks when it comes to the ability of Labor agriculture ministers at a federal and state level to keep foot-and-mouth disease from crossing into Queensland from our nearest neighbours—and do not forget lumpy skin disease, which is very concerning—funding from the department of agriculture has been cut when CPI is taken into account. Biosecurity facilities and biosecurity funding have been cut.

An opposition member: Fire ants?

Mr MILLAR: Of course, I am concerned about the south-east when it comes to fire ants. If we start to see fire ants get towards the coast it could have a big impact. It is a major tourism economic provider for us. We need to get on top of that.

Finally—and this only happened a couple of weeks ago—I said to a journalist on 4LG who asked what I think about the Longreach Pastoral College, ‘The sad thing is I am not surprised that it happened this way.’ Here we have an asset which was built in the mid-sixties by pioneering families and entrepreneurs in Longreach, educating our next generation of agricultural workforce. Minister Furner locked the gates and shut it down. A significant agricultural training facility in Queensland was shut down. We thought there was some hope when the minister said, ‘We are putting it up for sale and hopefully someone can come along and buy it.’ What happened? He sold it for \$12.4 million and there is no clear pathway for training at the Longreach Pastoral College. The government has not shown any interest in providing training for Western Queensland.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (3.37 pm): The 2023-24 budget helps ease national cost-of-living pressures impacting Queensland while investing in health care, housing and infrastructure for our growing state. I congratulate the Treasurer on the work that he has done to bring forward this budget forward. It tackles national cost-of-living pressures with the largest household relief package anywhere in the nation. It sets Queensland up for the future with major investment in our Energy and Jobs Plan, unleashing new industries and jobs in the regions.

All of this is only possible because we are making sure Queenslanders, especially in our regions, are getting a fair share from current high coal prices through our progressive coal royalty scheme. Because of this progressive scheme, working families in my electorate of Sandgate will be very pleased to save some \$4,600 a year thanks to the Palaszczuk government making kindly free. I know all households will also be pleased with the \$550 electricity rebate and the \$1,072 rebate for pensioners in particular.

The biggest project that is outlined in the budget for my electorate going forward is in Main Roads. There is \$18 million in this year’s budget towards the \$1 billion for the Bracken Ridge to Pine River upgrade of the Gateway Motorway. There are numerous other capital commitments that are important for my electorate, particularly schools. Numerous schools within Sandgate are seeing new buildings and new learning spaces being developed, including ones that are fundamentally re-making our local high schools. I acknowledge in this year’s budget alone: \$17.7 million for Sandgate District State High School, which is part of delivering the performing and visual arts centre; \$19.6 million for Bracken Ridge State High School; \$10.9 million for Taigum State School; and a very important and strategic \$1.2 million for Norris Road State School.

My ministerial portfolio responsibilities for tourism, innovation and sport are all key planks in supporting and growing a strong Queensland economy. This year’s budget sees important strategic investment in our tourism industry which will make a significant contribution to the gross state product and continues to deliver record domestic overnight visitor expenditure.

The 2023-24 budget delivers \$500 million over four years to provide a \$125 million annual funding guarantee for Tourism and Events Queensland. The resilience of Queensland's tourism industry to rebound after the pandemic is remarkable. This funding guarantee for TEQ provides them certainty and will help achieve the goal of \$44 billion in overnight visitor expenditure set by the Palaszczuk government in last year's *Towards Tourism 2032: Transforming Queensland's visitor economy future* strategy.

I note that Queensland Tourism Industry Council CEO Brett Fraser said that they welcome the government's guaranteed funding of Tourism and Events Queensland. He said, 'The investment commitment provides much needed certainty and security for TEQ at a time when destination promotion is critical.'

A further \$20 million is to be provided for tourism experience and infrastructure grants, tourism business support and tourism investment attraction. The budget also provides \$10 million funding for an Inclusive Facilities Fund to support grassroots community sport infrastructure. It was great to celebrate that in the electorate of Stafford with the member for Stafford and the Treasurer on the weekend.

A further \$4.8 million over two years is allocated for SwimStart, making more than 30,000 \$150 vouchers available for eligible families for children up to the age of four to learn to swim. SwimStart will bring learn-to-swim classes within reach for 30,000 toddlers, helping low-income families with cost-of-living pressures and giving those swimmers of tomorrow a head start.

I also note that, as part of the Queensland Police Service budget, I am pleased to see there is \$50 million for PCYC upgrades that will refocus the PCYC and improve frontline social program delivery and intervention initiatives regarding youth offending and recidivism. I welcome what this can mean for a very tired Sandgate PCYC.

In the innovation space, the new \$150 million Queensland Venture Capital Development Fund will build on the success of Advance Queensland, which has supported close to 27,000 jobs and leveraged almost a billion dollars from external partners and investors. In its first week of opening, the Queensland Venture Capital Development Fund, announced by the Treasurer, received 82 expressions of interest and positive feedback from industry about it being a great program, well timed and a very appropriate intervention given the tight capital markets globally.

We are also backing women in business through an additional \$5 million over two years to expand the Female Founders program to focus on growing the number of women entrepreneurs in Queensland's innovation ecosystem.

I will shortly incorporate the remainder of my speech in *Hansard*. Before I do, I put it to those opposite: will they commit to our progressive coal royalties over the forwards to deliver the biggest infrastructure program and the biggest cost-of-living measures in the state's history? It is a simple question, but we do not hear a simple answer. We hear prevarication and talking around it. The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Other measures in the 2023-24 State Budget within my portfolio of Tourism, Innovation and Sport include:

- \$20 million in 2023-24 to progress Towards Tourism 2032, which will include \$15 million for the Tourism Experience and Infrastructure Grants program, designed to support tourism experience development in priority areas over two rounds. It will focus on marine, dino-tourism, heritage and cultural, and eco and sustainable tourism.
- The Budget also includes tourism business development and continues to support tourism infrastructure and attraction investment.
- \$12 million over two years to support the 2023 Year of Accessible Tourism activities, increasing awareness and capability and for visitor experience development.

Meanwhile, the Palaszczuk Government will continue to lead Queensland's sport and active recreation industry and support pathways to assist Queenslanders to reach their full sporting potential.

The Budget will deliver \$10 million for female facilities and inclusive infrastructure for clubs, sporting organisations and councils including wider pathways, ramps, upgraded toilets and change rooms.

A \$2 million investment will produce a state-wide audit of facilities for scouts and girl guides and start work on the refurbishments and upgrades that are most needed including modernising huts and dens and improving disability access.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to innovation and will work with venture capital funds to provide start-ups with greater access to early-stage capital, which will support them to scale up and accelerate growth.

The new \$150 million Queensland Venture Capital Development Fund (QVCDF) will build on the success of the Advance Queensland which has supported close to 27,000 jobs and leveraged almost \$1 billion from external partners and investors.

This \$75 million of cornerstone funding into venture capital and accelerator programs, matched or bettered by the private sector, is all about creating the Queensland jobs of the future.

This fund will increase support for innovative early-stage Queensland companies and help Queensland startups become investment ready.

The Palaszczuk Government is also backing in women in business through an additional \$5 million over two years to expand the Female Founders program to focus on growing the number of women entrepreneurs in Queensland's innovation ecosystem.

This builds on the latest \$142 million investment into the Advance Queensland—Innovation for a Future Economy 2022-2032 Roadmap—from last year's budget.

The roadmap increases investment so that companies can start, stay and grow in Queensland and build a well-connected, inclusive and thriving innovation ecosystem.



Ms KING (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.43 pm): Our Palaszczuk government's budget is focused on doing what matters most for Queenslanders. National cost-of-living pressures mean that Pumicestone locals are hurting, and our budget offers Australia's biggest ever support package. Our \$550 energy rebate for every household and \$1,072 for pensioners and concession card holders will be a real helping hand, and every little Queenslanders will get the best possible start to school thanks to our free kindy program.

Jen is a young widow in Pumicestone who works in a low-paid job to support herself and her young son. Jen said to me, 'Thank you for the budget. The free kindy and the energy rebates will really help me and my family.' More good news for Jen is that we are also expanding our FairPlay scheme to include new \$150 SwimStart vouchers to help cover the cost of swimming lessons for littlies.

We are also making sure Queenslanders have the jobs and the infrastructure they need into the future with our \$89 billion Queensland Big Build. Pumicestone's very own Big Build includes funding to complete our Bribie Island and Caboolture satellite hospitals and finish our huge redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital. Our start-to-finish Beachmere Road upgrade begins this year, plus we have funding in the budget to dual-lane two more projects for Bribie Island Road—something that is very important to my community. We are also investing in wellbeing with our brand new Bribie Island Neighbourhood Centre and a new PCYC in Caboolture that will serve our young people.

Turning to the LNP's response to our budget, I quote *InQueensland*. Dennis Atkins said, 'The Leader of the Opposition has established just one thing: he complains about everything but can't be remembered for anything.' The Leader of the Opposition claims to listen to Queenslanders, but he did not talk once about what matters most to Queenslanders—not the economy or the 520,000 new jobs that we have created since 2015. This LNP mob are much more interested in jobs for themselves than jobs for Queenslanders.

The LNP leader talked about transparency, but he was not transparent about the LNP's plans for our progressive coal royalties that have delivered all of this cost-of-living support into the future. The 'timid' LNP leader—and in saying that I quote the *Courier-Mail*—will cave in to the coal lobby and cancel progressive coal royalties. He is sitting on the fence getting ready to do it, and when he does he will blow a massive \$7 billion hole in the budget. What will the LNP do to fill that budget black hole? The member for Broadwater admits he wants to cut \$10 billion from our infrastructure Big Build, and the member for Chatsworth admitted live on radio their secret plans for \$2 billion in further cuts.

What disappointed me most about the LNP's budget reply though was the attacks on our satellite hospitals. The Leader of the Opposition shamefully called our satellite hospitals a waste and said construction cost increases should be spent elsewhere. The LNP's double standards are on show here. Bribie locals do not forget the LNP dangling a hollow Bribie hospital, with nothing but GPs and urgent care, in front of them at the last election. The LNP just do not want Bribie and Caboolture locals to have renal dialysis, oral health, mental health and geriatric services closer to home. They do not want Bribie locals to get that late night urgent care seven days a week that is needed so badly in our community. We know what they will do if they get the chance.

Imagine, if you want to, a parallel universe where it is November 2025, five months after the Bleijie-Mander LNP government has handed down its first budget. Progressive coal royalties have been repealed to fulfil the LNP's promise to the Resources Council. Multinational mining companies are delighted, but Treasury is horrified at the hole in the budget. The first 23,000 public servants to face the knife are scrambling to pay their mortgages and feed their kids. Caboolture Hospital has been renamed the 'Sir Prince Philip Memorial Hospital'. In a deal brokered by the former member for Mermaid Beach, all seven satellite hospitals have been sold off to Aspen Medical and people now pay to use them.

Key Queensland power assets will be privatised by Christmas. Renewable energy projects have been shuttered and thousands of workers have been sacked from Borumba pumped hydro, causing a sector-wide contraction. Workers' rights have been rolled back, women's reproductive services are facing an ominous legislative review and LGBTIQ+ people are frightened—with good reason given what we have seen this week. Treaty is off the table, but public housing and school ovals are on the market. Political donations are rolling in for the LNP since they scrapped donation disclosure limits and restored property developer donations.

The LNP have shown us time and time again their priorities for Queensland. When they show us and when they tell us, we should believe them. Our Labor budget priorities are about doing what matters for Queenslanders, not what matters for property developers, big business and the Queensland Resources Council. The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

As always, the LNPs Budget Reply lacked policies, it lacked ideas, it lacked leadership and it lacked vision.

To quote from the Courier Mail: "Missed opportunity—timid Budget reply shows we need real leadership"

"At a time when cost-of-living pressures and housing expenses are dominating people's lives, it is a surprise to see Opposition leader David Crisafulli use his budget reply to target ... consultants".

There wasn't any vision in this Budget reply from the LNP, but there were plenty of magic tricks.

Nobody issued me a magic wand when I was elected to parliament—so I'm jealous that the Leader of the Opposition seems to have been issued a special LNP magic wand.

Using his LNP magic wand, the Leader of the Opposition can miraculously guarantee that projects won't increase in cost under an LNP government.

Apparently, the Member for Broadwater's magic wand is so powerful it can even turn back Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and reverse global supply chain pressures after COVID.

Though if project costs do increase, the LNP can just reach for their good old LNP magic scissors and cut.

But the Leader of the Opposition's magic wand must be a bit patchy—it lets him magic away inflation so he can guarantee project costs never go up, but it doesn't have enough grunt to keep his own backbench under control.

With just one wave of the Leader of the Opposition's magic wand, the LNP is reborn as the champion of the public service, but no magic wand on earth is powerful enough to wipe Queenslanders' memories about the 14,000 public servants and 4,400 health workers they sacked last time they got into government.

Just in our Metro North Hospital and Health Service, the LNP marched 732 nurses out the door of Caboolture Hospital and all the other hospitals we rely on.

One thing I can guarantee the Leader of the Opposition is that his magic wand will never make even one of those nurses forget how the LNP sacked them in their very first Budget.

Further investments

What a contrast with our strong Labor Budget, delivered by our Palaszczuk Labor government that is always focused on doing what matters to support Queenslanders and always working to make sure that our best days are ahead of us.

I can't finish without noting some further very welcome investments in this Budget.

Small Business

As a former small business owner, I'm proud to back our small businesses and delighted that the Budget gives small business owners \$650 automatically taken off their energy bills.

Plus our budget is investing in Bribie Island tourism infrastructure with \$234,000 for new flat bottomed vessels for Bribie Beach Shack Eco Tours, helping create sustainable tourism jobs for the future.

Light on the Hill

In Labor, we believe in our light on the hill, the light that offers hope, help and solidarity when times are tough.

So because too many kids still go to school on an empty stomach, we're growing our school breakfast program to make sure every kid can get a good start to the day.

In this period of increased housing stress, our Big Housing Build will mean 320 extra houses built through the QuickStarts program as we work toward our target of 13,000 homes by 2027, plus \$64 million extra in the Budget for emergency accommodation.

But none of this would be possible without our progressive coal royalties.

Decarbonisation

Our progressive royalty tiers allow us to make huge investments in cleaner, cheaper power across Queensland, some of them not that far from Pumicestone.

Decarbonisation is a huge opportunity for Queensland, not only for urgent environmental action but for strong economic outcomes.

Our Big Build Budget invests \$183 million in Borumba Pumped Hydro, a massive nation building project that will store enough electricity to power 2 million homes, and generate over 2,300 construction jobs as we transition to a decarbonised economy. Borumba is an historic project that Pumicestone people will be able to boast they worked on to their grandchildren in decades to come.

Those 2,300 jobs have the potential to benefit the next generation of energy construction workers in our own community, bringing a pipeline of well-paid jobs to Pumicestone.

Conclusion

Queenslanders tell us that cost of living, health, housing and our infrastructure Big Build matter to them, so that's what our Budget delivers.

I congratulate the Treasurer on another strong Labor Budget from our strong Palaszczuk Labor government.

Speaker, I am delighted to commend the Budget to the House.



Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (3.49 pm): I wish I could tell the people of Callide that this is a good budget, but we have been miserably failed by this Labor government. This budget lacks vision. It shows Queensland no hope to help navigate through the tough times to come. It also once again highlights a government in the grips of chaos and crisis.

The government has finally acknowledged how poorly they have managed our electricity market and tried to make us forget about it through a one-off cash splash that does absolutely nothing to address long-term electricity prices. The Callide Power Station has been completely neglected by Labor. Callide C4 has been offline for two years. The government was warned this would jack up electricity prices. These warnings, like many the government has received, fell on deaf ears. Engineering reports which outlined that the cooling towers were in serious need of maintenance also fell on deaf ears and last year they collapsed, sending the C3 unit offline. The offline units at the Callide Power Station—a government owned and managed asset—are one of the key reasons electricity prices have never been higher.

Labor tries to say they are the party for workers, but there is a good reason the CFMEU split from the Labor Party several years ago. Labor no longer represents the working class and fails to maintain assets that employ CFMEU workers. Labor, the party in power, has the full resources of the Treasury at their disposal to ensure they can add a few figures up correctly. They said they would receive \$5.48 billion in coal royalties. The LNP and industry very quickly pointed out this was inaccurate. They were 280 per cent off—nearly three times what they forecast. If the Treasurer is that bad at budget forecasting, no wonder we see excessive blowouts in nearly every other department under Labor, which is in the grips of chaos and crisis.

I will set the scene for how much the people of Callide are being taken for a ride by the Labor government, and I dare members of the government, future Labor candidates or supporters to tell me this is justifiable. When the government has Callide's power stations running we generate more than 16 per cent of Queensland's gross electricity production, making us the literal powerhouse of the state. That is from our gas and coal-fired power stations. I also have many coalmines that export a lot of coal and pay a lot of royalties. When I add up the Baralaba coalmine on the boundary of the electorate along with the Callide, Cameby Downs, Dawson and Boundary Hill mines, there are approximately 21 million tonnes of coal exported. From this, and also based on figures provided by Treasury, I estimate that Callide will pay more than a whopping \$2 billion in royalties to the end of June in a couple of weeks time.

This government keeps talking about how important it is that the communities who own these coal assets get their fair share. Of the more than \$2 billion in royalties alone, how much do we think Callide gets? For the record, this is not including all of the GST we pay, stamp duty, payroll tax and billions of other dollars in revenue that the state receives. This is just from the sugar hit the government is receiving. This year they spent a mere \$183 million in capital works. That is from what we could find in the budget. That is less than 10 per cent of Callide's coal royalties. Next year we will be getting—now that they know how much Callide coughed up this financial year—only \$344 million. That is all we could find. That is not communities in Queensland getting their fair share of the royalties; that is Labor taking communities in Callide for a ride. These are communities with significant CFMEU and ETU membership, unions that the Labor Party so-called represents. The Labor Party are taking billions of dollars in royalties from our regions and they are not appropriately reinvesting it. Maybe with these billions in royalties we should be expanding critical resource provinces to shore up government royalty revenue for decades to come.

Moura and Theodore are two great towns in the Callide electorate. They sit at each end of the Dawson mine. I estimate that the Dawson mine paid the state government \$380 million in coal royalties this financial year. What are they getting in capital works? They are getting less than \$1.5 million. That is less than half a per cent of the royalties going back to these communities. Meanwhile, Moura is still waiting for their multipurpose healthcare service, which includes eight new beds for residential aged care, a new kitchen and refurbishments to the existing hospital. Half of this was meant to be built by the middle of last year. They have kicked the can down the road yet again and they have budgeted less than 10 per cent of it in the next financial year, being \$500,000 of the \$7.2 million project.

In April this year the CQHHS updated their website and said that this facility would be open by early 2024. This government cannot even tell their health service they have cut their funding. No wonder Callide does not have a single birthing service. The government cannot even inform public servants in time to update the website. I table evidence outlining when the Moura Multipurpose Health Service was meant to open.

Tabled paper: Web page, undated, titled 'Moura Multipurpose Health Service aged care extension' [889].

Moura needs its aged-care beds now and not in the never-never. One of the crumbs of funding we did get is the Moura school oval upgrade which I, alongside the Moura community, have been fighting hard for for a long time. I am glad that Moura school students will have a new oval soon thanks to the \$537,000 that is there. Meanwhile, I will keep fighting hard to see these aged-care beds delivered.

It is clear that Callide is being well and truly short-changed in this budget. There is no money to fix the disaster that is the Calliope State School drop-off and pick-up area. This school is on a busy highway and the current design is completely inadequate, dangerous and desperately needs fixing.

Biloela has no CT scanner—a service that is desperately needed. We are sick of the excuses the government keeps making. I will keep fighting until a CT scanner is delivered to Biloela.

The PCYC has just been given a huge lump sum by the government. Unfortunately the PCYC only recently walked away from the people of Biloela, taking a huge insurance payout and leaving the shed in a state of disrepair for the community. I am calling on the PCYC to now do the right thing by the people of Biloela and give the community back the funds they have taken elsewhere, especially now that they have significant government funding. We have many youth crime problems, and your actions have left us in the dark and our youth without adequate facilities.

The free kindy announcement is very much welcome, but I have been informed that one of my own kindys in Biloela is planning on closing thanks to other government changes. I will be meeting with them next week to find out more, and from there I will be writing to the minister.

Monto Mount Perry Road has desperately needed upgrading for a long time. A good start has been made, and I welcome the \$3.58 million that has been allocated next financial year. I fear, given the record of blowouts, this will not finish the road. I again call on the government to finish this road as a priority. I also welcome the opening of the John Peterson Bridge on Mundubbera-Durong Road. The LNP, the member for Nanango and the member for Flynn have all fought hard for this, and the LNP and the coalition delivered. Now we continue the fight to see the 11-kilometre single-lane section upgraded.

Gayndah Mount Perry Road is often in a state of disrepair. It is a key access road to the great destination of Mingo Crossing. The North Burnett council and I have both been advocating to see this road upgraded. Yet again Labor is failing to deliver the infrastructure we need. The Burnett Highway, like many state controlled roads, is well overdue for significant upgrades. I call on the Minister for Transport to give the North Burnett the infrastructure it deserves.

There is not a single dollar for the Coalstoun Lakes water project, Cooranga weir or any new water project in the North Burnett. When it comes to Paradise Dam, they have not even allocated 10 per cent of the total funding required for this project. It is a fact that Labor does not like building dams, especially for food security, and it does not want to rebuild Paradise Dam. The member for Burnett, the member for Nanango and I will keep fighting to make sure they fix their own stuff-up and rebuild Paradise Dam to its full height.

The Darling Downs is a great part of Queensland, and I am proud to represent my home community. The Chinchilla, Miles and Jandowae police stations are in desperate need of an upgrade. I again note my welcome for the increase in staffing allocations for police across the Western Downs following the tragedy last year, but there is a long way to go before we have adequate police on the ground and decent facilities for our hardworking police officers. Across Queensland, there are 72 fewer police officers physically on the ground. Meanwhile, the spin doctors for the government have increased by 98.

We still have no birthing services in the whole electorate of Callide. Chinchilla and Biloela are still on bypass. Labor said they had stumped up \$42 million for maternity services, but they have failed again to deliver actual services to our community. It is clear that you cannot trust Labor to deliver services in Queensland. Our health system keeps going backwards.

There is completely inadequate funding to the Warrego and Leichhardt highways, and the Chinchilla Wondai Road is in a state of disrepair and does not receive a cent. Many intersections and turning lanes need upgrading, such as the Dawson Gates Road and Fairymeadow Road off the Warrego Highway. Again, I call on the Minister for Transport to deliver these critical road safety upgrades.

Callide is receiving a fraction of our royalties. Meanwhile, key Labor seats that provide not one cent in coal royalties are getting billions in what is clear pork-barrelling. Callide has 51 schools and is only getting \$6.6 million. A neighbouring Labor seat with six public schools is getting more than \$30 million. What an absolute slap in the face to the hardworking people of Callide.

It is clear that Labor are also go-slow on the Gladstone Port access upgrades which are needed under their own plans to deliver other projects. They cannot appropriately fund it in this year's budget, yet the money from the federal government has been sitting there since April 2019.

With the time remaining, I want to talk about a critical issue to Queensland—biosecurity. I found a document on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website called 'Red imported fire ant in Australia: what if we lose the war?' I table a copy of this well-written research article from a few years ago.

Tabled paper: Journal article, dated October 2016, titled 'Red Imported Fire Ant in Australia: What if we lose the War?', by F. Ross Wylie and Sharon Janssen-May, *Ecological Management and Restoration*, vol 18, no. 1 [890].

I want to mention a couple of key points. It states that since fire ants were detected in Australia—

... four separate incursions of this ant have been successfully eradicated from this country, but the main Brisbane population remains. Cost-benefit analyses already conducted put the likely impact of Red Imported Fire Ant in Australia, if not eradicated, at between A\$8.5 and A\$45 billion.

This is not a small problem that we face. I personally met with people involved in the fire ant program a number of years ago, and I also had a rally out the front of the office of the member for Ferny Grove, the minister for agriculture. He was directly warned that the fire ant program was going to fail under his watch unless he drastically improved it. Just the other day we saw that fire ants have made it to the Darling Downs. He was warned four years ago that he was failing in this program and we have seen evidence of that again this week. What about the impacts? The article states—

More than 50 commercial food crops are reported to be impacted by Red Imported Fire Ant in the USA, including vegetable, melon, fruit, nut, vine and grain crops. All of these crops are grown in Australia. Impacts in the USA include loss of crop yield, plant mortality, damage to equipment and infrastructure, medical expenses, increased labour costs and market access.

Here is an example of an impact—

In a crop of eggplants, there was a 50 per cent reduction in yield in Florida.


The article further states—

Red Imported Fire Ant invades honeybee colonies and robs them of stored honey, pollen, larvae and pupae thus having a devastating impact on the colony. They also compete with bees for nectar from flowers and extra floral nectaries

I am running out of time but I want to say that when I have been talking about the fire ants this week there has been a lot of laughter from across the chamber from Labor backbenchers—especially when I said let us see how seriously they take it when a child gets seriously hurt or even worse. They were laughing at those comments. Well, this article states—

In 2013, Red Imported Fire Ant stings led to the death of a 13-year-old student during a football game.

Yes, this was in the States but this is the consequence of poor biosecurity. We need to fix this problem. The government has cut \$80 million from the biosecurity program, while pigs are running rampant. The minister for agriculture is clearly the fire ants' friend. I would love to say more but this is my first budget speech and I have now run out of time.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak on the budget. I am proud of this budget that responds to the immediate national and global pressures facing Queensland families and invests to set up our great state and economy for the future. It is a budget that delivers the returns from a strong economy and a fair return on coal royalties back to Queenslanders.

Our economic recovery plan has supported nation-leading growth, with 264,000 more jobs since the pandemic, bringing the total number of jobs created to more than half a million under our government since 2015. Over the next year Queensland's economy is forecast to grow at three per cent, twice as fast as the nation. That strong economic management provides us with the budget capacity to respond to immediate national cost-of-living pressures.

To this end, I am very proud that our budget addresses those cost-of-living pressures that are facing families at the moment. We are making kindy free, saving families around \$4,600 a year so all four-year-olds can have 15 hours a week; taking \$550 off power bills over the next year for all Queensland households; taking \$1,072 off power bills for pensioners and eligible concession card holders—how important is that right across Queensland; providing learn-to-swim vouchers of \$150 for 30,000 children under five years of age; and funding school breakfasts and providing more funding for Foodbank. This is what Labor governments do. We understand that there are pressures out there among families and we want to make sure we are there for them.

This is a budget that invests in the \$89 billion big infrastructure build—the biggest build of its kind in our state's history. It has the largest hospital building program in the nation, delivering over 3,300 more beds. It is supporting hospitals in our regions, including Moranbah, Mackay, Cairns, Townsville, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba—just to name a few.

The Big Build delivers our transformational investment in renewable energy—\$19 billion—with the largest projects ever built to set up our state for future generations. We are building CopperString 2032 to open up all new critical minerals, mining and renewables and two pumped hydro dams at Borumba and Pioneer-Burdekin to store renewable energy. We are making these investments partially from the returns from coal royalties. We are also committing \$440 million towards raising the wall by two metres for the Burdekin Falls Dam that will support the hydrogen industry. These projects will lift the productivity of our economy and make Queensland a global powerhouse for manufacturing with renewable energy. That means 58,000 jobs over the next year, including 38,500 in the regions supported through our Big Build and more new jobs into the future with more industries.

The Big Build delivers \$5 billion to construct social and affordable housing. That includes lifting the budget for construction of social housing by 67 per cent. We are further increasing the support for housing and homelessness supports to over \$250 million to provide immediate assistance. There is not a person on this side of the House who does not understand those housing pressures, and that is why we are listening and we are delivering. We will continue to work with the Albanese Labor government to make sure we get even more funding for housing. The Big Build includes \$32 billion for transport infrastructure, including upgrades to the Bruce Highway, the Coomera Connector, the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 and Cross River Rail.

This year's health budget responds to national pressures facing our health system, with the largest yearly increase in funding on record to 9.6 per cent. We are taking investment in health to \$25.8 billion, including funding for LifeFlight with a new hangar on the Sunshine Coast, and our Putting Patients First ambulance ramping plan totalling \$764 million, with \$130 million of new funding to tackle ramping and reduce waiting times.

I have heard firsthand from Queenslanders their suggestions on how to respond to issues around youth justice and the need to establish youth hubs and focus on prevention. That is why I am proud that this budget includes a \$446 million generational response to youth justice, including \$400,000 for youth hubs in Toowoomba and Mount Isa; more co-responder teams to engage with young people to break the cycle of crime; an increase in funding of \$56 million for both infrastructure and resources across 54 PCYCs aimed at reducing youth offending in priority locations—and this is resonating so much across Queensland; and a doubling of funding to \$30 million for helping seniors secure their homes. It was wonderful to see JT here yesterday wanting to make a huge difference. He is putting back into the community to turn these young people's lives around.


I want to put on record my thanks to the Treasurer, the officers, the CBRC, my cabinet and the government for all of the work that has gone into this budget. This budget is reflective of the times and the pressures that are on Queenslanders. I know this. I represent the electorate of Inala.

This budget is also delivering big for our local kids. More than \$60 million in projects will ensure the next generation of our wonderful community will have the best facilities to learn and grow. We will build extra classrooms at Western Suburbs State Special School as part of a \$28 million project. That is enormous news for my community. I know that people bring their children from all around the western suburbs to this special school in Inala. I really want to thank the minister for the investment in our special schools across Queensland.

Students at Glenala State High will benefit from an upgraded tuckshop, improved amenities and a brand new building filled with learning spaces and training facilities. Upgrades to facilities will also get underway at Carole Park and Forest Lake State School and Forest Lake High. Almost \$900,000 in maintenance works will also be delivered throughout the region. This is definitely a budget that is focusing on infrastructure and what is needed for our great state.

There is \$1.9 billion to fund Queensland's share on venues for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and another \$100 million for detailed planning and design.

I am so proud of this budget and what it delivers for the people of our state—a response to immediate national cost-of-living pressures facing families and an investment for our state's economic future. We are able to deliver for Queenslanders because we have kept our public assets in public ownership, and we have ensured Queenslanders receive a fair share of royalties from our coal resources. We have restored the frontline workers sacked by the LNP with 5,900 more teachers, 1,470 more teacher aides, over 11,200 more nurses, 3,400 more doctors, 670 more police and 284 more firefighters. The question we are all asking now is: will the opposition back public ownership of our power assets? Will they back our Energy and Jobs Plan? Will they back our coal royalties? Will they back our frontline workers? Queenslanders deserve to know.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.11 pm): I rise to support this fantastic budget. What a pleasure to be able to follow the Premier. I thank her, the Treasurer and the team for this fantastic budget that they are delivering today. It is a great budget for Queensland and it is a great budget for the Stafford electorate. This budget is based on our Labor values of social justice, responsible reform and responsible economic management that puts workers, families and local communities at its heart. This budget delivers cost-of-living support for Queenslanders with \$550 for households and even more for the pensioners and those capitalising on the state government's subsidy schemes. I am so excited about this budget's commitment for free kindy for all Queensland kids. I know what an improvement that will make for families and our great local kindergartens and daycare centres across my electorate.

On the north side, this budget delivers in spades. As people know, education and training are real passions of mine, and this budget delivers for local schools and training providers. This includes funding for the Wilston State School hall and we now have the MID approval for that project. It includes Somerset Hills State School sporting infrastructure upgrade that benefits the school community as well as community football and the swimming club. It is an absolute win-win. It also includes close to a million dollars for improvements and maintenance right across schools in our electorate.

In terms of health, there is funding to proceed with 96 new beds at the Prince Charles Hospital, an icon in our community. I was there just last week with the member for Aspley and the minister to see the short-stay beds are coming along really well and will be finished shortly. This builds on the previous Labor investment in this important institution: the children's ED, the expansion of general services, the fantastic medical research from The Common Good, the co-location of Jacaranda House, replacing the adolescent mental health Barrett Centre that the Tories cut with no replacement, and the RBWH specialist cancer centre.

In terms of Prince Charles Hospital, there is also the new car park that will remain owned by the HHS to make tough days a little easier for patients, family and friends and, of course, to support staff. It also takes cars off local roads, helping the residents of Chermide.

Speaking of taking cars off local roads, it was wonderful to have the Treasurer and the roads minister, as well as north side colleagues, out to announce a study into what we think could be the missing link, solving the problems of Gympie Road. There will be \$35 million invested in a comprehensive study. The tunnel itself is designed to help commuters, particularly those to the north of us. Importantly, in contrast to the LNP Brisbane City Council proposal that would have funnelled thousands of commuter cars onto already underfunded council roads, our investigation is seeking to link commuter traffic to the existing tunnel network, whether out to the airport, across the Gateway to head south, to the CBD or out to the west to Ipswich and beyond.

Locally, it is not so much necessarily about the use of the tunnel itself. Northsiders know that through Aspley and Chermide and Kedron down to Stafford, Gympie Road really is not the highway that it is to the north. It is actually a hub of our community for local businesses, our hospital, our shopping centres, our emergency services and our families trying to get kids to local schools. So, taking many cars off the road could help alleviate local road use, and I am really excited to see the investigation. This is on top of the investment we are making in public transport through the northern transit upgrade, supporting better car use and better public transport.

I want to take a bit of a sidestep and talk about one discrete part of the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply, that which was about the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. The opposition leader tried to make a huge budget announcement that he would make an appointment to QSAC to represent victims. Ironically, I hope we can take this as the commitment that they will not scrap QSAC because that is exactly what his deputy leader did, the member for Kawana, under the Newman government. They literally abolished it.

Secondly, QSAC currently has very senior representation from the DPP—a silk, in fact—who sits on QSAC and built a career prosecuting cases on behalf of victims. More to the point, the words of the Leader of the Opposition were absolutely insulting in claiming the victims' advocates are not represented. He ignores the fact that a foundation member and continuing member is the CEO of knowmore, a leading victims' advocacy group, specifically for the most vulnerable of victims—children and survivors of child abuse. How dare the opposition leader claim that victims do not have a voice. What an insult to those victims themselves.

It is concerning the member would insult us like that and insult the organisation. It is concerning that the Leader of the Opposition is deliberately misleading or does not know, and either are very concerning. Really, I think it is concerning that the Leader of the Opposition and his team do not know how to use Google. It is on a public-facing website who are the current members of QSAC, including a nation-leading victims' advocate, and those opposite seek to either mislead or are deliberately ignorant. It is a discrete part of his reply speech. Why put it in the reply speech if he does not even know what he is talking about or he is deliberately misleading? It is sad, absolutely sad.

The Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows-

Free Kindy

Our government's free kindy program will help families of all types from Wilston in the south to Chermside and Craigslea in the north and everywhere in between: Kedron Heights Community Kindergarten, Emily Foord Memorial Kindergarten in Stafford, Grange community kindy, Craigslea Kindergarten, Alderley Kindergarten, as well as early education daycare services that provide the kindy experience for children of that age, like the extensive C&K network we enjoy across the Stafford electorate. I support all of them and this budget delivers for all of them.

SQW

The budget also continues our brilliant Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, of which I am such a supporter. I am very proud to have been part of the team that brought the program back after those opposite scrapped it, and I will continue to be an advocate for it locally. I look forward to the upcoming graduation ceremony of the program from the MCC in my electorate.

Housing

This government understands the difficulties our communities are facing when it comes to housing. That is why with the investment in housing in this budget since 2021 we have invested \$5 billion in housing. On the north side, we have recently opened social and community housing in Kedron, Windsor and Lutwyche, with work underway and more to come in Alderley, Chermside and Chermside West.

Renewables

This budget also invests significantly in renewable energy. It was wonderful to welcome new apprentices to the Stafford depot of Energex. They are preparing for the new and modern energy sector that we should rightly celebrate. This budget delivers significant investment in renewable energy development, including storage capacity and development in critical minerals and battery technology.

Coal Royalties

Which of these local projects would those opposite cut? They said they will vote for the budget bills this year but explicitly refuse to rule out scrapping that income in the future. So which kindy is going to lose out? Which road infrastructure is going to be cut? How many hospital beds will they cut? Which school upgrades will they cut? That is the question. Until they answer this question, Queenslanders know they can only trust Labor to invest in jobs, health and education.

Conclusion

Congratulations to the Treasurer and Premier for this budget. As I started, this delivers for Queensland and it delivers for Stafford. I commend the budget and the appropriation bills to the House.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (4.17 pm): There is a lot going on across the state of Queensland at present and, sadly, not a lot of it is good. Overwhelmingly, as the Leader of the Opposition shared, when we are out and about talking to constituents in our own electorates as we partake in health crisis town hall meetings and various other events, whether it be part of the shadow cabinet or our travels around the state in our portfolios, we are hearing from Queenslanders that we are going the wrong way. We are going the wrong way. There is chaos, there is crisis, and the crises are many.

Ms Grace: Talking points.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the Minister for Education, one of a number of ministers who do not take seriously what Queenslanders are telling us as members of parliament, regardless of our political persuasion, who do not listen. When a government does not listen, the people stop trusting them. They do not trust them to fix the youth crime crisis. They do not trust them to fix the Queensland housing crisis. They do not trust them to fix the Queensland health crisis. This budget is not going to change that one iota. Let's unpack that a little bit.

As we have said, Queensland is in the middle of a youth crime crisis. It is fair to say that the electorate of Glass House has avoided that for much of the time; I know many, particularly in the north around Townsville and Cairns and in Brisbane, have been suffering for a lot longer. However, it is now starting to have an impact on towns like Beerwah, as I have previously shared. What do the members of the government do when they go out to communities and say, 'Yes, we're in the middle of a youth crime crisis but, sadly, there are 72 fewer police than there were at the election in 2020'? Queenslanders wonder why, when they pick up the phone and ring the police, no-one comes. It is not because the police are not doing the best they possibly can with the resources they do have—and I do want to acknowledge all of those hardworking frontline police officers around the electorate of Glass House because they are doing everything they possibly can. There is just fewer of them. Tragically, juxtapose that with the fact that in the same time frame there are 98 more marketing and media staff in the Premier's office; 72 fewer police and 98 more media and marketing.

Mr Janetzki: Must be an election coming.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South; there must be an election coming. That is appalling. Yes, we have heard announcement after announcement from the police minister, but that is just what they are: announcements. For that to result in 72 fewer police shows that this government cannot deliver. They can make announcements; they cannot deliver.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr POWELL: I will get to that, member for Chatsworth; don't you worry.

Queensland is also in the middle of a housing crisis. Homelessness and housing availability and affordability have never been what they are now, and this crisis has drastically impacted the electorate of Glass House. Longstanding members of our communities have had to vacate rental properties as owners take up the opportunity to sell their properties, partly because of the rental changes that this government continue to push through and partly because of the huge amount of interstate and international migration. Those people who have previously rented in our communities have not been able to find another rental property in those communities and so have had to move away or, in some tragic circumstances, are living in tents in parks or under bridges.

We have had announcement after announcement from this government, including several years ago with the \$2 billion for the Housing Investment Fund, which it is my understanding has not delivered a single house.

Mr Mander: Zilch.

Mr POWELL: Zero. What the government has been doing with some of the funding it has provided is not building new stock; it is literally going and buying up other properties, which produces exactly the same outcome I just spoke about where interstate and international migration leads to houses being purchased out from underneath renters. It is exactly the same outcome.

I am pleased that in his budget reply the Leader of the Opposition committed a future LNP government to ensuring that the Housing Investment Fund will only be used to deliver new, additional social housing stock. Let's be clear: this fund will have to increase the number of total dwellings available so that we can truly put a dent in that supply issue that is driving up costs for Queenslanders.

We are also going to reinvigorate the community housing sector, a sector that in every other jurisdiction is doing much better at helping governments address their social housing problems, but we have been left languishing. There are also solutions that do not require significant budgetary contributions. I again return to the SEQ regional plan. We are told it is under review, but when are my constituents going to get the opportunity to put forward their planning and rezoning ideas to help relieve the housing stress that is occurring in our region and throughout South-East Queensland? I am contacted on a daily basis by residents who have solutions they want to propose as part of that review and yet it is still a secret. My question on notice was answered that, yes, it will go out for the statutory

30 days of public consultation sometime in the second half of this year. (A) that is not enough time and (b) when? We could be addressing this far sooner and opening up new blocks of land for potential housing to provide new stock to provide roofs over the heads of people who are currently sleeping rough in parks and under bridges throughout the electorate of Glass House.

We are also in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. We will always support good cost-of-living initiatives. I acknowledge and welcome the contribution around kindergarten. Like others on this side, I do have concerns around staffing in classrooms and I hope that the commitments we have heard this week when we have questioned around that do come true. I do hope that all of the kids in our part of the world can get along to a free kindergarten.

I also acknowledge the swimming lessons. Why? That was our policy back in 2017. It is great to see another LNP policy picked up. I do acknowledge the electricity rebates, but I will be honest: I am concerned these electricity rebates offer no long-term solution to drive down power bills. In fact, the government seems to be doing everything in its power to add to the cost of electricity in this state. Let's look at a couple of examples.

Hydro—we in the LNP are very supportive of hydro. It makes sense. On one hand after contributing \$14 billion to Borumba hydro to the north of the electorate of Glass House, the corporation that builds that hydro will need to seek a return on that investment. It is the way the energy market works. The regulator allows the company, whether it is government owned or otherwise, to seek a return on the investment they make. Potentially, Queenslanders will end up paying twice—not only as a taxpayer stumping up the \$14 billion for that hydro plant but also as that initial outlay is recouped through their power bills in the decades ahead.

While staying on the subject hydro, let's look at what was the fundamental component of the government's energy and jobs announcement—another announcement—the Pioneer-Burdekin Dam. There is no funding—zero funding—in this budget for that—what was the other word for it?

Mr Head: Hoax.

Mr POWELL:—hoax; we will use that word. There was no funding whatsoever. The other aspect—and I am pleased the member for Callide is sitting alongside me—is that in maintaining ownership of our government owned energy producers like Callide, this government has failed to maintain them. They have tried to say that that was never going to contribute to increases in energy prices. However, the Auditor-General has called them out and identified the Callide power plant failure as a major contributor to the increase in energy prices. Again, I welcome the announcement by the LNP opposition leader that, if elected at the next election, we will commit to the implementation of a maintenance guarantee on power plants to ensure maintenance is not forgone to prop up the government's balance sheet. We need to invest money in these power plants to ensure they are operational and not costing Queenslanders more.

We have also had rivers of revenue—\$60 billion more than the Treasurer expected to receive when he first announced a budget back in 2019.

Mr Janetzki: Where has it gone?

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. Where has it gone? What do we have to show for it? We keep getting announcements and no solutions, particularly around hospitals and health. In some cases, we literally get nothing at all. Sunshine Coast heavy rail, that important link that is needed for the 2032 Olympics between Beerwah, Caloundra, Kawana and on to Maroochydore, is not in the budget. It will not be built under this government in time for the Olympics. Thank goodness the LNP has committed our 50 per cent to ensure that project gets all the way to Maroochydore.

Then there is our local roads. I invite the Premier to come out and tell the people of Ocean View why, despite \$60 billion additional revenue, there is no money in the budget for Mount Mee Road at Ocean View or the residents of Wamuran; or D'Aguiar about their intersections of the D'Aguiar Highway with Campbells Pocket Road or with Mount Mee Road; or the residents of Witta around Maleny Kenilworth Road.

I do want to address Kilcoy Beerwah Road at Cedarton. The issue with that road was caused by a natural disaster. It is still my hope that the natural disaster funding is there somewhere in the budget and that will occur in the next 12 months, but that is the only road that will see any action in the electorate of Glass House for the next four years.

I acknowledge that the Minister for Education has put forward \$1.5 million for some new amenities at Woodford P-10 State School, but again I implore the Minister for Education to use that asset that is there and extend it to P-12. That is something that would assist in alleviating pressure on the Caboolture and Kilcoy high schools. It is a conversation we have had—and I will keep having—as that community looks to expand and grow.

We also heard from the Leader of the Opposition about how this government has been wedded to consultants—in fact, obsessed with consultants. The Leader of the Opposition said as the government ages, the obsession grows. I can tell honourable members it is actually historical.


Labor governments historically rely on consultants. It is one of the reasons I am a member for parliament. As I have previously explained to this House, as a long-term public servant at both the Commonwealth and state level—including serving under former premiers Beattie and Bligh—one of my biggest frustrations was that I would often be asked to prepare a brief urgently. That brief would be sent up within the time frame specified and I would hear nothing for three months. What I would see is a consultant come along in that time, ask me the same questions the minister had asked me, take the same briefing note that I had prepared, use that to write their submission to the minister and get it ticked off at an exorbitant cost—far more than the salary that I was being paid to be a public servant. Not only is it a waste of money, but it is also demoralising for the public servant in question.

I am pleased to hear that the Leader of the Opposition will redirect the money away from the top of town and away from those cashed-up big four consultancy firms and will reinvest it in empowering our Public Service. By taking it away from those consultants in the first place we are already empowering public servants. Investing in world-class professional development and training packages to improve the skills, training, opportunity and leadership of the Public Service will ensure we will end up with the best Public Service in the nation. We will stand by the Public Service. We know that they have so much to offer. They are itching to offer it. They are not getting it from this government. This government is not listening to them in the same way they are not listening to the people who are suffering from the youth crime crisis; in the same way they are not listening to the people suffering from the youth crime crisis; in the same way they are not listening to the people suffering from the cost-of-living crisis or those who cannot put a roof over their heads.

I want to finish by using the words of the Leader of the Opposition as he concluded his budget reply speech. I think it is important that the constituents of the Glass House hear again what the Leader of the Opposition said. He stated—

We must restore the hope of Queenslanders—hope this government has trashed. I say to Queenslanders: we will continue to earn your trust back in opposition and, if elected, we will restore your trust back in government. By restoring that trust, we will end the chaos and crisis the Palaszczuk government has inflicted in Queensland. In just under 500 days Queenslanders will have a choice to make: real delivery over announcements, stability over chaos, hope over fear.

That is what the LNP opposition offer coming into an election year. We will continue to listen to people between now and then. We will continue to offer solutions to the crises and the chaos that people are experiencing as a result of decisions of this government and as a result of the budgetary decisions of this government. I will continue to listen to the people of Glass House and ensure all of those projects I mentioned are continued to be advocated for and ultimately delivered—something that this government does not know how to do, because all they are good at is announcing.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the budget. Given the role I currently fulfil in our parliament, my speech will be a little less combative than the contributions that I have made during previous debates. I hope that members on all sides will accept my contribution without too much interjection. I am sure that those of you who have gotten to know me will know that I have not lost my passion, but instead I am currently directing it towards ensuring we have an orderly chamber where all members have the opportunity to properly represent their communities.

To that end, I wanted to make a few remarks about what this budget means for my community. When I knock on doors, speak to people at bus stops or meet people at community events, the conversation often turns to cost-of-living pressures. There are a number of measures in this budget that will assist people in my community through these difficult times. The energy rebates will be particularly welcomed and will not only ease pressure on household budgets, but they will inject cash into the economy in a way that will not necessarily contribute to inflation. This rebate will be particularly welcomed by the many people who live in social housing. The students and the pensioners who live in Coorparoo and Stones Corner will find these useful, as will families who live in Camp Hill and Mount

Gravatt. As a nurse, I am particularly pleased with the support that is being offered to final year nursing students. This will not only assist to ease cost-of-living pressures, but it will ensure we have nurses moving to regional and rural communities.

It was extremely pleasing to have the Premier and Treasurer last week visit Harty Street kindy, and I give them both full marks for their rainbow colouring in efforts. I am quite surprised that we got the Treasurer to put down the toy dinosaurs and come back to deliver the budget. He seemed very happy there. Harty Street is a fantastic community kindy which is turning 70 this year, and what better way to celebrate than enabling more kids to experience the benefits of kindy. This does not just ease cost-of-living pressures. We know from research that the earlier children start formal education and the longer they stay engaged, the better their overall health outcomes will be over a lifetime. This will be a huge boost for future generations of Queenslanders. I can only imagine how great our state will be when Harty Street kindy turns 100.

My community is benefiting from the Big Build. The PA Hospital is adding 149 beds; we are building velobridges over O'Keefe Street; and Cross River Rail construction is well advanced. There is more money in the budget to continue the building projects at Holland Park State High School. A manual arts block, a health hub, a hospitality hub and a year 7 precinct are being rolled out. I am excited about the investments being made at Easts Rugby Union and the Holland Park Sports & Community Club. Easts is an incredibly successful club and only a few years ago I spoke of its clean sweep of the Brisbane club Rugby championship and the Australian club Rugby championship. The club has done much to increase participation amongst women and amongst people with disabilities. This Big Build funding will help to improve facilities so that all of these new 'Tigers for life' will be able to access the sporting facilities. Holland Park Sports & Community Club is putting up lights so that bowlers can keep going at night. This club is embedded in the heart of Holland Park and the club is a hub for a whole range of community activities, including a recent reconciliation walk organised by the Greenslopes Reconciliation Action Group—a group I am pleased to have played a role in starting with the help of local people.

I am delighted to see funding for indelabilityarts—a wonderful organisation with a mission of providing professional artistic training opportunities for artists and community members who identify as disabled or neurodivergent.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr KELLY: I take that interjection. I know the minister will be equally pleased about the funding that has helped to see classical music station 4MBS celebrate the 2023 Festival of Classics—the 30th anniversary of this iconic event featuring 30 concerts in 30 days.

As the chair of the Mental Health Select Committee, I am also pleased to see that Stepping Stone Clubhouse is receiving more funding to start a new clubhouse on the north side of the river. I certainly was not happy to see the NRL licence go north of the river, but I am very thrilled that our proud Coorparoo community organisation, Stepping Stone, will be providing even more support for people who are living with mental illness. I am also glad that the World Wellness Group, in partnership with the Caxton Legal Service, has been funded to continue their health justice program. This is a remarkable innovation program started by Jasmine Prasad.

In the health sphere, I am very hopeful that Legacy Brisbane will soon be at home near Greenslopes Hospital, the home of veterans' health in Queensland and supported by all levels of government. I have also been advocating for the last seven years for the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation to receive funding for veterans' health research. I hope they take advantage of the veterans' health research fund that has been established.

My community is deeply concerned about climate change. The Energy and Jobs Plan has been welcomed, and so will be the funding for pumped hydro that is in this budget as part of the Big Build.


Locally, I was pleased to see the Ukrainian community of Queensland and the Coorparoo Bowls Club receiving sustainability grants so that they can transition to renewable energy.

While doorknocking recently I met a woman named Avril who lives in social housing. She had escaped domestic violence and completed a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program at a local organisation. I am pleased to say that Avril now has a job in a local café. Meeting Avril, knowing the organisation that she now works for, knowing the organisation she was trained by, knowing that she has good, dignified housing makes me proud to be part of a Labor government.

All of the things that I have described mean more jobs for Queenslanders, and more jobs for Greenslopes. I am on record in this place many times talking about my passion for jobs. In fact, that is why I am known as 'Job Kelly'. I would like to thank the Treasurer—

Mr Dick: It is worse than 'Surplus-saurus'.

Mr KELLY: I take that interjection. Nothing is worse than 'Surplus-saurus'! I thank the Premier and the Treasurer for this budget. I am proud to represent my community. Whatever role I am privileged to have here in this chamber and parliament, I will always count representing my community as my No. 1 and most important job.


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.39 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2023 and the Appropriation Bill 2023. I am grateful for the opportunity to be here as the member for Toohey and to speak about how these bills will strengthen the strong foundation the Palaszczuk government has created not only for my community but for all of Queensland. I thank Premier Palaszczuk and Treasurer Dick for their continued hard work and their commitment to envision, build and maintain a vibrant, thriving Queensland. Without their leadership, Queensland would not be in the sound economic position we all enjoy. I read through the budget papers with great interest, and I congratulate the Treasurer on providing a sound platform for Queensland's continued future growth.

I know that many Queenslanders are facing cost-of-living pressures. Household budgets are stretched and have at times broken due to price increases across the board. Family budgets just do not have the capacity to cover a bit more here and there. This budget will deliver key measures to ease cost-of-living pressures on Queensland families. The government is helping Queenslanders with an electricity rebate of \$550 for all Queensland households. Eligible concession card holders will be able to receive total relief of up to \$1,072 a year on their electricity bills. What a comfort to households worried about paying their electricity bills this year.

The list of ways to reduce cost-of-living pressures continues. Seniors and eligible concession card holders can receive a reduction in their vehicle registration, receive free basic prescription glasses and get access to free dental care. Eligible home owners aged 60 or over can receive assistance to make security improvements to their home or undertake critical home maintenance services. Small businesses have not been forgotten either, with a \$650 rebate on their electricity bills.

The QEII Hospital expansion will deliver 1,120 construction jobs during the build phase. The need for car parking at QEII has been included, with project planning underway for a multistorey car park at that hospital. Good car-parking facilities support the successful functioning of a hospital. Better facilities mean that better care is delivered where and when it is needed. The QEII facility will work in tandem with a bolstered workforce and the new satellite hospital at Eight Mile Plains. My electorate has been very fortunate to be included in the rollout of the new satellite hospital model of health care. While construction of the satellite hospital at Eight Mile Plains is still underway, I often visit the site to check on construction progress. Once completed, this facility will offer dialysis, chemotherapy treatment through the cancer day unit and allied health services including wound care and musculoskeletal treatments. It is clear that the Palaszczuk government is responding to the needs of the community.

Kindy is a place where all our little ones learn. They learn how to make friends, explore new environments, gain confidence and just have fun. There will be up to 15 hours per week of free kindy for all four-year-old Queensland children. Families will save up to \$4,600 a year. This is not only creating cleverer Queenslanders for the future; stay-at-home parents also will have the opportunity to return to the workforce and create financial security for themselves and their children. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.43 pm): I rise to talk to the budget bills for 2023. At the outset, I would like to talk about how wonderful the Theodore electorate is. Positioned in the northern Gold Coast, we are the green behind the gold of the golden sand beaches from Surfers Paradise to the Broadwater. We have the slopes of Mount Tamborine. We have theme parks. It is truly a beautiful part of the Gold Coast.

However, in recent years—it is gradually getting worse—we have seen more and more homeless people appear in our local parks, car parks and streets. It is a tragedy that this is happening in our First World, developed country, especially in the state of Queensland. The government talks about new social housing being built and properties being bought, but in my electorate and surrounding electorates on the Gold Coast I see tent cities appearing. The government talks about numbers of houses, but that is cold comfort to those who are living rough in their vehicles or in tents in parks. Government members may joke about it, but these are real people who are struggling.

We have a housing crisis in this state. We desperately need to open up more tracts of land. When it comes to social housing, the department should not be buying already developed houses. We need to build houses. We do not need to compete with the current rental market. That is forcing up prices even further and making it even more difficult for my local pensioners, who are at their wits' end. They are now being forced to move into houses with their family members because they cannot afford to live by themselves anymore. This is having huge ramifications for families on the northern Gold Coast.

Another issue that is cutting deep is the youth crime epidemic, which is strangling this state. I regularly hear from residents voicing their absolute frustration at the catch-and-release policies. The police are equally frustrated, because these individuals are on the streets before the ink on the paperwork is dry. Victims come from hardworking families. They own tradie vehicles and service vehicles. Their livelihoods are being stolen and ending up burnt out or crashed into another car.

Another disappointing aspect of this budget is that 95 per cent of the funding for Coomera Hospital is in the distant future. We will be lucky if it is built by the end of this decade, but we need those beds now. The problem is: by the time the hospital is built we will need a lot more beds. As the member for Coomera keeps saying in this parliament, we are the fastest growing region in South-East Queensland and one of the fastest growing regions in the country. We seem to forget about that.

Mr Bailey: Why didn't you do anything when you were in power?

Mr BOOTHMAN: That is a typical comment from the Minister for Transport. I will talk about his department a little later.

One thing I am passionate about is the education of students in my electorate and on the northern Gold Coast. In recent times I have been asking a lot of questions on notice of the Minister for Education, and I appreciate her responses. I want to talk about one aspect when it comes to Investing for Success funding.

ICSEA, which is the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage, is used as a measure for many aspects of educational needs in our schools. What is ICSEA? According to the Department of Education's own website—

ICSEA allows for comparisons to be made between a selected school and all students with a similar background that are matched according to the socio-educational advantage ... and thereby allowing fair comparisons of NAPLAN results.

The website goes on to say—

ICSEA values are calculated on a scale which has a median of 1000 and a standard deviation of 100. ICSEA values typically range from approximately 500 (representing schools with extremely disadvantaged student backgrounds) to about 1300 (representing schools with extremely advantaged student backgrounds).

In a response to a question that I received from the minister she talked about the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage as an indicator, but ICSEA considers methodologies that clearly indicate student economic and educational factors and geographical locations. Let us compare some funding in and around my region, and I am going to take Coorparoo State School as an example for comparison. Coorparoo State School has an ICSEA number of 1136, which is quite high, and receives \$419 per student. Cedar Creek State School has an ICSEA number of 989, which is below the average, and receives \$298 per student. Park Lake State School has an ICSEA number of 1027 and receives \$299 per student and Helensvale State School, which also has an ICSEA of 1027, receives \$311 per student. I asked the minister why Coorparoo State School is getting more money than some of my local schools and this is the answer from the minister—

In the case of Coorparoo State School, this commitment meant its 2022 I4S funding amount received a top-up of \$94,989 in order to match the school's 2015 GRG funding. This top-up brought its per student funding to \$419 ... Without this top-up, its 2022 student funding would have been \$302 per student.

Some \$302 is still better than the \$299 for Park Lake and the \$298 for Cedar Creek. I am sure that those schools also deserve a top-up, because let us not just aim for good results; let us aim for great results for these kids because every child is worth a decent amount of money to achieve their best. The minister needs to look into this and needs to change this because it is not fair on these children and it is not fair on their parents. They have a lower ICSEA number than Coorparoo State School, so why are they being penalised?

I also want to thank the Minister for Education for sending an email letting us know that there is \$1,152,000 spread across eight schools which equates to about \$144,000 per school, but Oxenford State School desperately needs a new administration building with better professional development areas to allow the staff to use their skills to create a better environment for their students and learn new strategies. Helensvale State School needs a refurbishment to its library and the school is very passionate about this.

I now turn to the department of main roads and QTRIP. On 14 October 2020 the Minister for Main Roads announced a commitment of \$975,000 to bolster the riverbank upstream from the John Muntz Bridge to create local jobs and improve flood resilience. Interestingly though, this no longer appears on QTRIP. Let us talk about this road. Some 18,989 vehicles cross the John Muntz Bridge daily. It is the main thoroughfare to areas in Upper Coomera, Maudsland, Wongawallan and up to Tamborine Mountain. When this road went out in 2017 it was devastating for my local community—devastating. Locals had to use roads which simply did not have the capacity to take the extra traffic and local businesses on Mount Tamborine almost went broke because people could not get up the mountain because Tamborine-Oxenford Road is the main thoroughfare to Tamborine Mountain and parts of Upper Coomera. Let us talk about the populations. Upper Coomera has 27,000 people, Wongawallan has 1,400 people, Tamborine Mountain has 8,100 people and Maudsland has about 8,000 people. That shows how many people live around this area and that road is the lifeblood and that bridge is the lifeblood. Residents are fearful that the next flood will sever the connection road again and we will be forced back into traffic chaos.

The budget talks about the massive cost blowout of the three rail stations planned for the Gold Coast. Many residents are still waiting for the minister to finally relent and give them the 500 car spaces they need at the Hope Island train station car park. If they do not get those car spaces, people will be forced to park in local streets.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: The minister knows that they will be parking in local streets and those local streets do not have the capacity.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: He may find that funny and he can laugh as much as he likes, but those residents—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker Martin, I rise to a point of order. The comment by the member for Theodore that I was laughing is inaccurate and deliberately misleading. I find it offensive and he should withdraw.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I withdraw. Let me move on to sound barriers for the section north of Saltwater Creek on the western side of the Coomera Connector. The department is not planning any on the western side north of Saltwater Creek, so that means that the sound will boom through all of those houses around Helensvale and around River Links Estate, and that is not fair on those residents. The minister needs to address this because those residents have a right to have a life. They have a right to not have sound booming through their houses and through their bedrooms at night.

Mrs Gerber: I hope the minister's listening.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I would love to invite the minister out for a barbecue in that park right next to the Coomera Connector. I am sure we could cook a sausage sizzle and have—


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

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I can tell the minister that I am very good at cooking on the barbecue. I get plenty of practice in my local community. I again ask the minister to address this.

As I was saying earlier about the housing crisis that is enveloping our state, more and more families are moving into Maudsland together—that is, parents are moving in with children and pooling their money to reduce the cost of their house and to reduce their cost of living. The cost of living and power prices are continually going up. Whilst we welcome a nice little nest egg from the state, this is not going to help them in the near future when that extra cash dries up. They are still going to have those massive power rises. I ask the minister to put some bus transport in Maudsland because the people there need it as much as anybody else because more and more elderly people are moving into that area with their families because they cannot afford to live by themselves any longer.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.59 pm): I start my contribution by acknowledging my neighbour, the member for Oodgeroo, and the statement that he made here earlier. I want to honour him, and the best way I know how is by delivering in his electorate of Oodgeroo with the Big Build—stage 2 of the hospital. The best way I know how to honour the member for Oodgeroo is to make sure that we deliver health services in that electorate: \$150 million. That is how I honour him: I make sure I work with the local members out there. There will be an extra 40 beds. I acknowledge the health minister for helping

to deliver that. That will free up the space for the rest of stage 2. That is on top of the 28 beds in the new ward we are building right now and construction of the new car park, stage 1, which is about to start. We will see an increase in beds at Redlands Hospital by 40 per cent. It will completely transform the site. This is on top of the satellite hospital which will be open in August. My understanding is it will be the first satellite hospital opened and we are looking forward to it. The LNP talks it down. They call it a glorified medical clinic. I ask LNP members to sit down with a patient who is doing renal dialysis for four hours and say it is a glorified medical clinic. Come down and sit next to a patient having life-saving chemo treatment and say it is a glorified medical clinic. I dare you. I know why they talk down satellite hospitals—because they are going to sell them off. They are going to privatise them.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Currumbin. Pause the clock. I would ask you to cease your interjections. Member for Capalaba, could I ask you to put that item down if you are not reading from it or tabling it.

Mr BROWN: I love it so much. They talk down the satellite hospitals because they are going to privatise them. They are going to sell them off. They have never liked them and they talk them down. I ask them to come down and meet the patients who will be treated in those hospitals every single day.

In regard to the rest of the Capalaba electorate this is a fantastic budget, especially in education. We have further funding for the Capalaba State College hall. Each day when I drop my son off there it is fantastic to see it coming out of the ground as it is being built. That will be a major piece of infrastructure for both the senior and junior college. It will connect that school, making sure that they can have full assemblies and that they can house their basketball and volleyball excellence program.

The budget is also delivering upgrades and refurbishments for Alexandra Hills State High School. Two blocks will be refurbished. Hilliard primary school will get an oval upgrade, which is much needed for that popular school in my local area. Continuing with education, we have more funding for TAFE to do the study on the next set of upgrades. It is good to have the minister for TAFE here. We did the stage 2 upgrades for the hospital; we are going to do the stage 2 upgrades on the Alexandra Hills TAFE.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr BROWN: I thank the minister and I take that interjection. It was great to have the minister and the whole cabinet out at Alexandra Hills TAFE the other day. It was great to show the minister around to see what we need in the next set of upgrades to deliver more plumbers and more electricians because there is such a skills shortage in my local area.

When it comes to homelessness and social housing, we are going to be building more social housing in the electorate of Capalaba. I look forward to the new set of units that will be built in Alexandra Hills right next to the shops, right next to a primary school and a high school and next to doctors surgeries—this is where you put social housing—making sure that we can cater for the growing population and the growing need for social housing in our local area.

Capalaba is a very working-class area. This budget goes towards the cost of living. The cost-of-living measures in this budget have been well received by the people of Capalaba. A \$550 cost-of-living rebate on electricity always goes down well. It will be a rebate of up to \$1,072 for those on concession cards—that is massive. We can do that because we own our assets. We are making sure we are getting a fair share of our coal. When we sell it off to southern states and make a profit, we can get some of that back and give it to the people who own it.

We are also delivering free kindy. This will be transformative for our economy, making sure that more parents can go back into the workforce. It will make sure that kids will start school at an equal level and have a good understanding of play-based learning when they hit prep. It is also a cost-of-living measure—a saving of over \$4,000 for those families. There will be \$150 to learn to swim. We know how important it is to learn to swim in this state. I represent an electorate with a coastline. We have beaches, lakes and swimming pools. An extra \$150 to learn to swim will make sure that every kid learns how to swim. There are so many measures in this budget around the cost of living. I know I am running out of time and I have directed all other speakers to go for only five minutes so I will do the right thing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: I will take all the interjections and keep going. I thank the Treasurer, I thank the Premier, I thank the ministers and my colleagues for delivering yet again another great Labor budget: a record surplus, record delivery and record cost-of-living relief, which is exactly what you need to do when you are delivering for an electorate like Capalaba.



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.06 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to make a contribution to this budget. I would like to congratulate the Treasurer and his department on delivering another record budget. It is a budget that will have a significant, positive impact on the lives of Queenslanders. This is when Queenslanders need it the most: in a cycle of rising interest rates and high inflation. This budget tackles what is an issue facing every Queenslander and, in fact, every Australian across the country—cost-of-living pressures—and it does it in a nation leading way. I will talk in more detail about what that actually looks like.

I would like to touch on what is so important for my electorate, and I know everybody's electorate in this House: the cost-of-living support that this budget delivers. It is just so incredibly heartwarming to see a budget that puts vulnerable people at the heart of what we do. That is what Labor governments do. The budget delivers a \$550 cost-of-living rebate on electricity bills for all Queensland households; and a \$700 cost-of-living rebate for vulnerable households, in addition to, of course, the \$372 under the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, bringing the total of rebates to this group to \$1,072. We should not underestimate what that is going to mean for the most vulnerable in our community. This is about decisions as to whether they have good food on the table as well as pay the electricity bills. Sadly, we all know people in our community who make these really tough decisions about having enough meals during the day and whether they keep the electricity on and pay the water bills and all of those challenges that they do have. This will go a long way. We are supporting small business with the electricity rebate as well.

We are preparing our young kids for prep by giving every single four-year-old 15 hours of free kindy, which is incredible. It is not about the dollars, it is about the people. It is about the difference this will make for those kids and preparing them for the future. The support for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is so important. We know that costs have increased significantly as far as accommodation and travel to get health care. This is widely needed, called for and supported.

Learning to swim is about saving lives; making sure that our little ones know how to look after themselves in the water. Sadly we still hear of young kids—and adults for that matter—dying. If we can teach them how to swim when they are young they will have those skills for the rest of their lives.

We are expanding the school breakfast program. This is so important. Our teachers tell us that when kids have no food in their belly they cannot concentrate and they cannot learn. The budget contains support for FoodBank to deliver critical food relief and among the important initiatives is support for our PCYCs.

I acknowledge our contribution towards health and investment not just in infrastructure, which is the most significant we have ever seen in the state, but also in our staff. I will need those staff when the 204 extra beds are available at the Redcliffe Hospital following its expansion, to be completed by 2028. I welcome that investment to attract more students, doctors, nurses and allied healthcare workers.

In the short time that I will speak I want to briefly contrast this with the opposition's response to the budget. I am disappointed that so many misleading comments were made in relation to my portfolio areas and I will have a lot more to say about this. Comments were made about the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, that its membership 'is comprised of people from the legal fraternity, academia, a prison advocate and even an artist, but not one dedicated victim of crime'. That artist is Boneta-Marie Mabo, the granddaughter of Eddie Mabo. She is a visual artist and youth program manager at Sisters Inside where she leads Indigenous art programs.

Mr Dick: 'Just an artist'.

Mrs D'ATH: She is 'just an artist' sitting on the Sentencing Advisory Council. They talked about victims but failed to mention Warren Strange, the chief executive officer of knowmore, which is a national community legal centre that assists victims and survivors of child abuse with their redress and justice options. He is doing an incredible job.

We heard about DV and our announcements around high-risk DV teams. We were told that Mount Isa was still waiting for a high-risk team. The problem is that Mount Isa was one of the original trial locations for a high-risk team and that team is still operating. We also have high-risk teams operating in Cairns, Mackay, Caboolture, Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Beenleigh and Cherbourg. The Townsville team is due to commence in July. Those are just two examples of the misleading statements made.

I note the comment that if they were in government they would get the Auditor-General to do a full review of government diversionary programs for young offenders. Maybe they should get the Auditor-General—ask him right now—to look at the impact when you scrap those diversionary

programs, which is what they did when they were in government. We will pray for the Public Service if ever the LNP get back into government. When they say, 'We will have the best public service', I suspect they mean they will have the leanest and smallest public service they can have, which will again mean job losses. I do not want to focus any more on those opposite. They are not in government and that is a good thing for Queenslanders because I believe that they would be destructive and their history tells us that.

We have a great budget. The Treasurer has delivered another budget that delivers for the people of Queensland. It is one that we should all be very proud of.

Deputy Speaker, the Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

From health to housing to energy and jobs—this Palaszczuk Government Budget sees record spending as part of Queensland's "big build".

An \$89-billion investment in bricks and mortar over the next four years, and half of that it being delivered in regional Queensland.

It is a budget that includes energy storage and upgrades to power delivery, new hospitals and hospital expansion plus social housing and mass transport projects like Cross River Rail and Bruce Highway upgrades.

On top of that the Palaszczuk Government is delivering \$8.2 billion in cost of living concessions.

There is \$1.483 billion in electricity rebates for all Queensland households and eligible small businesses.

- \$550 for every household
- \$700 for vulnerable households, which is on top of the existing \$372 offered under the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, taking the total of rebates to \$1,072.
- And \$650 for around 205,000 small businesses.

This is the most significant electricity rebate support package ever announced by a state or territory and will make a huge difference to the lives of many of my Redcliffe constituents.

The budget delivers 15 hours per week of free kindy for all 4-year-olds from next year, improving the educational outcomes for Queensland children.

It also provides relief for Queenslanders experiencing hardship, by ensuring children are starting their day on the right note by expanding the School breakfast program.

A healthy and nutritious breakfast leads to better concentration and educational outcomes.

Just a few measures to keep more money in Queenslanders' pockets and importantly improve the lives of young people.

So why is Queensland's approach nation leading? Because we own our assets and because Queensland made the brave decision to initiate progressive coal royalties, which means all Queenslanders benefit, no matter where they live.

It also means, we can deliver a \$12.3 billion dollar surplus.

No other state or territory has achieved this.

Not ever.

The big question for the opposition is 'do they support our progressive coal royalties'?

On this side of the House, we know you can invest more when you generate new revenue.

That's what this budget has achieved and that's what Labor government's deliver on.

It takes no skill to cut spending.

It's too easy to sell off assets for that one-time sugar hit of revenue, and cut funding to infrastructure projects and community organisations.

And it's unimaginative to sack public sector workers to save money.

That's how those opposite think.

In fact, those opposite sacked over 14,000 Queenslanders including our nurses, teachers and police when they were last in office.

To put that in perspective—the Queenslanders the LNP sacked could fill my local Redcliffe Dolphin's Kayo Stadium nearly one and a half times.

So, when the Leader of the Opposition spoke about improving the public sector in Queensland, my fear is that means making it leaner and cheaper—less public servants.

While the rising cost of living is an issue at the forefront of many people's minds, Queenslanders also have an expectation that they will have access to justice in their hour of need.

That's why we are investing \$34 million over four years to address the increased demand in the criminal justice system—especially the district court.

To ensure the concept of justice delivers on its promise, the Palaszczuk Government is investing in services.

This will support financially disadvantaged or vulnerable Queenslanders to ensure they have access to justice.

This could mean helping represent people in court.

It could be explaining their rights or legal responsibilities.

Or it could be advocating for and protecting disadvantaged people.

This is where Legal Aid comes in.

I'm proud that the Palaszczuk Government continues to increase funding to Legal Aid by \$17 million over four years and \$4.4 million ongoing.

It will also receive an additional \$18.6 million over four years to support additional legal representation so that witnesses are cross-examined by a trained lawyer rather than the defendant.

Legal Aid is a service that genuinely helps and changes people's lives.

In 2021-22 it helped deliver:

- more than 223,000 information and referral services
- more than 110,000 free duty lawyer services
- nearly 41,000 legal advice and legal task services
- and more than 31,000 approved aid grants.

We also continue to support our community legal centres with ongoing funding.

We are significantly increasing funding for the Coroners Court of Queensland to the tune of \$18.9 million over four years and \$5.8 million ongoing to support sustainable resourcing of the Court.

The Palaszczuk Government is also providing increased funding of \$672,000 over two years to support the Queensland Coronial Legal Service's legal assistance to bereaved families involved in coronial processes.

There is \$13.4 million over four years and \$1.2 million per annum for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (QCAT) to address wait times and backlogs, and to deliver an efficient and sustainable civil system for everyday Queenslanders.

In addition to this, the 2023/24 Budget provides substantial funding to support victims of violent crime and vulnerable people attending court.

Increased funding of \$9 million has been allocated over four years to support victims of violent crime.

This includes those impacted by domestic and family violence and to better meet the needs of property crime victims where violence, or a threat of violence, has occurred.

Other measures in the Budget to address greater demands on the system include:

- \$32.4 million over five years and \$6.4 million per annum ongoing to deliver responses to the Commission of Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission recommendations and other reforms.
- An additional \$3.8 million over five years to the Director of Public Prosecutions to assess witness statements and manage cases.
- Increased funding of \$3.1 million over two years to deliver timely adult restorative justice conferencing.
- \$4.5 million over two years to continue the specialist high risk youth court established in 2017 as part of the Townsville Community Youth Response.
- \$8.9 million over three years to deliver a fast-track sentencing pilot in four locations, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane and Southport, for 18 months.
- \$3.5 million over three years to support the implementation of community titles legislation reform in an environment of continued significant sector growth and increasing dispute resolution pressure.

One area this Budget targets that is a scourge of society in general, is domestic, family and sexual violence.

Too many people—the vast majority women and children, are impacted by this.

We must continue to drive change in society to stop this harm.

That's why we are delivering significant increases to support services for victim-survivors and their families to make sure perpetrators are held to account and given support themselves to learn strategies to stop using violence.

\$58.3 million has been allocated over four years and \$20.7 million per annum ongoing to address demand for and gaps in domestic, family and sexual violence service provision.

The funding places victim-survivors at the centre of how we respond to sexual violence.

It includes the expansion of the Sexual Assault Response Team to two new locations and court upgrades in 81 locations to make it easier for victim-survivors to give evidence in court.

There's continued funding worth \$49.1 million to complete capital upgrades to Mackay, Ipswich, Cairns, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Brisbane courthouses.

This includes new Domestic and Family Violence courtrooms and safe rooms, reconfigured registry counters, public waiting areas and interview rooms, improved stakeholder facilities, public amenities and security infrastructure, to maximise victim safety.

Construction is on track to commence at four of the eight sites, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Cairns and Caboolture in 2023–24, and at the remaining four sites by late 2024.

This is on top of the five-year \$225 million funding package to implement recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Report Two, that will focus on women's and children's experiences across the criminal justice system.

In particular, the funding package includes additional funding of \$12.6 million over five years and \$2.6 million per annum ongoing to provide support for victim-survivors through their criminal justice journey.

It will also be topped up by \$3.6 million plus nearly \$600,000 on going which will help enable:

- A state-wide victim advocate service pilot
- A five-year sexual violence service system strategic investment plan
- Implementation of a victim-centric, trauma-informed service model for responding to sexual violence
- safe pathways for victim-survivors of sexual violence across the criminal justice systems
- establishment of a victim's commissioner
- consideration of the establishment of an independent sexual violence case review board
- and a review of policies, guidelines and court models to ensure the needs of women and girls are met.

Acting Speaker, I'm also pleased to report that when it comes to specific projects in my electorate of Redcliffe—this budget delivers.

These projects range from education and health to funding community organisation and conservation efforts.

Among the projects receiving funding—

\$21 million this year out of \$28.2 million to construct addition classrooms and undertake school renewal at the Woody Point Special School.

Our special schools, like Woody Point, ensure our students have access to the quality education, resources, facilities, and educators that understand their diverse abilities and needs.

We're also investing in upgrades in schools across my electorate to enhance our children's schooling experience.

This includes:

Redcliffe State High School—which receives \$900,000 to refurbish D-Block.

- \$450,000 out of \$800,000 is being spent to modify walkways and equitable access at Clontarf Beach State High School.
- Scarborough State School receives \$250,000 to refurbish Block F.
- Humpybong State School gets \$134,000 to refurbish a multi-purpose sports court.
- Plus \$293,000 is being set aside for minor maintenance in eight local schools in 2023/24.
- This budget also sees \$14.8 million being provided for Redcliffe Hospital out of \$1.175 billion commitment which includes:
- 204 extra hospital beds
- A new clinical services building
- Ambulatory care services building
- A multi-storey carpark
- And refurbishment of the existing hospital services.

This ensures our health system continues to keep up with our growing population, providing more services closer to home.

We also recognise that access to housing is an issue that is felt right across Queensland, including in my electorate of Redcliffe.

This budget continues to help my most vulnerable constituents.

That's why the Moreton Bay Housing and Homelessness Services Hub is receiving \$1 million out of \$3 million for the demolition and redevelopment of the existing Old Pensioners Hall facility into a combined services centre to support homelessness.

This is also the home of the Breakfast Club, a group of volunteers who provide meals and outreach services for homeless people in the electorate.

There's \$10.6 million out of \$22 million towards construction of the Anzac Avenue (Elizabeth Avenue) active transport overpass at Clontarf.

This will provide the highest level of protection for pedestrians, especially local students who would otherwise have to cross a busy, high speed, four lane traffic corridor.

This project will also see more than 250 trees planted and special fauna fencing installed to improve koala habitat in the Hays Inlet area.

And speaking of koalas—in the south east corner, this budget is delivering \$17.3 million in conservation funding to save our koalas.

We're also investing in our Kippa-Ring Aged Care facility. Cooinda House is receiving \$539,400 out of \$2.1 million to replace heating, ventilation, air conditioning and nurse call systems.

And there's \$75,000 out of \$150,000 for Tangalooma Island Resort to construct a new drainage and pump system across the resort to reduce flooding on infrastructure and facilities.

Acting Speaker, there is so much more, including \$56 million funding to build PCYCs in additional locations and drive early intervention youth initiatives.

This budget is tackling cost of living pressures, investing in health, housing, education, renewable energy and jobs.

And it's all possible because of our progressive coal royalties.

This budget is for all Queenslanders.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.13 pm), in reply: Hasn't it been a long week, made all the longer by the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech? Heavens, didn't that go on and on!

Mr Skelton interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Nicklin. Where are they now? There is nobody here now. Today the only time they were here in numbers was to see one of them leave. They all came in to say goodbye to the member for Oodgeroo. I will say this about the member for Oodgeroo: he has seen and read the writing on the wall and he knows what will happen in October next year. I say to the Leader of the Opposition, 'You need to be shorter. Try working up a little stump speech.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Treasurer, please resume your seat. Members, there has been commentary back and forth about members who are not in the chamber. It is a convention that we do not comment on that. I ask the Treasurer to continue his contribution and I ask for the interjections to cease.

Mr DICK: From the Leader of the Opposition we want fewer words and more policy. I am only thinking about his backbench who had to sit through an hour of not much. It is not just me who is critical. The *Courier-Mail* were just as deflated by the Leader of the Opposition's inability to engage with the substantive issues. The editorial headline said it all: 'Thinking small is not real leadership'. I could not agree more. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered this big budget. It is a big budget that underpins a big build in support of Queenslanders' interests now and into the future. It delivers real relief to Queenslanders and takes real action to support households and small businesses with the national cost-of-living pressures.

The contrast with the LNP is clear. Their vision is myopic. It is quintessentially a small target. However, there are simple questions that the opposition have not answered to the standard that Queenslanders would expect. I listened carefully to the Leader of the Opposition. He mentioned royalties just once. That was a major shortcoming in his budget reply. It is the single biggest factor in this budget and, in all of the 55 minutes that he droned on, he could not even speak about it any substantial way. Then the Leader of the Opposition used all sorts of weasel words to avoid saying, simply and clearly, that he would keep progressive coal royalties now and into the future. A little later we heard him being interviewed on 4BC. He was asked by Neil Breen and still could not bring himself to give a straight answer. He kept hedging. The member for Burleigh gave the game away when he admitted that the LNP did not support our progressive coal royalties. The member for Burleigh told the truth. It is no wonder they took him off the front bench.

As I said, this is a big budget for Queensland. There are hundreds of programs and projects outlined in the budget so I was surprised to hear the LNP's repeated claim that a key item of the budget simply did not exist. More egregiously from the Leader of the Opposition, we heard a uniquely absurd claim about the place of the Pioneer pumped hydro project. The Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project is in the budget; just pick up Budget Paper No. 2. To be clear for the members opposite, there is more than one budget paper. There are actually four of them. Go to Budget Paper No. 2, turn to page 103 and page 157 and page 162 and page 164 and page 171. You can turn to any of those pages and see the commitment of the government to that project outlined in black and white.

The simple fact is that not all projects get a line item in Budget Paper No. 3, especially at an early stage. For example, take 1 William Street, the signature infrastructure project of the Newman government, signed off by the member for Broadwater and the member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie, as ministers in the Newman government. It never got a line item in Budget Paper No. 3 during that term of government and, I can assure you, Acting Speaker, it certainly never got a line item in our budget papers either. But, amazing as it may seem, if you look out the window there it is—a permanent monument to the arrogance of the member for Broadwater and the member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie. It is a permanent reminder of how the LNP was and remains totally out of touch.

Speaking about being out of touch, it should be of no surprise that many members of the LNP took the opportunity, instead of welcoming cost-of-living relief, to complain about it. Let us take, for example, the member for Clayfield. He is the man who, as treasurer, said he would not provide cost-of-living rebates to deal with skyrocketing electricity prices under the LNP. The man who was treasurer tried to take cost-of-living discounts away from pensioners. Of course, he could not help himself going on record during the budget debate to say 'what the Queensland government has done is simply adding to inflation.' That was his entire contribution on cost-of-living relief.

I would love nothing better than to meet the pensioners of Clayfield and tell them that their local member does not want them to get cost-of-living relief—in fact, that might be something I do—and that he thinks the people of his community should be punished with high electricity prices so that we can bring down inflation. He was not the only one. We heard negativity on cost-of-living relief from the member for Burnett. The member for Burnett went so far as to complain that the 'government's decision to inject more moneys from coal royalties into programs' was inflationary. I look forward to going to places like Agnes Water, Bargara, Childers and Seventeen Seventy to tell the people in those communities that their local member does not want spending on programs or cost-of-living relief. If I do not do it, I know who will—the member for Bundaberg. The member for Bundaberg would be happy to go to those communities and speak to those pensioners, because he is a real voice for the Bundaberg-Burnett region. I will be supporting a Labor candidate in Burnett who will fight for programs, projects and cost-of-living relief in that community.

I turn now to the shadow Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South. The member for Toowoomba South had one job this week: read the budget papers—but he could not bring himself to do it. That is how it seems, having looked through his remarks, when the member claimed falsely that Queenslanders were waiting to see CopperString in Budget Paper No. 3. That is what he actually said in the debate—wrong again. Queenslanders are waiting for the member for Toowoomba South to do his job and read past the front cover. The member has missed the references again, like a rogue undergraduate frantically googling as the deadline approaches, hitting his beloved 'Ctrl-F' and getting nowhere. I know that it is hard for the member for Toowoomba South, but that is for good reason: it is the biggest infrastructure project that our state has ever delivered. There are lots of pages to turn. If the member had stuck on page 47 of Budget Paper No. 3 he would have seen 'CopperString 2032' in black and white.

I now turn to the member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie. I sought a rounded contribution from him, but on this occasion he really let himself go. He piled on the rhetoric. He claims to know all about the blowouts, but he is dining out on nonsense. No amount of sugar could cut the bitterness. It was more of the same negative rhetoric and zero regard for his portfolio. I think he said nothing about his portfolio. It was just ad hominem attacks on the government, including the Minister for Housing—a disgraceful effort. All empty calories of the political world; auto babble, that is all it was—no beef. I note, too, the member's usual litany of personal attacks about me and other members of the government, but this year I was so pleased to find an upside: the member for Kawana did not mention my dog Scout once. Things might be on the up! You never know, but I will not hold my breath.

I turn to the member for Chatsworth's contribution. The member reflected on high school drama and the phrase 'awesome'. This from the person who is the most frustrated actor in the parliament! There are a few members who were here for that performance—about 15 minutes of circling hands,

windmill arms, strutting around on the spot, demonstrating nothingness in his address. It was full of sound, signifying nothing and performing to nobody. It was histrionics from beginning to end. I give a review to that performance: two thumbs down—or maybe \$2 billion down, which is exactly the amount of cuts the member for Chatsworth has admitted he wants to make—in his own words, ‘pruning’—to infrastructure and services across Queensland.

In the debate I heard LNP members talk about empowering the Public Service. I am sure that any public servant listening to that would have had a flash of *deja vu* if not a shiver up the spine. Where have we heard something like this before? Where would this fit in with the LNP’s pruning? The audacity of this claim in light of the LNP’s record is hard to believe. You do not need a crystal ball to see how this might turn out. We only have to look back to when the Leader of the Opposition sat in the cabinet room with his mentor, Campbell Newman. We watched the cuts come. We know that the LNP have form for saying one thing in opposition, saying one thing in campaigns, and doing the opposite in government. I was there and I know what they do. There is nothing to suggest that the LNP have changed in any way on any of those matters. Their record is clear.

I can only think the same when I hear the opposition leader crow about—this is what he said—‘a special workforce plan for Queensland Health’. It has the ring of another three-word slogan. Members on this side of the House will remember the LNP’s previous ‘special workforce plan for Queensland Health’. It is well remembered by the 4,400 Queensland Health workers who lost their job. For more recent members on the opposition benches, the member for Clayfield might be able to arrange a special briefing for them. By contrast, our government is delivering real action on Queensland’s workforce—our workforce across health and across every other sector of government and the economy.

I thought the comments by the member for Southern Downs about electricity bill relief for his constituents in border regions were sensible—one of the most sensible addresses of all members of the LNP because he actually stuck to issues. I am advised that all Queensland residents who have an active electricity account on 1 July 2023 and receive a bill from a retailer will be eligible for the new cost-of-living rebate announced in the budget, including those Queensland residents who receive electricity via the New South Wales distribution grid. I am further advised that these customers have received previous cost-of-living rebates and asset ownership dividends. I note that the member is in the House tonight. It should be noted, however, that this advice does not apply to New South Wales customers who receive electricity via the Queensland grid, but I can assure those New South Wales customers that, regardless of the result in State of Origin, we will continue electricity supply to northern New South Wales.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DICK: No, we won’t go anywhere near the interconnector. The member for Mermaid Beach said that I and this government are scared of the word ‘coal’. I have been talking about coal—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr DICK: I have not stopped talking about coal since the budget last year. I can assure the member for Mermaid Beach that I mentioned coal an awful lot more in my budget speech than the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, mentioned coal in his reply. In his rambling, hour-long stream of auto babble, the Leader of the Opposition could only mention the most important commodity in this year’s budget once. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Jarrod Bleijie, in his hefty contribution, could not bring himself to utter it at all. I note that the member for Mermaid Beach also continued his commentary about the titles office valuation. I reiterate my previous comments on this matter. The member for Mermaid Beach has falsely defamed the State Actuary. His contribution should be entirely disregarded on this matter and all others until we see a full apology and retraction from him.

I turn to the contribution from the member for South Brisbane. Members of the Greens political party have continued their grandstanding. I heard them call—can you believe it?—for more investment in housing. It is embarrassing. This is the party that wants to abolish payroll tax and blow a \$5 billion hole in the Queensland budget—total hypocrisy from those members of the Greens political party who protest against and try to obstruct people trying to build more housing. They are all for more housing, except in their inner-city backyards. We know that their *de facto* leader, the federal member for Griffith, wants to see at least 1,300 homes made unavailable in Griffith. The members have form in opposing development in West End and in St Lucia. Everyone on the government benches agrees that new houses are needed. The Greens are the greatest impediment to new housing investment in this state.

In Canberra, the Greens political party are holding up a \$10 billion federal investment in housing that would help a generation of Queenslanders and Australians. The reason they are doing it is for cheap political points. The money is lined up, the states are on board and the Greens have locked the gate, and they are being cheered on by the members for Maiwar and South Brisbane. The Greens' obstinacy has real consequences for vulnerable Queenslanders. The longer the Greens hold this money away from the states the longer more vulnerable people will go without homes. This is an opportunity for the members for Maiwar and South Brisbane to stand up for Queenslanders who are experiencing housing distress. I call on the state Greens political party to condemn their federal colleagues and to support more homes for more Australians under federal Labor's plans. I call on them to stop holding Queenslanders hostage to their political whims and their political games.

I want to thank my colleagues in this House. I get the privilege and the great honour of delivering the budget speech, but budgets are not the work of the Treasurer alone. The budgets of this government are supported and developed in a collegiate fashion. I want to recognise members of the Cabinet Budget Review Committee—the Premier, the Deputy Premier and other ministers who have sat on that committee. I want to recognise members of the cabinet and also members of the state parliamentary Labor Party who have worked so hard over such a long period of time to help us frame what is a significant budget that sets our state up to deal with immediate cost-of-living pressures but also helps us set up Queensland for the future.

I have listened, in my office, to many of the contributions in the House. I listened to members of our government speak with great passion about their communities but also with great passion about the real and pressing issues facing Queenslanders in their electorates. We are working so hard as a government to address those real-world concerns for Queenslanders and Queensland families and households, as well as structurally changing our community and our economy not only so we are better placed for whatever the world throws at us but also so we are better placed to provide a Queensland of economic growth, a Queensland that delivers jobs—now 500,000 jobs delivered to the people of our state since our election—and a state that assists the most vulnerable, those who are living in distress, those who are facing unprecedented challenges. We are building the pathway to opportunity for all Queenslanders because that is what our government, our party and our cause stands for.

A budget also represents a government's values and priorities. I think we have articulated those very clearly in this budget. It is also a product of an incredible amount of intellectual labour and toil by our public servants. I want to thank the hardworking officials of the Queensland Treasury who have worked so hard to prepare for this year's budget—in particular, officers across Treasury, including officers of the Queensland Revenue Office. I also want to thank the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel. I know all members of this House, regardless of where they sit, recognise the very important work of the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel. Those officers perform their role with great diligence and skill for governments of all persuasions, and I want to say to them that we are grateful for their contribution and their service.

In conclusion, this is a budget for all Queenslanders. I want to thank Queenslanders for their discipline, perseverance and dedication during the course of the pandemic. I want to thank them for their hard work, especially over the last year. It is a strong budget. It is a budget that is the result of the hard work of Queenslanders. Our state's record surplus is a credit to the people of Queensland because this budget delivers for all of them. After everything they have done and endured since the start of the pandemic, Queenslanders deserve nothing less.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a second time.

Referral to Portfolio Committee

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 177(2), the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill stand referred to the portfolio committees.

Second Reading

Question put—That the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail**Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill**

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mr JANETZKI (5.34 pm): Obviously we will be supporting the revenue measures here tonight in respect of build-to-rent and also the amendments to the land tax concessions and the regional payroll tax concession. I want to make a couple of comments about build-to-rent in particular which we support. I make the comment that it does feel like we are a very long way behind the rest of the country. New South Wales and Victoria have been further advanced on build-to-rent than us for some time. I note the government's adoption of a policy that we pretty much announced in 2020. We announced a build-to-rent policy in 2020 that would have actually driven more investment into the affordable housing sector here in Queensland than what we have otherwise seen. After the government's announcement Treasury released a consultation paper. Some of the questions clearly showed that we are behind the eight ball when it comes to New South Wales and Victoria. We know that we are losing investment to those areas.

I note that the concession will only begin on 1 July 2024 for the financial year 2024-25. Does the Treasurer have an explanation as to whether it is possible for that to be brought forward to 1 July this year? That is not much of a time frame but, at the moment when we are wanting to drive as much investment in the affordable housing sector as possible, could the Treasurer give any explanation as to whether that was possible?

The second question for the Treasurer is around the modelling the Treasury has undertaken in respect of what projects we would expect to attract to Queensland with these concessions. Has Treasury undertaken such modelling to ascertain whether we can pull in some of those other projects from New South Wales and Victoria or investment from abroad? Obviously the foreign acquirer duty concessions will be a significant part of this, together with the land tax concessions. Does Treasury have any understanding of what could be coming Queensland's way with respect to affordable housing given the dire need for more investment?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Toowoomba South for his questions and also for his support for the mechanisms. I thank the opposition for supporting that. The simple answer to the first part of his question is that you have to build the premises first. You have to build the building first before you are eligible for the build-to-rent incentives, the tax relief that you will receive. That is why the mechanism will start from 1 July 2024.

In relation to modelling, what we needed to do was move forward and pull another lever in relation to build-to-rent. That lever, in particular, will help us deliver more roofs over Queenslanders' heads. It is one of the mechanisms that we are adopting as a government. If the honourable gentleman would like a briefing, I am happy to offer for Treasury officials to do that. I think we just need to proceed. It has been well received by the property sector broadly. It has been welcomed by the property sector which I think is a good thing, and we hope to see more homes delivered for more Queenslanders as a consequence.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 13, as read, agreed to.

Clause 14—



Mr JANETZKI (5.38 pm): This provision is in relation to the land tax concession that removes the requirement for a landowner to apply to receive the land tax exemption for a property on which there is a home.

My comment on this would be that it took a very long time and a large number of complaints before the government was able to act on this concern. In particular, we had a raft of people coming to us seeking explanations or clarification as to why. I have half a dozen examples from places like Corinda, Clear Island Waters, Sanctuary Cove and Biggera Waters. I want to draw the Treasurer's attention to one. I note the member for Surfers Paradise is here. One of his constituents was an 80-year-old woman who twice mistakenly received a request for her to pay land tax on what was clearly a principal place of residence. I note the language in the member for Surfers Paradise's tweet, and I might just repeat that. It says, 'Please have a heart, Premier—an 80-year-old constituent getting a second land tax bill incorrectly billing her for her own house.'

The member for Surfers Paradise pleaded for those letters to stop, because it is quite distressing for people if they have never been forced to pay land tax on their principal place of residence before. I appreciate that technically under the law it was not required; however, if the Treasurer could detail for the House how many people incorrectly paid the bill they were sent in respect of a property for which they were not liable for any land tax it would be really useful. I would appreciate that information.

Secondly, when it comes to data matching and building that case, in the bill I notice that the government would be relying on a range of data points to ascertain who would in fact be liable for the concession. If the Treasurer has any details on what information the commissioner would be relying on to form that opinion, that would be useful to receive if that is possible.

Mr DICK: I will reply in a general way to some of the matters the honourable member raised. If there are specific matters you wish to pursue, I am happy for you to lodge a question on notice about particular matters. Firstly, this process existed under the LNP. It has existed in Queensland for decades. Our government is acting to change it. That is the truth. We are going to make it easy for householders, families and individual owners of land in this state, and it is going to be a good and significant reform.


On the matter you spoke of in relation to the member for Surfers Paradise, I play it tough in here—the member for Toowoomba South knows that—but I am always willing to help members of parliament if they have constituency problems. My request to all members of parliament is if you have a problem, do not put it on Twitter. You do not have to put it on Twitter. You can contact me or my office or write me a letter and I will address it, because it speaks to bad faith about a particular issue for an elderly citizen who may be in a distressing situation. I think every member in this House has a view of social media and its impact on politics, the community and public discourse. I make the genuine offer that if anyone has a problem with anything the Queensland Revenue Office has done—I am not necessarily going to solve every problem that comes in, because the QRO engages with thousands of citizens each year—we will move to act on that.

I can advise that matter has been addressed and resolved for that individual. Particularly for elderly citizens, who often are more easily distressed because of their age and circumstance, I am very sympathetic to them and I would be more than willing to act to facilitate that. The truth of the matter is that members of parliament working with ministers can often facilitate quick and timely solutions for individuals who may be impacted by government decision-making. If there is more specific detail that you need, member for Toowoomba South, I am happy for you to ask a question and I would be happy to provide you with the detail.

Clause 14, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 22, as read, agreed to.

Clause 23—

 **Mr JANETZKI** (5.44 pm): This is in respect of the third component of the bill. Obviously it is the payroll tax concession. If you will indulge me, this is more a local MP's contribution rather than a shadow Treasurer's. In 2019 it was quite controversial where the line on the map was drawn for regional payroll tax for those businesses that had a payroll over \$6.5 million per any annum. The concession applied at one flat rate above that. When Treasurer Trad introduced it, where the line was drawn for regional Queensland was quite controversial. If I recall, the health minister got plenty of criticism in my part of the world for that.

Even the Lockyer Valley, which was in the depths of a drought at the time, did not qualify for regional payroll tax. I recall the contribution of the member for Toowoomba North a little earlier, where he was talking about our region being seen as part of the south-east corner when it comes time for taxation, but when it comes time for the delivery of services we are seen otherwise.

I note that the Treasurer acted after our side of the House visited Townsville and met with local businesses there. The Treasurer quick jumped to offer the extension, which is good news, to 2030 for regional businesses that rely on that payroll tax exemption. I would like to ask the Treasurer whether any consideration has been given to the lines on the map. Obviously my region sees itself as regional Queensland. It is costing a large number of our businesses their competitive advantage. If the Treasurer could provide some details or analysis on that, I would be appreciative.

Mr WATTS: I too would like to raise this issue, because we are regional Queensland. We do not get the same services as the capital city. The nature of service delivery will always be somewhat different in regional Queensland to what it will be in the south-east corner. If we had a fast train—

Ms Lauga interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Keppel.

Mr WATTS: I am happy to start taking interjections. We can all get out of here at midnight; I do not mind. If you just let me speak, I will move on.

A government member interjected.

Mr WATTS: I can do it on every clause.

Government members interjected.

Mr WATTS: Okay, I will stand up on every clause if that is what the members want me to do. What I would like to say is that the competitive advantage that we would like to see in Toowoomba—

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Pine Rivers and member for Bundaberg, you are warned under the standing orders. You can cover your mouth with your phone, member for Bundaberg, but I can still see what is going on.

Mr WATTS: We do not have a fast train. We do not have the same public transport. We do not have the same number of bikeways. We do not have the same number of things. We are a regional and provincial city. We would really like the Treasurer to reconsider where the line is drawn so we are not given this competitive disadvantage that other regional towns face. It is important to some of our larger employers in the region. They are great employers and good businesses for us to have. They invest in the community and we would like to see them treated the same as other regional businesses. If the Treasurer could give consideration, if not in this year's budget then in a future budget, because we realise this goes to 2030. We would like to see the line drawn in a more appropriate way, recognising that Toowoomba is a provincial city; alternatively, bring us a fast train and we will be happy to be considered part of the south-east corner.

Mr DICK: Before we get to the fast train, I would just like to hear the two words that I long to hear from the member for Toowoomba North: 'Thank you' for a new hospital in Toowoomba—the hospital that we are building with progressive coal royalties that not one member of the opposition bothered to say we are going to keep now and in the future in their current form, including the projects they fund. Perhaps if he said that I would be a little more sympathetic to his request. I would remind the member for Toowoomba South that this was our idea. It is our government that provided regional payroll tax discounts. We did that. Member for Toowoomba South, do not pretend that you got any—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Toowoomba South!

Mr DICK:—because you have zero ownership of it.

The other point I would make to the member for Toowoomba North relates to a basic fundamental tenet of the budget and the budgetary processes of the state. If you want to provide additional discounts, where is the revenue going to come from? What are you going to cut if you want to cut revenue in this state? You have to demonstrate that. If you want additional taxation relief, it has to be paid for somehow and that generally comes through cuts to jobs and services. We do not intend to change that. I thank the member for Toowoomba South for asking the question in good faith. I appreciate the question but it is not our intention to change that at this time.

Clause 23, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 24 to 33, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.50 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.50 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.


ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Panel of Temporary Speakers; Office of the Speaker


 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Before I call the Leader of the House, I wish to mention the Panel of Temporary Speakers, the Acting Deputy Speaker and the staff in the Office of the Speaker. It has been somewhat of an unusual week. I want to extend my thanks to the Acting Deputy Speaker, all of the temporary speakers and the staff in the Office of the Speaker for working together and making sure we did our best to have an orderly week in the chamber.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.51 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 1 September 2023 and the Transport and Resources Committee report on the Tow Truck Bill by 1 September 2023. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's Report 13 of 2022-23 titled *Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2022* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee and the Auditor-General's Report 14 of 2022-23 titled *Health outcomes for First Nations people* be referred to the Health and Environment Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.52 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.52 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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