



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 22 August 2023

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TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that Mr Speaker has received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 23 June 2023

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Land Tax Regulation 2021, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the Taxation Administration Act 2001 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely


Governor

23 June 2023

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 June 2023, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 23 June 2023 [[1155](#)].


PRIVILEGE

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

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 12 July 2023 I tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the member for Glass House alleging that the then minister for children and youth justice and minister for multicultural affairs had deliberately misled the House in response to a question without notice on 21 February 2023. I ruled that the matter did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I now refer to this matter so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of this matter under the standing orders they should do so immediately.


ACTING SPEAKER'S RULING

Petition

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have ruled that e-petition 3933-23 be removed on the basis that at least one fact in the e-petition could not be authenticated by the principal petitioner following a complaint by an affected party.

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Our Lady's College Annerley in the electorate of Miller; Helensvale State School in the electorate of Theodore; and Faith Lutheran College Redlands in the electorate of Redlands.

PETITIONS

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

Rural Queensland, Medical Practitioners

Mr Dametto, from 1,895 petitioners, requesting the House to provide permanent rural Medical Practitioners in Cardwell, Ingham, Tully, Mission Beach and in all rural medical practices in Queensland [[1129](#), [1130](#)].

Toowoomba, North-South Transport Corridor

Mr Watts, from 10,360 petitioners, requesting the House to terminate the current proposed Toowoomba North South transport corridor and restart the entire process in direct and visible consultation with the impacted Darling Downs communities [[1131](#), [1132](#)].

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

Crime, Sentencing

Mr Head, from 1,817 petitioners, requesting the House to support truth in sentencing principles whereby the perpetrator serves the full sentence imposed reflecting the severity of the action [[1133](#), [1134](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Coomera Connection Project, Sound Barriers

Mr Boothman, from 1,002 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that as part of the Coomera Connection Project, all new sound barriers incorporate "caps" to further mitigate noise from the roadway [[1135](#)].

Maudsland, Bus Services

Mr Boothman, from 472 petitioners, requesting the House to provide bus services for residents living in the estates off Maudsland Road, Maudsland [[1136](#)].

Miles, Dogwood Creek Bridge

Ms Leahy, from 918 petitioners, requesting the House to restore the Dogwood Creek Bridge at Miles to full capacity; commence a business plan to replace the bridge; and ensure the rehabilitation and widening of the narrow sections of the Roma Condamine Road [[1137](#)].

Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

Mr Andrew, from 2,181 petitioners requesting the House to increase the Patient Travel Subsidy for fuel, travel and accommodation as a commitment to breaking down the barriers for rural patients' access to healthcare [[1138](#)].

Toowoomba and Highfields, Road Safety

Mr Watts, from 547 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a full traffic safety assessment to ensure the safety of those travelling to and from the Toowoomba Christian College using the New England Highway between Toowoomba and Highfields [[1139](#)].

Brisbane, Aircraft Noise

Dr MacMahon, from 3,596 petitioners requesting the House to establish a parliamentary inquiry into the impact of Brisbane's flight paths [[1140](#)].

Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Brisbane, Transport Services

Mr Bennett, from 1,031 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the replacement of each lost return tilt train service between Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Brisbane with wheelchair accessible buses [[1141](#)].

Vehicles, Roadworthiness

Mr Watts, from 877 petitioners, requesting the House to halt the introduction of the Department of Transport and Main Roads new roadworthy scheme until TMR conducts a comprehensive review of the system [\[1142\]](#).

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

Brisbane, Naming

5,665 petitioners, requesting the House to remove the consideration of changing the name of the city of Brisbane [\[1143\]](#).

Hervey Bay, Health Services

438 petitioners, requesting the House to provide local renal and urological specialist services to the Hervey Bay area [\[1144\]](#).

Buses, Safety Barriers

544 petitioners, requesting the House to fit safety barriers in all buses in Queensland and declare all buses un-roadworthy until barriers are fitted [\[1145\]](#).

Electric Vehicles

1,505 petitioners, requesting the House to ban electric vehicles from our roads unless the owner can demonstrate they are charged from a source other than the electricity grid [\[1146\]](#).

Legal Tender

4,341 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate that any business operating in Queensland must accept any and all forms of legal Australian tender [\[1147\]](#).

Local Government, Rates

1,104 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate the Guideline on Equity and Fairness in Rating for Queensland local governments to ensure all Queensland councils are bound by its principles [\[1148\]](#).

Caloundra, Compulsory Acquisition of Property

691 petitioners, requesting the House to cause the refusal of the application for compulsory acquisition for 15 Oval Avenue, Caloundra [\[1149\]](#).

Deongwar State Forest, Logging

909 petitioners, requesting the House to stop the logging of Deongwar State Forest [\[1150\]](#).

Petitions received.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members have been busy!

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

19 June 2023—

[891](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 31, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland island resorts, government response

[892](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Secure storage of S8 medicines—version 2, 1 July 2023

[893](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Registered Nurses' (Version 3)

20 June 2023—

[894](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 46, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 29 March 2023 and 18 April 2023

21 June 2023—

[895](#) Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland: Protecting the lives and sexual safety of children—Review into the operation of the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004* (Qld), June 2023

[896](#) Affirmation of appointment as Acting Information Commissioner of Queensland of Ms Stephanie Winson, dated 21 June 2023

22 June 2023—

[897](#) Auditor-General Report 15: 2022-23—Local government 2022

[898](#) Letter, dated 22 June 2023, from the Acting Speaker, Mr Joe Kelly MP, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding travel to the Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference

[899](#) Response from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni), to an ePetition (3884-23) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 603 petitioners, requesting the House to include apartment buildings in the criteria for financial assistance from Queensland State Government whether through the extension of the existing Resilient Home Grants or a specific grant to meet their needs

[900](#) Response from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni), to an ePetition (3854-23) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 2,177 petitioners, requesting the House to halt its pursuit of renewable energy targets and conduct a publicly transparent evidential analysis of wind and solar projects against alternative clean energy like nuclear that would utilise Australia's vast reserves of uranium to reduce CO2 emissions and secure affordable, clean power

23 June 2023—

[901](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3835-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,810 petitioners, requesting the House to note the findings of Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence and terminate the Police Commissioner's appointment

26 June 2023—

[902](#) Response from the Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice (Hon. Farmer), to an ePetition (3832-22) sponsored by the member for Ninderry, Mr Purdie, from 7,066 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a number of initiatives to address sentencing and the ability to obtain bail under the Youth Justice Act and for this legislation to be known as Angus's Legislation

[903](#) Auditor-General Report 16: 2022-23—Education 2022

[904](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3899-23) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3869-23) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 862 and 302 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to upgrade the intersection of Tin Can Bay and Bayside Road, Cooloola Cove and that this upgrade is included in the works program

28 June 2023—

[905](#) Auditor-General Report 17: 2022-23—Implementing machinery of government changes

[906](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 45, 57th Parliament—Property Law Bill 2023, interim government response

29 June 2023—

[907](#) Electoral Commission Queensland: Procedure for Electronically Assisted Voting for Local Government Elections (Version 3.0) (Refer to subordinate legislation No. 57 of 2023)

[908](#) Electoral Commission Queensland: Procedure for Electronic Lodgement of Returns (Version 3.0) (Refer to subordinate legislation No. 57 of 2023)

[909](#) Local Government Electoral Act 2011: Local Government Electoral Regulation 2023, No. 57

[910](#) Local Government Electoral Act 2011: Local Government Electoral Regulation 2023, No. 57, explanatory notes

[911](#) Local Government Electoral Act 2011: Local Government Electoral Regulation 2023, No. 57, human rights certificate

30 June 2023—

[912](#) Auditor-General Report 18: 2022-23—Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (Wellcamp)

[913](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 49, 57th Parliament—Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

[914](#) Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission—Annual Report 2021-22

4 July 2023—

[915](#) Auditor-General Report 1: 2023-24—Managing invasive species

5 July 2023—

[916](#) Letter, dated 5 July 2023, from the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Hon. Grace Grace to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, and extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 42, dated 30 June 2023, regarding an approved payment by WorkCover Queensland to the Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Education, in 2023-24

11 July 2023—

[917](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Los Angeles and Boston overseas mission by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, 4-10 June 2023

12 July 2023—

[918](#) Ruling by the Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Joe Kelly—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

[919](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 32, 57th Parliament—Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022, government response

- [920](#) Response from the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (3887-23) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 11,811 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce legislation that will make it illegal for any company, council or business to refuse to accept cash (subject to existing regulations) as legal tender in Queensland
- 13 July 2023—
- [921](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3888-23) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 4,430 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices so that when considering a change in the speed limit, wildlife deaths form part of the assessment process
- [922](#) Queensland Police Service—Surveillance Device Warrants Annual Report 2021-22
- [923](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3877-23) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 704 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that all publications by ministers and mayors carry the author's name and authorisations if content is not by the hand of the minister or mayor
- [924](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3893-23) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 669 petitioners, requesting the House to adjust any current and future TMR projects between Ingham and Townsville to allow railway corridors for a light-rail project
- 14 July 2023—
- [925](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 36, 57th Parliament—Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023
- [926](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3848-23) sponsored by the member for South Brisbane, Dr MacMahon, from 1,907 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to ensure that contraceptive services are available at all Queensland hospitals
- 18 July 2023—
- [927](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 47, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 April 2023 and 23 May 2023
- 21 July 2023—
- [928](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 32, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 February 2023 and 18 April 2023
- 25 July 2023—
- [929](#) Auditor-General Report 2: 2023-24—Improving asset management in local government
- 26 July 2023—
- [930](#) Letter, dated 25 July 2023, from the Acting Auditor-General, Ms Karen Johnson, to the Acting Speaker, Mr Joe Kelly, regarding Auditor-General Report 18: 2022-23—Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (Wellcamp): Erratum
- 28 July 2023—
- [931](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual Report year ended 30 April 2023
- [932](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Maritime Safety Queensland—Marine Incidents in Queensland, 2022
- [933](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 37, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 May 2023 and 14 July 2023
- [934](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 50, 57th Parliament—Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
- 3 August 2023—
- [935](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 48, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 24 May 2023 and 13 June 2023
- [936](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 51, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 29 March 2023 and 28 April 2023
- 4 August 2023—
- [937](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Queensland Parliamentary Delegation to the 52nd Annual Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, by the member for Cook, Ms Cynthia Lui, 2-6 July 2023
- [938](#) Office of the Independent Implementation Supervisor: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Reforms—Biannual Progress Report 2 (May 2023)
- [939](#) Women's Safety and Justice Reform—Annual Report 2022-23
- 8 August 2023—
- [940](#) Queensland Government: Fifth annual progress report—Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, December 2022
- [941](#) Queensland Government: Fifth annual progress report—Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, December 2022: Final Report—Recommendation-by-recommendation implementation status

9 August 2023—

[942](#) Child Death Review Board—Annual Report 2021-22, government response

[943](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 48, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into support provided to victims of crime, government response

14 August 2023—

[944](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to Seoul, South Korea, by the Minister for Resources, Hon. Scott Stewart, 11-16 July 2023

17 August 2023—

[945](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 52, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 29 April 2023 and 9 May 2023

[946](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore by the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, 8-16 July 2023

18 August 2023—

[947](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 43, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[948](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 43, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

[949](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[950](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

[951](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 49, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[952](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 50, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[953](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report Nos. 49 and 50, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

[954](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 53, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[955](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 53, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

[956](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 35, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[957](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 35, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

[958](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 33, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[959](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 33, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

[960](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 36, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates

[961](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 36, 57th Parliament—2023-24 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

21 August 2023—

[962](#) Queensland Audit Office—Annual Report 2022-23

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Civil Liability Act 2003, Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002:

[963](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 50

[964](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 50, explanatory notes

[965](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 50, human rights certificate

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

[966](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 51

[967](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 51, explanatory notes

[968](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2023, No. 51, human rights certificate

Youth Justice Act 1992:

[969](#) Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 52

[970](#) Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 52, explanatory notes

[971](#) Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 52, human rights certificate

Disability Services Act 2006:

[972](#) Disability Services (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 53

[973](#) Disability Services (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 53, explanatory notes

[974](#) Disability Services (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 53, human rights certificate

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

- [975](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2023, No. 54
- [976](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2023, No. 54, explanatory notes
- [977](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2023, No. 54, human rights certificate

Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Act 2023:

- [978](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 55
- [979](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 55, explanatory notes
- [980](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 55, human rights certificate

City of Brisbane Act 2010, Local Government Act 2009:

- [981](#) Local Government Legislation (Boundary Changes and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 56
- [982](#) Local Government Legislation (Boundary Changes and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 56, explanatory notes
- [983](#) Local Government Legislation (Boundary Changes and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 56, human rights certificate

Photo Identification Card Act 2008, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [984](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 58
- [985](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 58, explanatory notes
- [986](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 58, human rights certificate

Associations Incorporation Act 1981, Collections Act 1966:

- [987](#) Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 59
- [988](#) Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 59, explanatory notes
- [989](#) Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 59, human rights certificate

Criminal Code Act 1899, Jury Act 1995, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, Recording of Evidence Act 1962, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [990](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 60
- [991](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 60, explanatory notes
- [992](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 60, human rights certificate

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [993](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Offers to Settle) Amendment Rule 2023, No. 61
- [994](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Offers to Settle) Amendment Rule 2023, No. 61, explanatory notes
- [995](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Offers to Settle) Amendment Rule 2023, No. 61, human rights certificate

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017:

- [996](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 62
- [997](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 62, explanatory notes
- [998](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 62, human rights certificate

Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [999](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 63
- [1000](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 63, explanatory notes

Major Events Act 2014:

- [1001](#) Major Events (FIFA Women's World Cup) Regulation 2023, No. 64
- [1002](#) Major Events (FIFA Women's World Cup) Regulation 2023, No. 64, explanatory notes
- [1003](#) Major Events (FIFA Women's World Cup) Regulation 2023, No. 64, human rights certificate

Youth Justice Act 1992:

- [1004](#) Youth Justice (Contact with Children) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 65
- [1005](#) Youth Justice (Contact with Children) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 65, explanatory notes
- [1006](#) Youth Justice (Contact with Children) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 65, human rights certificate

Biosecurity Act 2014:

- [1007](#) Biosecurity (Panama Disease Tropical Race 4) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 66
- [1008](#) Biosecurity (Panama Disease Tropical Race 4) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 66, explanatory notes
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Water Act 2000:

- [1010](#) Water Plan (Barron) 2023, No. 67
- [1011](#) Water Plan (Barron) 2023, No. 67, explanatory notes
- [1012](#) Water Plan (Barron) 2023, No. 67, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006:

- [1013](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Commercial Activity Permit Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 68
- [1014](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Commercial Activity Permit Fees) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 68, explanatory notes
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Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [1019](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 70
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- [1021](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 70, human rights certificate

Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999:

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- [1024](#) Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health (Lead) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 71, human rights certificate

Magistrates Courts Act 1921, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [1025](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Other Rules Amendment Rule 2023, No. 72
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- [1027](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Other Rules Amendment Rule 2023, No. 72, human rights certificate

Magistrates Act 1991:

- [1028](#) Magistrates Regulation 2023, No. 73
- [1029](#) Magistrates Regulation 2023, No. 73, explanatory notes
- [1030](#) Magistrates Regulation 2023, No. 73, human rights certificate

Gaming Machine Act 1991:

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Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

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- [1035](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Annual Payments to Local Governments) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 75, explanatory notes
- [1036](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Annual Payments to Local Governments) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 75, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1037](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (National Parks—Aboriginal Land) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 76
- [1038](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (National Parks—Aboriginal Land) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 76, explanatory notes
- [1039](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (National Parks—Aboriginal Land) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 76, human rights certificate

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1040](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 77
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Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1043](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Flood Affected Livestock Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 78
- [1044](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Flood Affected Livestock Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 78, explanatory notes
- [1045](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Flood Affected Livestock Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 78, human rights certificate

Legal Profession Act 2007:

- [1046](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2023, No. 79
- [1047](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2023, No. 79, explanatory notes
- [1048](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2023, No. 79, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [1049](#) Fisheries Legislation (Spanish Mackerel and Bar Rockcod) Amendment Declaration 2023, No. 80
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- [1051](#) Fisheries Legislation (Spanish Mackerel and Bar Rockcod) Amendment Declaration 2023, No. 80, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1052](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 81
- [1053](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 81, explanatory notes
- [1054](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 81, human rights certificate

Corrective Services Act 2006, Land Act 1994, Marine Parks Act 2004, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Parliamentary Service Act 1988, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998:

- [1055](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 82
- [1056](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 82, explanatory notes
- [1057](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 82, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [1058](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 83
- [1059](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 83, explanatory notes
- [1060](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 83, human rights certificate

Legal Profession Act 2007:

- [1061](#) Legal Profession (Interest on Fidelity Fund Claims) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 84
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- [1063](#) Legal Profession (Interest on Fidelity Fund Claims) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 84, human rights certificate

Police Service Administration Act 1990:

- [1064](#) Police Service Administration (Ranks of Officers) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 85
- [1065](#) Police Service Administration (Ranks of Officers) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 85, explanatory notes
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Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1067](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Agribusiness Digital Solutions Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 86
- [1068](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Agribusiness Digital Solutions Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 86, explanatory notes
- [1069](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Agribusiness Digital Solutions Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 86, human rights certificate

Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012:

- [1070](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Regulation 2023, No. 87
- [1071](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Regulation 2023, No. 87, explanatory notes
- [1072](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Regulation 2023, No. 87, human rights certificate

Major Events Act 2014:

- [1073](#) Major Events (Pacific Airshow Gold Coast) Regulation 2023, No. 88
- [1074](#) Major Events (Pacific Airshow Gold Coast) Regulation 2023, No. 88, explanatory notes
- [1075](#) Major Events (Pacific Airshow Gold Coast) Regulation 2023, No. 88, human rights certificate

River Improvement Trust Act 1940:

- [1076](#) River Improvement Trust Regulation 2023, No. 89
- [1077](#) River Improvement Trust Regulation 2023, No. 89, explanatory notes
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Economic Development Act 2012:

- [1079](#) Economic Development (Sunshine Coast Airport PDA) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 90
- [1080](#) Economic Development (Sunshine Coast Airport PDA) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 90, explanatory notes
- [1081](#) Economic Development (Sunshine Coast Airport PDA) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 90, human rights certificate

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Industrial Relations Act 2016, Local Government Act 2009, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Planning Act 2016, Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

- [1082](#) Local Government (Moreton Bay City Council) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 91
- [1083](#) Local Government (Moreton Bay City Council) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 91, explanatory notes
- [1084](#) Local Government (Moreton Bay City Council) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 91, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

- [1085](#) Planning (Assessment Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 92
- [1086](#) Planning (Assessment Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 92, explanatory notes
- [1087](#) Planning (Assessment Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 92, human rights certificate

Racing Act 2002:

- [1088](#) Racing Regulation 2023, No. 93
- [1089](#) Racing Regulation 2023, No. 93, explanatory notes
- [1090](#) Racing Regulation 2023, No. 93, human rights certificate

Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [1091](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 94
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Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [1093](#) Criminal Practice Amendment Rule 2023, No. 95
- [1094](#) Criminal Practice Amendment Rule 2023, No. 95, explanatory notes
- [1095](#) Criminal Practice Amendment Rule 2023, No. 95, human rights certificate

Magistrates Courts Act 1921:

- [1096](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Amendment Rule 2023, No. 96
- [1097](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Amendment Rule 2023, No. 96, explanatory notes
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Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [1099](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2023, No. 97
- [1100](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2023, No. 97, explanatory notes
- [1101](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2023, No. 97, human rights certificate

Building Act 1975, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [1102](#) Building and Other Legislation (Public Cyclone Shelters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 98
- [1103](#) Building and Other Legislation (Public Cyclone Shelters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 98, explanatory notes
- [1104](#) Building and Other Legislation (Public Cyclone Shelters) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 98, human rights certificate

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

- [1105](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Particular Works for Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project Exploratory Works) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 99
- [1106](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Particular Works for Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project Exploratory Works) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 99, explanatory notes
- [1107](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Particular Works for Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project Exploratory Works) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 99, human rights certificate

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Public Sector Act 2022, State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

- [1108](#) Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2023, No. 100
- [1109](#) Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2023, No. 100, explanatory notes
- [1110](#) Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2023, No. 100, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1111](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Business Energy Saving and Transformation Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 101
- [1112](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Business Energy Saving and Transformation Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 101, explanatory notes
- [1113](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Business Energy Saving and Transformation Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 101, human rights certificate

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Petroleum Act 1923, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [1114](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 102
- [1115](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 102, explanatory notes
- [1116](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 102, human rights certificate

Water Act 2000:

- [1117](#) Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2023, No. 103
- [1118](#) Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2023, No. 103, explanatory notes
- [1119](#) Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2023, No. 103, human rights certificate

Duties Act 2001:

- [1120](#) Duties Regulation 2023, No. 104
- [1121](#) Duties Regulation 2023, No. 104, explanatory notes
- [1122](#) Duties Regulation 2023, No. 104, human rights certificate

Child Protection Act 1999:

- [1123](#) Child Protection Regulation 2023, No. 105
- [1124](#) Child Protection Regulation 2023, No. 105, explanatory notes
- [1125](#) Child Protection Regulation 2023, No. 105, human rights certificate

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

- [1126](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Expansion of Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 106
- [1127](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Expansion of Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 106, explanatory notes
- [1128](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Expansion of Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023, No. 106, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles)—

- [1151](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), pursuant to section 103 of the Planning Act 2016, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application for Wanless Recycling Park at Ebenezer and Willowbank Made by Urbis Pty Ltd on behalf of Wanless Recycling Park Pty Ltd
- [1152](#) Decision Notice by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), pursuant to section 103 of the Planning Act 2016, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application for Wanless Recycling Park at Ebenezer and Willowbank Made by Urbis Pty Ltd on behalf of Wanless Recycling Park Pty Ltd

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Toowoomba North (Mr Watts)—


- [1153](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to terminate the current proposed Toowoomba North South transport corridor route and restart the entire process in direct and visible consultation with the impacted Darling Downs communities.

Member for Callide (Mr Head)—


- [1154](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to support truth in sentencing principles whereby the perpetrator serves the full sentence imposed reflecting the severity of the action.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Ahern, Hon. MJ, AO


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.37 am): It is my sad duty to inform the House of the death of former premier Mike Ahern. At the appropriate time when his family can be in attendance this House will mark Mr Ahern's passing with a condolence motion. I want to inform the House that his family has accepted the offer of a state funeral which will be held this Friday in Caloundra. As a mark of respect, I will be attending along with the Treasurer, Minister Hinchliffe and the member for Caloundra, who will represent the government at the funeral. Mr Ahern devoted his post-political life to charity and education and has been recognised with an Order of Australia. He was also named a Queensland Great. On behalf of the House, I offer his family our deep condolences and thank Mike Ahern for his services to this state.

Russell Island, Deaths

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.38 am): Today we meet for the first time since the tragedy which unfolded on Russell Island on Sunday, 6 August 2023. Six people, including five children, lost their lives after a fire broke out in a family home. Today, on behalf of the House, I extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of 34-year-old Wayne Godinet and his five sons who were lost that day: 11-year-old Zack, 10-year-old Harry, four-year-old twins Kyza and Koah, and three-year-old Nicky. I will never forget the outpouring of emotion when I visited the island and want to highlight the contribution of the local member, Kim Richards, the member for Redlands, and also the Red Cross and our department of communities in providing support in response to this tragedy.


This includes wrapping their arms around the students and staff of the Russell Island State School and kindergarten community which the children were a part of. But it is the community of Russell Island that deserves the highest praise. It is one of the greatest truths of this state that when bad things happen good people come running to help. It is particularly true of tight-knit communities and it is absolutely true of the people of Russell Island. A memorial site has been established at Bay Island Memorial Gardens and we stand with the family of the victims and the entire Russell Island community at this difficult time.

Exercise Talisman Sabre, Deaths

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.39 am): We are all deeply saddened by the loss of four Australian Defence Force members during Exercise Talisman Sabre on 28 July. The loss of Captain Danniell Lyon, Lieutenant Maxwell Nugent, Warrant Officer Class Two Joseph Laycock and Corporal Alexander Naggs has been felt deeply by our veterans community and, indeed, all Australians. Whether in training or on deployment, this is a sobering reminder of the risks that members of our Defence Force are exposed to to ensure our continued safety and security.

On behalf of the Queensland government and this House, I wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the four soldiers. I would also like to recognise the dedication and resilience of all our service men and women, both serving and former members. We acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice that some make in the line of duty. Lest we forget.

Satellite Hospitals

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.40 am): The third of our brand new satellite hospitals will open later this month. From next Monday, Redlands will add to Caboolture and Ripley, bringing free, quality health care closer to where people live. Services at the satellite hospitals include breast-screening, oral health, medical imaging, dialysis, mental health and minor injury and illness clinics. Every person who uses a satellite hospital is one less patient in our emergency wards and hospital clinics. In its first 18 days, Caboolture Satellite Hospital treated over 1,300 patients. That is proof positive of the worth of satellite hospitals and just one element of the government's actions to address this important issue.


I was delighted to attend community open days at Caboolture and Ripley. Hundreds of people came to inspect these new services in their own communities and they were very happy with what they saw. At Redlands I joined the member for Redlands and the member for Capalaba who were bursting with pride over these new facilities. I met the health staff who feel exactly the same way. How proud

are they to be working in our brand new satellite hospitals! Nurses who have spent their entire careers in major hospitals are now setting up these new satellite hospitals. In Ripley I met a couple who had just moved from Melbourne and could not believe their luck in having a facility close to their neighbourhood. In fact, they told me personally how they had left Melbourne, having lost loved ones during COVID, and moved to Ripley. They love Queensland and they are going to stay here for the rest of their lives. I also met the first responders keen to show off the purpose-built and brand new rooms to look after local people and their health. Caboolture mum, Madison, said—

I had such a wonderful experience with my daughter. We were treated and looked after the moment we went in. I highly recommend Caboolture Satellite Hospital.

It is this government that has embarked on the biggest hospital building and expansion program this state has ever seen—an historic \$9.7 billion—delivering 2,509 extra beds and services from Bamaga and Thursday Island in the north to the brand new Coomera Hospital in the south. We are committed to delivering an additional 9,475 health workers in this term of government to staff them. All of this we have detailed in our Health and Hospitals Plan. It has helped chart the course out of the pandemic and set up our economic recovery. There is so much more to be done: another four satellite hospitals to come online at Bribie, Kallangur, Eight Mile Plains and Tugun. Each one further eases the pressure on our health system and brings more care closer to home.


Police Citizens Youth Clubs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.43 am): Part of being tough on crime is being tough on the complex causes of crime. Since 2015 we have invested more than \$1 billion in programs to get in early and help stop crime before it happens. I am advised that 80 per cent of young people who have contact with the youth justice system for the first time do not reoffend.

In the budget our government outlined \$56 million to bolster service delivery at police citizens youth clubs across Queensland as part of our commitment to tackle the complex causes of crime. This \$56 million boost is about PCYCs across the state getting back to basics and delivering intervention and support where and when it is needed. Under the funding that is now rolling out we will help PCYCs build new facilities, upgrade existing ones and deliver more programs. Programs like Deep Blue Line, Braking the Cycle, Basketball after Dark and Safer Communities. We will contribute \$5 million to building new PCYC facilities in Rockhampton, Sandgate, Pimpama, Mareeba and Beaudesert. We will contribute \$1 million in upgrades in Zillmere, Mount Gravatt, Crestmead, Bundaberg, Yarrabah, Napranum, Aurukun, Upper Ross, Palm Island, Burdekin, Hills District, Ipswich, Mornington Island, Mount Isa, Roma and Toowoomba; and \$2 million in upgrades in Redlands, Nambour and Cairns.

PCYC has a proud legacy of supporting local communities and getting local young people involved. Through their work they can get in early and help young people stay on the right track before they get involved in crime. They can help turn their lives around. This funding means an increase in intervention, prevention and diversionary program hours by 100 per cent; more facilities for more After Dark programs; and more dedicated youth spaces to support the delivery of employment skills programs.

FIFA Women's World Cup


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.45 am): The past few weeks have shown us the amazing unifying power of sport. The FIFA Women's World Cup, proudly supported by our government, brought the world to Brisbane but arguably changed our world forever. Our national team, the mighty Matildas, attracted record free-to-air television audiences, especially for their quarterfinal against France which has already been nominated as one of Australian sport's defining moments.

The Matildas showed off their skills and talents to the world, but there was something else that happened that transcends just sport. We saw in these past few weeks, young girls and young boys, mums and dads, friends—the community—all watching women's sport. AFL fans and players turned their backs on scoreboards in their own grandstands to watch the Matildas. They even watched from international flights. The Matildas finished fourth in the world in this competition and that deserves high praise. But they achieved more than that: they shattered another glass ceiling for women's sport. More than 70,000 people attended our live sites at South Bank during the tournament. I thank Minister Hinchliffe and his team for helping set those up. Four thousand were there to cheer them on Sunday at our people's tribute for the Tillies. They have inspired future generations of girls and young women to follow in their footsteps. What amazing role models they are.

We want to turn that inspiration into participation. On Sunday I was pleased to announce that our government will triple our investment in the Inclusive Facilities Fund to \$30 million; funding another \$15 million round of Active Clubs; and providing an additional \$2 million—taking to \$6 million—our contribution for the Queensland Women's Football Legacy Fund. We are also funding a statue at Suncorp Stadium. What that will look like will be determined by Football Australia and the team.

Hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup was anticipated to inject more than \$30 million into the Queensland visitor economy, but we are expecting these forecasts to have been surpassed significantly. The FIFA Women's World Cup is just a taste of what the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will mean to Queensland and this state. I look forward to 2032 when we see the Olympic and Paralympic Games host the world's best at games in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast.

Recycling Modernisation Fund


 **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) (9.47 am): The Palaszczuk government has a plan to deliver future prosperity for Queenslanders. Queensland's Big Build will ensure we have the hospitals, schools, roads and homes to cater for our growing population. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is setting the state up for more jobs and a cleaner, greener future built on renewables and capitalising on the natural assets the Sunshine State has to offer. The Energy and Jobs Plan is ambitious but we know our targets are achievable and will maintain our great lifestyle while creating good jobs and services.

We are determined to do even more to create jobs and protect our unique Queensland lifestyle. That is why the Palaszczuk and Albanese governments have teamed up to deliver the Queensland Recycling Modernisation Fund. Nearly \$13 million has been allocated to six new projects across Queensland with a focus on creating jobs, reducing landfill and boosting our recycling capacity. Thanks to this investment, more than 69,000 tonnes of waste will be diverted from Queensland landfill with projects such as that at Action Products in south-west Brisbane who took up our call to arms to create jobs by increasing recycling at their plastic manufacturing business.

Action currently manufactures plastic spacers, which are used in the construction industry to reinforce steel during a concrete pour. It is a critical part of any building process. Thanks to an \$810,000 investment, the business will now easily be able to crush down industrial wheelie bins into these plastic parts. The Action team says the building industry wants to see more recycling happen and the Palaszczuk government is proud to support them as it is making our building industry more sustainable.

This round of QRMF funds is supporting 82 construction jobs and an additional 116 operational roles. Securing the jobs of the future for Queensland is the goal of the Palaszczuk government's new-industry development strategy. The new infrastructure we have helped purchase will sort, process and transform waste plastics, paper, cardboard and glass into new products for use in agriculture, manufacturing, construction and sustainable food packaging. We know these new projects here in the south-east, on the Gold Coast, Logan, Toowoomba and also in Rockhampton will make a significant impact on our recycling footprint. The next round of grants, which focuses solely on recycling plastics, is already open. I encourage more Queensland businesses to join us on this journey to a cleaner and even more prosperous future.

Train Manufacturing Program

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): I would like to start this week by talking about trains because, as Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment and as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government, I could not be prouder of the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. I could not be prouder of the fact that our government is bringing train manufacturing back to Australia, back to Queensland and back to Maryborough and the Wide Bay—trains made by Queenslanders for Queenslanders in Queensland.

Sixty-five trains will be built in Maryborough through the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, I know we have not seen each other for a number of weeks so we are keen to reacquaint ourselves with each other. However, I ask that we hear the ministerial statements in relative silence.

Mr DICK: Sixty-five trains will be built in Maryborough through the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program and they will support long-term secure skilled jobs for decades to come. There are girls and boys in Torbanlea State School, Howard State School and Pialba State School who will be able to get jobs as welders, fitters and turners, boilermakers, engineers and electricians for decades into the future. They will be able to go to TAFE and university to gain a qualification to pursue those careers because of the certainty and security that Queensland train manufacturing provides. Our government's investment is a long-term investment in regional Queensland, in public transport and in Queensland's future.

Of course, like everything else across the world, costs have risen for this project in recent years and only a fool would suggest otherwise.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease gesticulating across the chamber.

Mr DICK: I repeat: like everything else across the world, costs have risen for this project in recent years and only someone stupendously ignorant or a complete fool would suggest otherwise. The ABS product price index data shows that, in the two years to March 2023, the cost of steel products rose by 60 per cent and the cost of electrical equipment rose by more than 20 per cent over the same period.

The people of Queensland know about increased costs. The people of Queensland know it from their direct personal experience at the supermarket and the petrol station. They know it because of the major cost escalation in the LNP's signature Brisbane City Council project, the Brisbane Metro. The cost of the LNP's Brisbane Metro has increased from \$944 million to \$1.7 billion. That is an increase of \$756 million or three-quarters of a billion dollars, an increase of 80 per cent on a project that has now been delayed for more than two years.

The people of Queensland know about increased costs because of what I said in my budget speech in this place just two months ago. In that speech, the most important speech I give as Treasurer, I told the people of Queensland directly in this House, right in this place, that, even as project costs rise, continuing with our full capital program was a deliberate decision by our government. It is a capital program that is now a record for Queensland. It is a record capital program in the history of this state worth \$89 billion over four years. I could not have been clearer to every member of this House and every Queenslander. As I said on budget day and as I say again today, government either backs these projects and accepts their higher costs or government walks away, and our government will never walk away from the people of Queensland.

There are those who describe these increasing costs as blowouts or waste. Anyone who says that—

Mr Nicholls: Because they are.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. I make this point, something that even the member for Clayfield will understand: anyone who describes these cost increases as blowouts or waste means one thing and one thing alone; they mean cuts.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Taking the interjection again, the No. 1 member of this House who knows about cuts is the member for Clayfield and the Leader of the Opposition is happy to have him as a senior frontbencher. We know where that story ends. To cut the manufacturing of trains in Queensland would mean buying those trains from interstate or overseas. We know about the stark difference between Labor and the LNP. It would mean leaving Queenslanders without the public transport they deserve, in trains built by Queenslanders for Queenslanders.


Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield and member for Aspley, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr DICK: It would mean depriving the people of Maryborough of the economic security and certainty that they deserve. Our Labor government will never do that. This is a great project for Queensland and every day we talk about it is welcomed by our government because it is another day when we can promote and advocate for the project's many benefits for people across our state. Long may that continue because it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that will build trains in Queensland.

GPs in Schools

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is proud of our commitment to support the health and wellbeing of our students, which is fundamental to delivering a world-class education. That is why we took a bold nation-leading student wellbeing plan to the election and it is why we are getting on with delivering our \$106 million investment.

Members will recall the original plan was to place GPs in 20 schools but, given the level of interest, we expanded the pilot. I am delighted to advise the House that all 50 GPs are now operational in our schools. Just last week I was able to visit the GP service at Western Cape College in Weipa, which the students and staff absolutely love. In fact, I was advised that the service at Western Cape College holds the record for the most number of appointments in a day.

We are also committed to employing up to an additional 464 health and wellbeing professionals during this term to give every student access to a professional in school. I can advise the House that, as at 31 July this year, the department has employed 427 wellbeing professionals, including 157 psychologists, 99 guidance officers, 165 social workers and six youth workers. That is a great result in a tight labour market. That is in addition to over 1,000 guidance officers and specialist advisers already in our schools.


As the package rolls out, we are getting some encouraging feedback on how it is working from students, school staff and the health professionals themselves. A student at Harristown State High School in Toowoomba South said—

The GP has supported me by listening and understanding. I like that I am able to get the help, guidance and support I need in an easy stress-free way.

The principal at Deception Bay State High School in Bancroft said that the GP was providing a wonderful service for so many students, some of whom would have struggled to access medical support.

Last week federal minister Jason Clare joined me at Kelvin Grove State College in my electorate to talk about the Commonwealth government's School Wellbeing Boost, which will provide \$36 million to nearly 1,800 Queensland schools—that is, all schools in Queensland. This includes: \$50,000 for Kelvin Grove, which they will put to good use with \$10,000 to Grow Your Mind, an Australian designed wellbeing program; and \$40,000 to add an additional space to their excellent student wellbeing centre. While there, we met psychologist Sarah and adorable therapy dog Banjo, who are doing a fantastic job supporting the students. Queensland is leading the nation on this front, providing comprehensive health and wellbeing support to all of our students, no matter where they live.

Irwin, Mr P; Police Citizens Youth Clubs

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.01 am): The officers who comprise the Queensland Police Service are dedicated to keeping our communities safe. In doing so, some of them make the ultimate sacrifice. Twenty years ago today, two young children called the Caboolture Police Station stating that they had been accosted by an armed man as they rode their bicycles through bushland. The officer in charge of Caboolture Police Station—my local police station—was Senior Sergeant Perry Irwin. Senior Sergeant Irwin and his colleagues entered on foot to attempt to locate the gunman. In doing his all to protect his community, Senior Sergeant Irwin was shot twice and died at the scene. We will always remember Senior Sergeant Perry Irwin, particularly the Caboolture community. With honour he served.


The Palaszczuk government will always govern for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live. The state budget includes funding for what I see as one of the most wideranging and community-based investments you could ever make. It is an investment that touches communities in every corner—every nook and cranny—of our great state. It is an unprecedented capital investment in PCYC—one that will deliver, as the Premier stated earlier, \$50 million in funding to support the building of new PCYC facilities and upgrade existing ones. Later today I will join Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll, PCYC CEO Phil Schultz and 'The Hornet'—boxing champion Jeff Horn—to detail these investments.

There is a long list of centres in metropolitan and regional areas, including all the way up to the cape, that will benefit from this investment. As the Premier highlighted, there will be \$5 million in contributions towards new PCYC centres at Sandgate, Mareeba, Rockhampton, Pimpama and Beaudesert. Places like Carindale, Mount Isa, Roma, Toowoomba, Redlands, Aurukun and Yarrabah will also get funding for upgraded facilities. There will be many more locations where we will be investing in upgraded facilities.

Further, the Queensland Police Service is also exploring the opportunity to establish a youth program centre of excellence on the Inala PCYC site, with up to \$2 million in funding allocated. In addition, the government is providing \$6 million in funding to support the administration of PCYC centres, freeing up police officers who work in these centres from administrative duties so that they can spend more time mentoring young people.

These investments are really important because they support an organisation that for 75 years has made a very real difference in our communities: helping young people stay off the streets and keeping their communities safe. I am told that the investments the government is making will double the amount of work PCYC can do with young people. That is a real difference and is further evidence of the government's commitment to doing everything it can to support community safety.

Walker, Mr H; Youth Crime

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.04 am): I begin by paying tribute to Mr Hugh Walker, who was a much loved friend and neighbour in my community who lost his life in a house fire over the weekend. We send all of our condolences to his wife, Julie, and his family.

The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to community safety and community confidence that what we are doing to address youth crime is based on evidence. It is why earlier this year the Premier committed to public reporting for youth offending. As a result, there are four new measures in the 2023-24 service delivery standards for Youth Justice: the rate of young people aged 10 to 17 years who have contact with Youth Justice per 10,000 population; the proportion of young people declared a serious repeat offender under the Youth Justice Act 1992 out of all young people with a proven offence finalised; the average daily number of young people in detention centres, rate per 10,000 population; and the cost per young offender supervised in the community per day.

The new measures were published on the department's website on 2 August 2023 and will be updated biannually on the department website. The important figures we already know about relate to the drop in the number of youth offenders with a proven offence. They include a drop of 35 per cent over the last 10 years; a drop of 30 per cent over the last five years; and a drop of three per cent over the last three years.


On top of these and other broader measures, I have committed publicly to an evaluation of each of the early intervention and prevention programs which are part of our \$1.4 billion investment in addressing youth crime. I have said clearly that if we find that any of these programs are not working we will stop doing them.

As part of our rolling program of evaluations, we are already seeing some excellent results. This is why, since taking on the youth justice portfolio again, I have been so pleased to announce additional funding for some of these initiatives, such as the additional five youth co-responder locations on top of the eight already operating across the state. Since their inception our youth co-responder teams have seen over 67,000 young people, with a 95 per cent compliance rate. There is an additional \$56.8 million, which includes funding for 47 additional positions for our 16 intensive case management locations across the state. These programs are aimed at our most serious repeat offenders, and we have already seen a 51 per cent decrease in the frequency of reoffending and a 72 per cent decline in assaults against the person.

These two programs are part of a tranche of early intervention and prevention programs aimed at addressing the complex causes of youth crime. In fact, of the \$1.4 billion we have invested, over \$664 million is invested in youth justice programs. They include restorative justice conferencing; Transition 2 Success; fast-track sentencing; the conditional bail program; Community Partnership Innovation Grants; Community Youth Response and diversion; Youth Justice Taskforce; early action groups; PCYC; intensive case management; the JTYouGotThis program; Mount Isa transitional hub; the Specialist Youth Crime Rapid Response Squad; strengthening bail laws resourcing; Townsville Community Youth Response; Townsville Street University; the vehicle immobiliser trial; watch house support; Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce; youth co-responder teams expansion; the youth drug and alcohol treatment service; bail monitoring and bail support; electronic monitoring; enhanced youth and family wellbeing; Youth Development Partnership Fund; family-led decision making; Framing the Future—Project Booyah; Intensive Bail Initiative; and On Country. These are real, rolled gold early intervention programs.

We are committed to community safety, and the community needs to know that what we are doing is based on evidence. We will continue to fund programs and services that the evidence tells us are effective in reducing reoffending and increasing community safety.

Train Manufacturing Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.08 am): Every member of this House is aware of the Newman government's failed procurement of 75 NGR trains made overseas that were not disability compliant.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: There you have it, Mr Acting Speaker. The needs of Queenslanders with a disability—almost 20 per cent of our population—

Mr Minnikin: Read the report.

Mr BAILEY:—were ignored—including by the member for Chatsworth, who continues to interject.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Cease your interjections, member for Chatsworth and member for Clayfield.

Mr BAILEY: In stark contrast, the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program is one of the Palaszczuk government's shining achievements—well-paid, long-term, advanced rail manufacturing jobs for hundreds of Queenslanders for decades to come. The trains will all be disability compliant.

Budget Paper 3 at pages 10 and 104 clearly set out the \$4.869 billion in costs for the manufacturing phase of the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. The total cost of the 35-year program, following a highly complex and thorough 2½-year independent procurement process, is \$9.5 billion. This figure was only confirmed following the execution of a contract with Downer on the evening of 29 June by the acting director-general of Transport and Main Roads. This information was made public on the TMR website on 30 June.

Our election commitment in 2020 was for 20 trains to be built in Maryborough and in October 2021 the scope was revised upwards to include the manufacture, operation and maintenance of 65 trains over 35 years—more than triple our election commitment. The department's estimate in 2021 was \$7.1 billion and the preferred applicant Downer was announced on 6 February this year.

Throughout the negotiations, the project scope was revised, broadened and refined as is a usual part of contract negotiations. Additions to the scope included the ability for trains to lean into platforms to improve accessibility. We are not going to ignore people with disabilities. That is not what this government is going to do.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: You did.

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

Mr BAILEY: The implementation of platform bridges to increase accessibility and a 10-kilometre test track so that—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I will start again. Additions to the scope included the ability for trains to lean into platforms to improve accessibility, the implementation of platform bridges to improve accessibility and a 10-kilometre test track so that trains can be tested close to the manufacturing facility and prior to entering the contract.

On 30 May 2023 the Cabinet Budget Review Committee approved a package of funding of up to \$9.5 billion to finalise negotiations and execute the contract. This is a usual part of a confidential government process when contract negotiations are underway and is a necessary part of protecting the government and suppliers' commercial positions. In the meantime, draft media and communication materials—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BAILEY: You sent the jobs overseas, mate.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Minister, your comments will be directed through the chair.

Mr BAILEY: In the meantime, draft media and communication materials were prepared for the anticipated contract execution with Downer in late June. After an extension of negotiations of more than a week, the contract with Downer was executed at 7 pm on 29 June. The final estimate for the entire 35-year program was confirmed at the contract execution with Downer, which included a \$4.6 billion contract to Downer for the first 15 years, signed on 29 June, and a \$9.5 billion estimate for the full 35-year life of the project.

As the acting director-general of the Department of Transport and Main Roads advised at estimates—

The \$9.5 billion provision provides for maintenance—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Sorry to interrupt, Minister. Members to my left, this is a matter which you devoted significant time to during the estimates hearings and have made many public comments on. The minister is giving an explanation. I would have thought you would want to listen to this so that you can provide further scrutiny of this matter. I will start to warn members.

Mr BAILEY: As the acting director-general of the Department of Transport and Main Roads advised at estimate—

The \$9.5 billion provision provides for maintenance over 35 years. We have not yet contracted that maintenance, so on that basis it is an estimate of a future cost that we expect to incur for the maintaining of those trains over their full life. We have signed one contract with Downer for \$4.6 billion, and that includes the scope to build the manufacturing facility at Torbanlea—

which will be publicly owned—

build the rail facility at Ormeau and manufacture the 65 trains at Torbanlea and maintenance of those trains for 15 years.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. I gave clear instructions.

Mr BAILEY: The acting director-general went on to say—


There is also the provision in the \$9.5 billion for 20 years of additional maintenance, currently envisaged as four five-year increments. That is not currently contracted.

A media release issued the following day, on 30 June, included the outdated figure of \$7.1 billion erroneously. This should have been updated with the new figure of \$9.5 billion. The Premier and I have both acknowledged this error and as the line minister I accept responsibility and I have apologised for this error. The Department of Transport and Main Roads updated the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program webpage at about 9.30 am on 30 June—the day of the media conference—hours before we held a media conference accompanied by the Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing, the member for Maryborough.

Ms Leahy: Bruce didn't do it.


Mr BAILEY: He is the man who saved that town. The 2023-24 budget papers contain the funding committed for the manufacturing phase of the project. Queensland train manufacturing is back in Queensland. People with disabilities will never again be ignored by a state government in Queensland because of the reforms that have been brought in by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Only under this Palaszczuk Labor government will trains be built in Queensland. Nothing the LNP will do or say will stop it.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.16 am): I advise the House that the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs will be absent from the House today due to illness. As such, I advise the House that the Minister for Housing will take questions during question time on Minister Linard's behalf.

REPORT

Office of the Leader of the Opposition


 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House the report of expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 [[1156](#)].

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

Train Manufacturing Program

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.17 am): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier finally confirm in parliament today that the \$2.4 billion train blowout was signed off at the Cabinet Budget Review Committee in May, over a month before the announcement was made?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the Leader of the Opposition was not listening to Minister Bailey's ministerial statement at all. I am very proud that we are manufacturing trains in Maryborough. We are bringing back good, decent jobs to Maryborough. On this side of the House we build trains in Queensland, in Maryborough, and those opposite build them overseas. I am happy to talk about trains because they are being built in Maryborough.

I was at the Ekka the other day and I met a lovely couple from Maryborough. They said, 'Premier, thanks for building the trains in Maryborough.' They love the member. They love Bruce Saunders. At the next election the people of Queensland have a choice: do they want to continue to have trains built in Maryborough, in Queensland, or do they want them built overseas at half the price? That is right.

As I said very clearly the other day—I am happy to give a little lesson to those opposite about the budget process and the fact that you have estimates to question the budget—as required—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You wouldn't even know what the CBRC is! Honestly.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Premier, your comments will come through the chair.

Mr Bleijie: Hubris!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know how CBRC used to work. The member for Kawana used to pick up the phone to Campbell Newman, to the former premier, and say, 'This is what we're going to do today.' That is how they conducted the CBRC. The famous tunnel—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, you wait.

Mr Crisafulli: This is the point where you have to say 'Hear, hear' to help her.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We heard very clearly—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Broadwater reminds me very much of a former premier—the same actions, the same demeanour, the same arrogance, the same hubris. He is exactly the same. The member for Kawana—a leopard never changes its spots—is exactly the same as he was back then.

(Time expired)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will cease waving that document as a prop. I did see that. I ask all members to show some greater levels of control and decorum. It is very hard to hear the Premier on her feet.

Train Manufacturing Program

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. The \$2.4 billion train cost blowout has been described in the media as a 'stuff-up', a 'simple error', an 'honest mistake' by six staff and 'not the theme of the day'. Will the Premier finally admit the government knew all along but decided to keep it from Queenslanders?

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order before the Premier commences.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Once again I am more than happy to talk about building trains in Maryborough and making sure that we have hundreds of jobs there for people in Maryborough. Every time I go to Downer I am absolutely touched by the fact that there are generations of families who have had jobs there, and there are going to be even more jobs into the future.

I was trying to explain to those opposite about the accountability of the budget—that is, the moneys that are required to be in the budget are in the budget. Here we have the Capital Statement—I have even highlighted it for the member for Broadwater. This is why you can never put them in charge again because they absolutely have no idea how budgets work. Here in the Capital Statement it is very clear in black and white the billions of dollars that are going into train manufacturing in Queensland. It is very clear: the 'Queensland government has committed \$4.869 billion for the manufacturing' of trains. By any accounting standard, that is it. It is in the budget. If it were not in the budget, I would be concerned. It is there in the budget, but those opposite do not understand budget processes.

I am glad the Leader of the Opposition asked me about this because those opposite did not even put things in the budget. Let's have a look at 1 William Street.

Ms Grace: The only thing they built.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The LNP's only project.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, listen. All the budget Capital Statement said was something about how 1 William Street would 'enhance Brisbane's reputation as a vibrant city'. The member for Clayfield said that these costs were commercial-in-confidence.

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

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take the point of order in silence.

Mr POWELL: My point of order is on relevance under standing order 118(b).

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I said I would take the point of order in silence.

Mr POWELL: The question was about trains and what the Premier knew about the blowouts and why that was not shared with the people of Queensland.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice. The taking of points of order, particularly during question time, is not an opportunity to add to the question that was asked. I ask the Premier to come back to the substance of the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The substance of the question is that we are building trains in Maryborough. The money—the \$4.86 billion—was put in the budget. Those opposite did not put 1 William Street in their budget. We had to wait for the Auditor-General to advise that the contracted lease costs and land contributions were \$1.2 billion. Then there was another \$237 million lost on the sale of seven CBD offices and another \$1.2 billion in lease costs locked in to justify building 1 William Street. In total, there was \$2.6 billion in sunk costs not in the budget—not in the budget.

(Time expired)

Cost of Living

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the Premier outline how the government is helping Queenslanders who are experiencing the national cost-of-living pressures?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say to the member for Bundaberg that we know that cost of living is the No. 1 issue at the moment across Queensland and across Australia because it is really hurting households. That is why our government is doing everything we can to alleviate those cost-of-living pressures.

Those opposite may have seen fit to increase electricity bills by 43 per cent but not under this government. Under this government we are giving money back to Queenslanders—\$550 for every household and over \$1,000 for concession card holders and our seniors. In fact, a senior approached me the other day and said, 'Excuse me, Anastacia, I think there is something wrong with my electricity bill. Should I ring the provider? It's only \$20,' to which I explained, 'That's your government rebate coming back'—\$20 as opposed to \$300.

Mrs Frecklington: Who was that one constituent?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Nanango, these are real people with real stories. That is why we put in place over \$8 billion in concessions. I urge people to go online and check what other concessions they are able to get.

I was joined by Minister de Brenni. We went to Harvey Norman, an appliance shop, in my local electorate. I am happy to advise that from 4 September Queensland households will be eligible for rebates of up to \$1,000 to purchase energy-efficient appliances. Already 21,000 Queenslanders have registered their interest online. If you are interested, register online. That is my message to Queenslanders today. The \$22 million program includes rebates for washing machines, fridges, dryers, dishwashers, air conditioners and hot-water systems. Of course it needs to be—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Mermaid Beach! Premier, you have the call.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The House will come to order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not only that, it is estimated that making the switch from two- to four-star appliances can save households thousands of dollars a year. Low-income households will benefit most of all, but all Queensland households will be able to apply for rebates on selected appliances.

We are also delivering across Queensland next year free kindy thanks to the Minister for Education. Every child will be eligible for 15 hours of kindy. Once again, it is a cost-of-living measure.

Ms Grace: \$4,600.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, it will save families \$4,600 but, more than that, it also means that women or men will be able to re-enter the workforce if they are the primary caregiver. It is a positive outcome.

(Time expired)

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for Transport. On 3 July the minister's office sent an email to the department suggesting that references to the train contract being \$9.5 billion be deleted. Prior to the email being sent did the minister discuss, meet with, tweet, SMS, or have any communication with his staff regarding this suggestion?

Mr BAILEY: I have never tweeted to one of my staff members—ever. I have tweeted a lot of times to the LNP, and they do not like it because I hold them accountable. I remind people about the overseas trains that were not disability compliant. I remind them about the record of the member for Chatsworth, who during estimates dumped his own leader and deputy leader in it for the NGR contract. He crab walked away from the decision to award the contract overseas for trains that were not disability compliant. The member for Chatsworth said at estimates—

I was not a member of cabinet. I ask that the comment be withdrawn.

He was crab walking away. Even though he was a member of the government and the assistant minister for public transport he was saying, 'That NGR contract had nothing to do with me.' He did that in estimates. The member for Maroochydore also denied any part in ordering trains from overseas that were not disability compliant, dumping in the member for Kawana, the member for Broadwater, the member for Everton, the member for Clayfield—

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was quite specific.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The minister is being responsive to the question.

Mr BAILEY: I table the *Hansard* from estimates which quotes both the member for Maroochydhore and the member for Chatsworth crab walking away from responsibility for ordering trains from overseas that were not disability compliant. That is the record of the assistant minister for public transport under the Newman government.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 8 August 2023, from the Transport and Resources Committee proof transcript of the estimates hearing, pages 10 and 44 [1157].

Mr POWELL: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We are a minute and 30 seconds into the answer. The question was simple: were there any secret meetings or communication between the minister and his staff, yes or no?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice. First, Manager of Opposition Business, in my last ruling I asked you not to add to questions. That has been done again in this case; you have added a very crucial word. The minister has responded to parts of the question. I have been listening carefully. I would ask the minister to continue and address all elements of the question if possible during the remaining time.

Mr BAILEY: I have fully addressed this question previously in multiple communications through the media. When people look back on this period they are not going to be talking about the minutiae: they will be talking about trains coming back to Queensland. It will happen under this government and we are proud to do that. When there is a mistake made I accept responsibility and I apologise for it, something the member for Chatsworth and the member for Clayfield—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bonney, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Chatsworth, you are also warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: If an error is made I will accept responsibility and apologise, as I have done, which is something the member for Clayfield and the member for Chatsworth never did when it came to ordering trains made overseas that were not disability compliant, ignoring nearly one in five Queenslanders. That is our record—

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance. The question was specifically: did the minister know about the email?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I have addressed that point of order.

Mr BAILEY: I fully addressed this. I was not aware of the email. Let's make it very clear: I will put my record up against the member for Chatsworth's any day of the week. Most of the Newman government ministers responsible for ordering trains made overseas are still there, including the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana. Under this government they are going to be made in Queensland. I am proud of that. Only under this government will that occur.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, I was listening to the minister's contribution. He was answering the question. Members to my left choose not to listen but to interject instead. I would ask you to listen to the responses being given by ministers.

Satellite Hospitals

Mr McCALLUM: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the Premier please update the House on how the government's seven new satellite hospitals will bring free quality health care closer to where people live?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course it is very important that Queenslanders are able to get health care close to where they are. That is why I am proud that our satellite hospital program is delivering. We announced them at the last election, and the seven satellite hospitals will be built by the next election. I thank the member for Bundamba for the question, because the question still remains whether those opposite, who are so opposed to satellites hospitals, will sell them if they are elected. On this side of the House we will be building more satellite hospitals because they are so well supported in the local community. I want to thank the Deputy Premier: these satellite hospitals were his idea. I want to thank the former minister for health, the member for Redlands, and the current Minister for Health because it has been a team effort to get these satellite hospitals off the ground.

I have had a chance to meet a lot of workers at the satellite hospitals, and as I had said in my ministerial statement they are proud to work for Queensland Health. They do not like the attacks on the health system from those opposite because they get up every day and do their job to the very best of

their capabilities to serve the people of our great state. They will not cop being called 'duds' in our regional areas. As I said, in its first 18 days the Caboolture satellite hospital has treated over 1,300 patients. These satellite hospitals were designed to take the pressure off our emergency departments.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I hear this whingeing again. The best thing the Leader of the Opposition could do is promote the member for Moggill to the position of shadow minister for health to inject a bit of decency into the health debate. I will not even comment on the member for Kawana. Four more satellite hospitals will open by the first half of next year at Bribie Island, Tugun, Eight Mile Plains and Kallangur. This is all part of our plan to improve service delivery closer to home. As the member for Bundamba knows, we were joined by the member for Ipswich West and the member for Ipswich. The community loves this satellite hospital. There were about 300 or 400 people lined up on the community open day—

(Time expired)

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. Media reports say that the Premier has directed Minister Bailey to scrap projects to fill his funding black hole as a result of multiple blowouts. Can the Premier tell Queenslanders which projects are at risk because of Minister Bailey's budget blowouts?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Toowoomba South, could I ask you to rephrase that question without the argumentative language.

Mr JANETZKI: With pleasure. My question is to the Premier. Media reports say the Premier has directed Minister Bailey to reconsider projects to fill his funding shortfalls from multiple cost overruns. Can the Premier tell Queenslanders which projects are at risk because of Minister Bailey's cost overruns?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the question asked, I ask that the member substantiate where that reporting is actually from.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member, can you substantiate that?

Mr JANETZKI: Nine News Queensland last night. I am happy to table that for the House.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 21 August 2023, from a social media account of 9News Queensland, in relation to government funding [1158].

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The document supplied does not contain the statements you have alleged—

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! This is important for other members in future. As it is a screenshot of a TV news presentation—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders. The Premier can answer the question, but the member should understand that, if there is misleading information in that question, there are mechanisms to deal with that under the standing orders of the parliament.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say this. Our government is investing a record \$32.1 billion in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program over the next four years.

Mr Dick: It is the biggest in history.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is the biggest in history. It is the biggest program—

Mr Bleijie: Who leaked the CBRC?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, is that like the time at CBRC when public servants under your government were abused—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Through the chair please, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and sworn at? That was reported directly to me when I walked down the street.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The House will come to order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say this very clearly. We are doing the Big Build in this state: whether it is transport; whether it is hospitals, with our record more than \$9.5 billion in hospital expansions across the state; whether it is improving the Bruce Highway or the M1; whether it is the Coomera Connector or building the extensions to the Gold Coast Light Rail; whether it is the upgrades in Townsville and Rockhampton with the Rockhampton Ring Road; or whether it is the new part of the Mulgrave road that was just opened recently. We are committed to the biggest build. As the Treasurer said, we made a conscious decision as a government to continue our building program in this state. We also recognise that there have been cost escalations. That is not just in the transport infrastructure space. It is in the housing space, it is everywhere—

Mr Dick: Including Adrian Schrinner.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right—including the Brisbane City Council. There is nothing said about the Brisbane City Council. We just hear the crickets.

Mr Dick: An 80 per cent blowout.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection—an 80 per cent blowout. On this side, we build; on that side, they cut. This is the government that builds and the opposition that will cut. When they are in government, that is what they do. They cut, or they deliberately mislead Queenslanders like the fake Bruce Highway. Do you remember that?

Ms Grace: And the Bradfield Scheme.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And the Bradfield Scheme—‘We’re going to build this thing,’ but nothing happens and no money is allocated.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Well, I am happy to have the next election because on this side of the House we are building trains in Maryborough, we are building satellite hospitals, we are expanding our hospitals and we are building schools. We have got our building program. On that side of the House, they want to cut. The question for the Leader of the Opposition is—

Mr Powell: All you have got on that side is chaos and crisis.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And all you have got is cuts and sackings.

South-East Queensland, Growth

Mr SKELTON: My question is to 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 planning for a growing South-East Queensland and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Nicklin for his question. I know that the member for Nicklin cannot wait to see Queensland-built trains leaving Nambour station. That is exactly what we will deliver. The member for Nicklin also knows that Queensland is already one of the best places in the world to live, and it is no wonder that more and more people want to move here. We expect that by 2046 the South-East Queensland population will grow by 2.2 million people. With that growth comes opportunity—opportunities to attract the health workers who will serve us in our hospitals and the teachers who will teach our kids—but we also know that we need to plan well to protect our jobs, to protect our environment and to protect our unique way of life.

It is that good planning that will ensure we can deliver the 900,000 additional homes we will need, and that is why the Palaszczuk government has released a new draft South East Queensland Regional Plan for consultation. It outlines where in the south-east we will see those homes and also, through the infrastructure supplement, how the Big Build will deliver the infrastructure to support people living there. It embeds affordability into our planning system for the first time so that nurses, teachers and police officers can afford to live near where they work.

Only Labor has a plan to deliver affordable homes in South-East Queensland. The LNP and the Greens political party might talk about housing, but when it comes to actually delivering new homes they are complete hypocrites. I cannot tell the House how many letters I have from Greens political party MPs demanding I move to block new homes being built in South-East Queensland—despite the irony that every home we do not build in the existing urban area means more urban sprawl, more land clearing, less habitat for native animals and longer commute times.

Then we see that the LNP have started preselecting candidates who support population caps. We cannot stop people moving here so you cannot have a population cap. All you can have is a housing cap. The difference between the LNP candidates' housing cap and the amount the population increases by is the number of single mums sleeping in cars; it is the number of grandmothers who are couch surfing. We cannot stop people moving here. We need to plan to deliver them affordable homes. That is exactly what the Labor government will continue to do, despite the opposition from the LNP and the Greens political party.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. Regarding Minister Bailey, media reports quote Labor MPs saying—

There's a lot of angst on the back bench and the Premier's going to have to do something. The back bench is restless because of the damage it's doing to the government.

And—

He hasn't helped himself, and there's a definite sense of frustration because it's Bailey, again.

When will the Premier deal with this chaos and crisis and sack Minister Bailey?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that question has imputations and inferences in the language that is used and I ask that it be ruled out of order.

Mr Bleijie: I'm quoting your members!

Mrs D'ATH: I am not talking about the quote. I am talking about the question that followed.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, I have made it pretty clear that I will hear points of order in silence so I warn you under the standing orders. I will take some advice. There is no point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Every member of my government is proud we are making trains in Maryborough.

Mining Industry

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the strength of the mining industry in Queensland and how the Palaszczuk government can ensure that that strength continues?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question. He is a great supporter of the Queensland resources industry. The budget that I delivered in June showed the great strength of Queensland's resource sector. We were reminded again of that today with BHP's full-year results released this morning. I am pleased to report to the House, as I predicted, BHP made a bumper profit, totalling \$13.4 billion. That is a larger profit than any of Australia's big banks and BHP's fourth largest profit ever.

For all the complaints about progressive coal royalties, for coal, BHP's underlying return on capital employed came in at a very healthy 47 per cent. The strength of BHP's balance sheet and the impending windfall it will make from selling the Daunia and Blackwater mines shows just what BHP can achieve when it focuses on its core business. In fact, BHP even said that as a result of our royalty changes, 'The scarcity value of higher quality coking coal may well increase.' That means even bigger profits for BHP in the future. I say to BHP, 'You are welcome,' because our government wants resources companies operating in Queensland to be successful.

We want those companies to properly develop the leases that they have been granted by the people of Queensland. If they fail to do so without legitimate commercial reason, our government has the power to act. The Minister for Resources can impose financial penalties if lease obligations are not complied with and, under section 308 of the Resources Act, the minister has the power to cancel a lease or, putting it another way, in the words of senior LNP Queensland senator Matt Canavan companies like BHP are obliged 'to use it or lose it'. They are not my words; they are the words of a senior LNP senator in Queensland.

The LNP in this House, we know, does not like royalties. The Leader of the Opposition, when asked specifically about royalties, said he wants to cut taxes on business. The member for Condamine has said they can support royalties. The member for Burleigh last sitting week said they opposed them. Last month the Mackay *Daily Mercury* reported, 'The future shape of Queensland's lucrative coal royalty regime is uncertain, with opposition LNP members split in their support'—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders. I had asked you to come to order and you continued.

Mr DICK: All of this means one thing: if David Crisafulli becomes Premier, \$7 billion in cuts will rain down on Queensland. That means they have a plan for cuts, a secret plan that will become clearer closer to the election, sacking thousands of frontline workers, cutting free kindy, cutting energy rebates from pensioners—they have done that before under the member for Clayfield—cutting Queensland's Big Build infrastructure program, selling off the assets Queensland owns, including our ports and energy assets. It is all on the table under David Crisafulli.

(Time expired)

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. In 2015, the Premier held to account a minister over claims the minister was reckless and a backbencher for misleading her. Eight years on, despite numerous issues and reported backbench unease, Minister Bailey is still in cabinet. My question is: has the Premier given up on integrity and accountability in her third term?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maroochydore for the question. It was the member for Maroochydore under the Newman government who threw the cameras out of this House. The cameras could not record the proceedings—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We hear that the opposition want to reform estimates. Let me remind everybody—a bit of a history lesson here—that what the opposition did with their reform was to actually mesh all of the estimates processes down to two days. It was called integrity and accountability for two days. What does that mean? One, we could not get to everything. Secondly, the media could not cover every estimates hearing. That was the reform. Then, of course, we had all of the fights with the member for Kawana and the judiciary. There was the appointment of a chief justice, and we all know how that ended—badly. Then we had the numerous fights, the sackings of the public servants and the decimation of communities across Queensland.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat. Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders. I have given you repeated advice during this question time and you continue to ignore that.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We put in place the strongest laws when it comes to electoral donations where people see real-time disclosure, unlike those opposite. Who could forget the sacking of the PCCC in the early hours of the morning? The member for Stafford was there. The member for Redcliffe was there. It was all orchestrated by the member for Kawana. Then—

Mr Crisafulli: How is the clearing house going? Have you cleared on from that?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Broadwater was very good at clearing out the public service, I can tell you that—that is right—and they have not forgotten. The public servants have not forgotten and they never will forget. There may be some people who forget the history of what happened when they were in power; I do not. I look forward, during the election campaign, to reminding Queenslanders of every bit of damage the Newman government did to this state and what we have continued to build which includes making trains in Maryborough.

Teacher Aides

Ms BOYD: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government is supporting our teacher aides who are aspiring to be teachers, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question, and given that it is Australian Teacher Aide Appreciation Week next week, it is very timely. I know how much she values their great work, as we all do in this House, even those opposite who, I must admit, did not employ many when they were in government, but I am sure they appreciate the excellent work that teacher aides do in our schools.

I am very proud to be announcing that our teacher aides and our teachers have excellent enterprise agreements, which is something those opposite were incapable of delivering. In three years, they could not deliver one agreement for our teachers and teacher aides—not one. Our election commitments are being met time and time again. Nineteen thousand teacher aides are in our schools. We have exceeded the numbers that the government committed to before the election. If you want to talk about overload, employing more teacher aides than we said we would is something I am very proud of.

Teacher aides now, under this new program, will get support when they do their prac in our schools from term 3. Next year they will get backup relief for when they do their prac. They will be paid to attend exams and prac, and they will be guaranteed a job afterwards.

It was fantastic to be in Aurukun to meet Waynard, a teacher aide who is studying to become a teacher and will be supported through that process. He is a First Nations teacher aide, born and bred in Aurukun. He did his schooling here in Brisbane, went back to Aurukun and will now become a teacher in that school. Those are the programs that Labor governments provide. We hear nothing but whingeing and whining from those opposite about school numbers but not one policy—nothing coming from those opposite about what they would do.

We have Trade to Teach, we have Turn to Teaching and now we have teacher aide assistance programs. These teachers in our schools will help our students become the workers who will build trains in Maryborough. We will deliver VET in schools. They will have jobs for the next 35 years. We will be training the future apprentices and trainees at Downer in Maryborough to deliver trains. We proudly support Trade to Teach, Turn to Teaching and teacher aides becoming teachers in our schools. When we travel around our great state we see that the backbone of our schools includes teacher aides and, in particular, First Nations teacher aides. We want to support them. This is a great program and it is what Labor does.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table a copy of the email sent from the minister's office to the department with a number of suggestions. Was the minister aware his office was forwarding these suggestions before the email was sent?

Tabled paper: Extract of an email, undated, from the Office of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding train manufacturing [1159].

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for the question. I fully answered this question previously when asked by the member for Chatsworth. I inform the House that the review in relation to this by Crown law barrister-at-law Mr JD McKenna has been done. An independent assessment has been happening.

Mr Crisafulli: 'I've fully answered this.' Well, is it a yes or a no?

Mr BAILEY: The Leader of the Opposition can interject all he likes and carry on, whinge and whine like he usually does.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Minister. Leader of the Opposition, I have called you out several times. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: I note that the independent review of the email sent by my office has come in. I quote from the review undertaken by Crown law barrister-at-law Mr JD McKenna. It states—

In my view, a reasonable recipient of the Email would understand the Email to be merely *requesting* that changes to the communication plan be considered ... rather than issuing a *direction* as to actions which were required.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on 118(b), relevance to the question. The question, as you have directed, Mr Acting Speaker, was direct and to the point. The question was not about the review or the outcome of the review. It was about whether the minister was aware of the contents of the email before it was sent. The question was very specific and I ask him to be responsive to the question.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will stop you there. I will take some advice. There is no point of order. The minister is being broadly relevant and he has three minutes to answer the question under our standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: I continue—

This view is strongly confirmed by the fact that, only three minutes after the Email was received, the Recipient actually described it as a “request” from the Minister’s office when distributing it by email to others at TMR.

Accordingly, in my view, it could not reasonably be said that the Sender, by way of the content of the Email, “directed” any public service employee, or “attempted to direct” any public service employee, in breach of the ministerial code of conduct.

What we see is the record of the opposition. They call for independent inquiries. When the independent inquiries are undertaken and they come back, they ignore those outcomes and they continue their mudslinging as they usually do. I fully answered this question. If the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr BAILEY: We get continual interjections from the member for Clayfield on this. He knows what the standing orders are. If they do not listen to my answers when I have answered this question fully previously during this question time, then the opposition are clearly not doing their job. They are not doing their job.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Minister. Members for Clayfield and Currumbin, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to table in its entirety the review by Mr John McKenna KC. I table it.

Tabled paper: Legal opinion of John McKenna KC, dated 18 August 2023, titled ‘Ex Parte Department of Premier and Cabinet Re review of email to TMR’ [1160].

Mr POWELL: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, 118(b). It was a simple yes or no answer. The minister has not answered the question.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Resume your seat, please, member. I have already ruled on that matter. There is no point of order.

Mr BAILEY: For the benefit of the member for Glass House, who seems to be quite slow, I fully answered this question previously, and I refer him to my previous answer.

Mr Mickelberg: Yes or no?

Mr BAILEY: If members opposite cannot hear my answers because they are yelling across the chamber, that is their fault.

Satellite Hospitals

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government’s Satellite Hospital Program and how it is supporting our fastest growing regions to have better health care closer to home, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. She is one of the biggest champions of our satellite hospitals. You could not get the smile off her face and the member for Capalaba’s face as we officially opened the Redlands Satellite Hospital. These are game changers for families. This is about providing free, high-quality health care in communities where families are living.

Despite the attempts from those opposite to disparage these wonderful health facilities, as the Premier has talked about, they are proving very popular. Take, for example, the Redlands Satellite Hospital open day. Over 300 people came along to the open day. Not only were there tours of these first-class facilities; there were a sausage sizzle, live music, a coffee van and face painting for kids. It is no wonder locals could not stay away.

I must admit I was a little surprised to hear of one particular local attending the open day. That was none other than Rebecca Young, the LNP candidate for the Redlands. I am reliably informed that she was there on Saturday enjoying the live music, lining up at the coffee van, getting a great look at our brand new facilities, but who could blame her? I am sure she is very interested to see the progress at the facility given that the last time she was there she was turning the first sod with the member for Redlands. She just loves this satellite hospital.

What I find incredibly sad is that despite Ms Young making numerous social media posts since her visit on Saturday, she did not think to post about her attendance with the 300 locals on her Facebook page. Why is that? How sad is it that she cannot even post about something that families in the electorate she wants to represent attended because the Leader of the Opposition has said no-one can

support these wonderful facilities. It just shows that the LNP's opposition to our satellite hospitals is pure politics. Even LNP candidates who are hoping to represent electorates cannot stay away because they know how popular it is with their electorates.

This is pure politics. It is absolutely outrageous. The Leader of the Opposition needs to stand up and finally back our satellite hospitals or come clean about whether he is going to sell them or cut them.

Youth Crime, Relocation Sentencing

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The evidence is clear that sending youth crime offenders to Cleveland Youth Detention Centre is not an effective deterrent. Queensland has the highest recidivism rate of any state. The KAP relocation sentencing is designed to address this with growing support from Aboriginal groups. Despite opposition in the past, will the Premier take the time to properly consider adopting this policy and, if not, detail what parts she objects to?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Traeger for the question. I commend the Katter party for actually putting out a policy. They are giving it a go and I applaud them for their efforts. At least they have a policy. How many members of the opposition are there? It is a lazy opposition.

First, I thank the member for Traeger. It was lovely to catch up with him in Mount Isa recently at the rodeo and celebrate Mount Isa's proud history of 100 years. It was a great event attended by thousands of people—the accommodation was packed out—and it was wonderful. It was great to see the Prime Minister there, as well as the local federal member.

I applaud the member for Traeger for putting forward a policy which is creative. We have been looking at on-country programs. We believe that the best thing we can do for young people is to give them rehabilitation. Sometimes they get that by going on country and learning a whole range of different things. Whether it is from working on a property or working on a farm, they will gain life skills that they will be able to use for the future.

In relation to our on-country programs, we have committed an extra \$4 million. This brings our total funding for on-country projects to \$9.8 million since 2018 for delivery in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa. I understand that in the most recent financial year they engaged with almost 200 young people. We need to improve capacity. My call-out today is to people who are out there running programs that have capacity. There may even be landholders who are prepared to have young people come to their properties. We need to assess these proposals.

Whilst I was in Mount Isa I had the opportunity to meet with the mayor, Danielle Slade, and the newly appointed community coordinator, Mr Alan Baillie. He will be performing an audit of all of the services up there. That comes from a meeting I had. We are trying to put in place something similar to Townsville Stronger Communities but unique to Mount Isa. I give the member an assurance that Mr Alan Baillie will reach out to him to arrange a meeting. At the moment he is doing an audit of the services there and looking at how we can better integrate with the families to make sure young kids are in the schools, getting work and not causing trouble on the streets.

(Time expired)

Police Service, Recruitment

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the recruitment activities and strategies of the Queensland Police Service, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. As members of this House know, the member has had a career of service, including being a member of the Queensland Police Service. Some of her service was at the police academy, so the member has a significant understanding of the high calibre of recruit that the police academies in Queensland support and, of course, the hard work of all of the academy staff in delivering outstanding training to recruits.

The Queensland Police Service has been very proactive when it comes to recognising the international labour challenges in all sectors and all industries. It has been very much supported by this government, with an almost \$90 million incentive package to recruit police officers from other jurisdictions including New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand and further abroad. We have had significant interest from those in other jurisdictions. In fact, I am informed that almost 450 police officers from around the world and around Australia have expressed interest and submitted an application to join the Queensland Police Service. In fact, the Queensland Police Service only last month launched a

recruiting campaign in New Zealand titled Warmer Days and Higher Pays. How accurate is that when it comes to the opportunities for police officers in Queensland—particularly compared to New Zealand? I understand that the New Zealand Prime Minister is particularly upset about that particular campaign.

The Queensland Police Service, through its recruitment efforts, is generating significant interest. I am told that there are over 1,300 applicants in the applicant pipeline. There are over 400 recruits at the academy right now; there is a graduation this month. We are expecting 600 more recruits to join the academy this year, 1,200 recruits next year and 1,200 recruits the year after. It is a significant opportunity for Queenslanders to serve. I commend the Queensland Police Service for recognising the labour challenges and for being proactive in their campaigns to encourage people to join the Queensland Police Service.

I would like to now quote the Minister for Education. I love it when she says that those opposite whinge and whine and come up with nothing else.

Ms Palaszczuk: I say that, too.

Mr RYAN: And the Premier. I will quote the Premier, too. Actually, we all say that about those opposite. They whinge and they whine, but they also use that to cloak what their record is. Those opposite would not have a recruitment strategy for the Queensland Police Service because those opposite went to the last election with a campaign commitment to cut the government's—

(Time expired)

Cannabis

Mr BERKMAN: My question today is to the Premier. The prohibition of cannabis is an expensive failure that has criminalised thousands of innocent Queenslanders and done nothing to stop or even reduce cannabis use. When will the government legalise cannabis for recreational use by adults, as recommended by the Queensland Productivity Commission and Queensland Labor's own policy platform?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We already have diversion in place. There are no other plans.

Youth Crime

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice. Can the minister update the House on the expansion of the youth co-responder program and advise if there are any alternative approaches?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute.

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I know how excited he and the member for Maryborough were when I announced a new Fraser Coast youth co-responder team. We have an additional five co-responder teams on top of the eight we have across the state and on top of the raft of early intervention and prevention programs we have to combat youth crime in Queensland. Every time I hear the opposition leader speak—I do not know if you would call it a policy because there are only 13 words in the whole three slogans—he talks about rolled gold early intervention programs. My pen is poised and I think, 'Oh, good. I'm going to write down any new ideas.' Quick as a flash, nothing happens. I listened again as he crossed the state. I thought that at estimates I might have a bit of to and fro with him and we could talk about some of his ideas in a bit more detail, but he did not even turn up. He was too tired after three days, yet he wants to be the Premier for four years. Youth justice is his priority, but he could not even turn up for the hearing.

(Time expired)

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

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.17 am): I move—


1. That all remaining stages of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be completed by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 24 August 2023 with the minister being called on to reply by no later than 5.10 pm (45 minutes before the completion time); and
2. If all stages of the bill listed in 1. have not been completed by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 24 August 2023, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;


- (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate;
- (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
- (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

It has been some time since we all sat in this chamber—I welcome everyone back from the break—but, of course, our democratic system has not been on pause over the past few weeks. The important budget estimates process has been taking place in the room next door, the former Legislative Council chamber. While I will not speak at length on this matter, I note that ministers and senior public servants turned up to answer questions about the budget, just like they do every year. Those opposite, apart from one or two, turned it into the usual spectacle. That is enough of that topic. I know that members will have multiple opportunities this week to talk about estimates, as each estimates report is allocated up to one hour for debate to occur.

In addition to the estimates reports, this House will debate the important legislation which was introduced by the Minister for Police in the form of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is an important bill to continue to strengthen our tough laws to protect children in Queensland. This bill has been allocated the balance of the week to complete, noting that debate of the estimates reports will take around 7½ hours to complete. In relation to the bill, the motion before the House prescribes that the minister in reply will commence no later than 5.10 pm on Thursday, with the bill concluding by 5.55 pm on Thursday if not before.

As members will know after reading the *Notice Paper*, the private member's bill introduced by the member for Hinchinbrook is ready for debate and tonight between 5.30 and 7 pm the House will consider the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill. In addition, the House will consider the usual matters including matters of public interest, private members' statements, debate of committee reports and adjournment statements. Members will be aware that since we last met two former members of the Legislative Assembly have sadly passed away and condolence motions will be moved for them in future sitting weeks. With those few words, I encourage all members to support the motion and I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.19 am): I rise to address the business program motion moved by the Leader of the House. As the Leader of the House has just enunciated, this is the culmination of the budget process following the budget week itself and the two weeks of estimates hearings. This week we will have, as was mentioned, some 7½ hours of committee report debate. As such, this week the program is fairly mechanical. I do note that the government is only seeking to debate one other piece of legislation, that being the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, and all other matters are as per the normal *Notice Paper*. As such, the opposition will not be opposing this motion.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (11.20 am): I only have one thing to say: hallelujah!

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL


Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first and then the Appropriation Bill. The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.


 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.21 am): I rise as the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee to speak about the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. Members in South-East Queensland—and you know this more than most, Mr Deputy Speaker Walker—can easily take for granted that our students and our residents can so easily visit this great institution of parliament. Indeed, at the last sitting I spoke with students from northern New South Wales who visited. We must recognise that in this place—and this is something that especially those on this side very much know—we represent all of Queensland. We represent Queensland from Bamaga to Boonah and every part in-between, and we are proud of that. However, Cairns residents and school students cannot just simply drop into their parliament as they would like. We know that it would be easier for those students from northern New South Wales to make a visit to the parliament of Victoria or New South Wales than for Cairns students perhaps to visit the parliament. That is the real difference between those smaller states down south and ours.

That is why I was really proud to note that in this appropriations we had made an investment in the democracy of our state in terms of the funding for the Cairns sitting of parliament. That reinforces—and this side needs no reminder—that we work for all of Queensland. It was a shame then that it was this very investment that was the major focus of attacks by the LNP. I was disappointed by that. It also seemed to indicate that one of the many cuts that the LNP intends to put forward if it was ever elected would be cutting the sitting of parliament. That was clearly implied by the tenor of their questions.

We also have the great responsibility in this House to the physical and historical yet living embodiment of democracy—this place. The Economics and Governance Committee takes seriously this responsibility and we very seriously held the hearing with the Acting Speaker, the Clerk and the many officers of the parliament. We recognise that many of the staff had to do extra preparation knowing that they could have had that detailed examination. The consideration of their budgets and the nature of their budgets is an important part of that democratic process. I also want to thank the staff who do so much work behind the scenes, especially the Economics and Governance Committee secretariat.

Mr Stevens: Deputy chair?

Mr POWER: And the deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach. I recognise his contribution. I do not always agree with it, but I certainly recognise it. We recognise those staff and know that their very existence and the work that they do is appropriated through this funding, as is the maintenance of this building. I endorse the report that the committee has released to the parliament and support the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.25 am): I, too, rise to make a brief contribution to the 2023-24 budget estimates for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2023 estimates hearing report. At the outset, I put on record our support and thanks to the Acting Speaker and more importantly to the Clerk of the Parliament and to all his staff who do an outstanding job in providing a service to not only us here as members of parliament but also our electorate staff in each of the electorates, from right up on the tip of the cape down to the border at Currumbin and out west to places such as Warrego, Gregory and Mount Isa. Broader than that, they also provide a service to the people of Queensland such as, as the member for Logan mentioned, the many school students and the many members of the public who take the time to come into this, their house, and understand the processes of democracy and how this place operates. It is with genuine, heartfelt thanks that we do thank the Clerk and all of the staff here on the precinct. We know that this appropriation goes to covering their salaries and many of the programs and services that they offer, and we do add our thanks.

I want to address one of the matters that the member for Logan raised when he suggested that somehow by asking questions about the Cairns regional sitting of parliament it implied we were attacking that process. It is quite the opposite. The whole intent of the budget estimates process is so that members of the opposition and the crossbench and, for that matter, members of the backbench within the government can ask questions of the ministers and of, in this case, the Acting Speaker as to the operation of how the government expends its money. It is quite simply trying to ascertain what some of the costs were involved in taking parliament to Cairns. No-one is questioning the benefits that it produces but it is understanding what the costs were and where the costs were split between this House and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and that was where we left that line of questioning.

At the outset, I also want to thank the Clerk for responding to my questions at the hearing around how the hearings themselves operate and particularly for clarifying that when a question is put to a director-general or a CEO the minister cannot interfere. Despite that, I think deputy chairs across the board saw a number of attempts by ministers to interject on directors-general and CEOs rather than allowing the director-general or CEO to answer those questions themselves. We also saw an interesting


practice where a number of chairs asked if the minister would like to add anything at the end of those answers. In most instances I will accept that the chairs accurately took that off government time. However, in some instances they did not.

We did see a number of other interesting stalling tactics this year. I have to give it to the members of the government and the chairs in particular: they come up with new ways each and every year. The latest one—and the member for Logan was a good proponent of it—was to try to rephrase the question. As we explained to a number of the chairs, if we had wanted their help writing the questions in the first place when they were not ruled out of order we would have had them do that at the pre meetings. The issue here is that the questions were not out of order. There was no issue of the question being in order; it was simply giving the minister or the director-general an opportunity to gather their thoughts before answering the question.

The other classic that we saw—and I think it was the member for Bancroft in particular who was the exponent of this one—was checking who the question was to, whether it was to the minister or the CEO. If the chair was doing his job properly and actually listening, he would have very clearly heard in every instance that when a question was put by the opposition the question was put clearly to either a minister or a director-general and did not require the chair to ask the question again as to whom it should be directed to.

They are inventive. They keep coming up with tactics to protect and stall and suck up time allocated to the opposition to ask these questions.

During the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill estimates hearing we also asked some questions about the committee process and the ability of ministers to answer questions on notice on time. We found out some interesting information: that nearly 120 questions put to ministers this year were not responded to on time. Interestingly, the reason that about half of those were not responded to on time was because the parliament staff had sent them back to the minister to actually answer the question correctly. I anticipate there will be more said on that. We are pleased to hear that there have not been any workplace health and safety issues associated with the renovations here at parliament. Again I want to add our thanks to all staff.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.30 am): I rise to make a brief contribution in relation to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. I fondly think of this as a very important part of keeping the traditions and the history of Queensland in the right and proper order. I thank all of the folk who have been involved, particularly the staff here at Parliament House, for the wonderful job they do in keeping us on the straight and narrow in terms of our requirements and also providing wonderful service to add to the information that we can provide to the people of Queensland about our House.

I always think of the parliamentary precinct, which this appropriation bill alludes to, as something similar to the smallest country in the world, Vatican City. We have the Speaker who is akin to the Pope, if you like, and he has his personal assistant, the Clerk of the Parliament, running the financial matters—a bit like George Pell did for Vatican City. It is very important that we make sure that they are properly funded and that came through in the estimates process.


The questions asked by members of parliament, both government and opposition, are to make sure the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill delivers the outcomes that are needed. The major refurbishment of the Parliamentary Annexe is taking a lot of time and commitment from parliamentary officers. Importantly, in terms of the bill, we saw a large jump in the legal costs associated with the Parliamentary Service. As explained at estimates, and for members who were not there for that particular estimates hearing, that was due in large part to the so-called Peter Carne case which was originally budgeted at around the \$100,000 mark. That appeal was taken to the High Court, and Parliamentary Service appropriately joined in to the provision of that appeal to the High Court. It is very important for the outcomes of this parliament that the parliament—

Mr Power: Are you going to second-guess the High Court? Sub judice.

Mr STEVENS: I have a bit of a legal background, thank you, member for Logan. It was an important expenditure that was way over and above the original budgeted figures.

There are also major staffing costs coming through due to matters outside the control of the Parliamentary Service. They will be addressed throughout the year and provision will need to be made by the Department of Premier and Cabinet to accompany those very large increases in staff costs. That will be a big challenge for the Parliamentary Service. We did notice a large drop in the catering income in the budgetary process. That is due to the relocation of members off site where they have to eat in other venues. It also took away some of the capacity here with the major refurbishment process of the Parliamentary Annex being quite interruptive.

One of the issues that I raised, and it is very close to my heart and I keep raising it, is that it is imperative that the refurbishment of the old building is continued long after we have gone. The stone restoration has been well financed in the past. There has been around a \$600,000-a-year contribution to replace the stonework. The fence is in dire need of support. We have put that on hold for the moment while the Parliamentary Annexe is being refurbished. That must come back onto the agenda to make sure that the best heritage building in Queensland is properly maintained for future generations. Our parliament has wonderful interest from students. It is good to see that our Parliamentary Service caters for that education process. Could we all be better off if the children of tomorrow were better educated about what we do today?

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.35 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Economics and Governance Committee report titled *2023-24 Budget Estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2023*, which is the report regarding the appropriations for the parliament. I note that the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure be agreed to by this Assembly and I thank them for their careful consideration of this matter. I also take the opportunity to thank the member for Greenslopes for his continued execution of the role of Speaker while holding the position of Acting Speaker.

Before I go to other matters that were before the committee I will very briefly touch on what the member for Mermaid Beach just touched on in relation to costs and matters before the High Court currently. I note that although there are concerns about the cost expended on defending the laws that this parliament makes, I never heard such a line of questioning when it came to how much was spent defending our donation laws on property developers in the Supreme Court and the High Court which were taken by executive members and members of the LNP; or, for that matter, the High Court matter in relation to COVID and border closures and how much had to be expended defending our decisions to keep people safe and alive in which the Commonwealth LNP intervened and spent taxpayers' dollars on. But I digress.

Having not witnessed firsthand the hearing, I did read the transcript with interest and was not surprised when the deputy chair of the committee ceded his question to the current Manager of Opposition Business who asked procedural questions, questions which could have been answered by reading the standing and sessional orders or even transcripts of previous years estimates. I note that questions were asked about questions on notice. It has to be said that all questions which are asked on notice are answered by the government. While non-government members may not like the answers they receive, answers are provided by ministers to questions asked and ministers have a right to question whether those questions on notice are in line with the standing orders. We have every right to do so.

I note with interest that the current Manager of Opposition Business asked about the Coaldrake report and the committee system. It should be noted that no specific recommendation about the committee system was provided for in the report, something the Clerk mentioned when he said—

... the Coaldrake review made it pretty clear that its mandate did not extend to looking at the committee system ...


I raise this issue because it is extremely bizarre when it was those opposite, in particular the current Manager of Opposition Business who was a cabinet minister in the Newman government, who trashed the estimates committee process during their time in government when they used their huge majority to squash the ability for the then very small opposition to ask questions and hold the government to account by reducing it to just a couple of days, as we heard earlier in question time. With multiple hearings occurring on the same day, the non-government members had to rush between the various hearings to question the executive in what I can only assume was a considered and purposeful decision by the then LNP Newman government to stifle democracy and limit the ability for them to be held to account. We have heard the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite say they want to reform estimates. Their past performance is extremely scary for the future of our democracy. If those opposite ever get their hands back on the Treasurer tiller and sit on the treasury benches who knows what they would do to not only our democratic institution but also the people of Queensland.

We all know that facts speak for themselves. I want to take a brief minute to talk about some facts. I have been advised that approximately 1,384 questions were asked across the duration of the estimates hearings, with approximately 22 per cent asked by government members and 78 per cent asked by non-government members. I am further advised, based on information provided by the parliament, that approximately 1,131 minutes were used by government members to ask questions and

approximately 1,845 minutes were used by non-government members to ask questions. The statistics indicate that the system is working and that non-government members are getting more time to ask questions.

Also, while I do not agree with the assertions or claims by the Leader of the Opposition and his team, I am advised that he released a series of tweets claiming that they found out various things during the estimates hearings, which I am also advised are reflected in various statements of reservation. It goes to show that those on the other side do in some way believe that the system is working if they purport to have had revealed certain things during estimates.

I could talk about this all day but I know that time is limited and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the chairs of the various committees for their work in chairing what is probably one of the more robust meetings of the yearly schedule. I thank committee members from right across the chamber for their work. I know that the ministers appear for a few hours but, of course, the committee members are there for the entire duration and I thank them. I thank the parliamentary committee staff, the attendants and all the staff on the precinct for their work not only during the committee process but each and every day. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (11.40 am): As a member of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, I rise to say a few words about the committee and the 2023 appropriation bills. I wish to thank all the members of the committee and all of the other committees for the work they do throughout the year. The CLA plays an important role in supporting governance and addressing issues facing the operations of parliament. As I have previously spoken about, the CLA was instrumental in supporting the submission to the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal to ensure crossbench members were rightfully provided with a full-time parliamentary policy officer. This was previously done at the discretion of government but has now been placed with the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal to ensure parity and equity for the opposition, Independents and minor parties. That had taken 30 years.

However, there are still issues we need to address in many areas and that definitely includes the current estimates process. This has been talked about every year but still has not been adequately addressed and must be reviewed. The estimates process should be limited solely to the opposition and crossbench to hold the government of the day to account. However, it is currently just another tool used by government to control the government's narrative, with further questions and scrutiny continually shut down by government members.

The current estimates process heavily favours the government. It is difficult to justify flying northern members of parliament thousands of kilometres to Brisbane when we get barely a couple of minutes to ask very important questions during estimates or to continue a particular line of questioning to ministers and departmental officers. This is partly because time is not allocated evenly amongst members of parliament, with the government receiving a large slice of the time. This gives no real value to the estimates process, which has become a backslapping exercise and, in reality, a non-event. The entire process again highlights the lack of integrity in the democratic process and is often used to stamp out any opposition.

Previously I have raised a number of issues that can be tidied up to ensure better transparency, efficiency and equity for all members of the House. This includes: allowing only opposition and crossbench members the exclusive right to ask questions of the government and hold them to account; allowing questions from the non-committee members to be submitted prior to the hearing so that the hearing can be dedicated to follow-up questions; transforming the process to allow free-flowing questions to ministers and senior bureaucrats without the severe time allocation, which reduces the ability of non-government members to continue a line of questioning; and removing up-front ministerial statements as ministers already get the chance to tell the committee how good the government is when answering questions during estimates, which would help deliver accountability and transparency. I thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to address these issues.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Thank you, member for Hill. I am looking forward to seeing that on social media.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.


Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): The House will now consider the Appropriation Bill. The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.45 am): As the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee I rise to inform the House that after the Appropriation Bill was moved in the parliament we held hearings to put questions to the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister for tourism and sport, and their staff. Each year in this process we get the opportunity to ask questions about some of the key government initiatives and key government expenditure that is in the budget.


We have heard the member for Glass House say that he had problems with the chairing of the committee. It is fine that he holds that view. However, the greatest criticism that he had was that, when I was chairing meetings for over 12 hours, the worst I could do—and he had to highlight it because it was the worst—was to ask to whom the question was addressed. That is something that happens relatively regularly within the parliament. Certainly it is something that happens within our normal briefings when I ask for clarification as to which officer a question was addressed. Obviously, it is something that is incredibly brief when the answer will be either ‘the minister’ or ‘the director-general’. That takes no time whatsoever. That is seemingly the worst criticism that they have.

One has to wonder about that when they say that they feel that they were not putting questions to actually get what they want. What they want, of course, is to hurt the government. I can give them a few hints. One of the things they could do is to put forward questions on whether there was a surplus or a deficit. Of course, we know that there was not just an extraordinary surplus; there was a record surplus for any state in Australia, but they did not want to ask questions about that. They did not want to ask any questions that showed Queenslanders the strong fiscal position of this government. They especially did not want to ask questions if the answers would highlight the difference between our strong fiscal position and the weaker position that the Liberals have put people in Victoria or, indeed, the Victoria government in. They did not want those questions asked or answered even though one of the key things about the budget is the fiscal position.

What point have we come to when the Liberal National Party do not want to ask questions about fiscal rectitude? They have thrown away everything they used to stand for. Can members imagine what John Howard would say if he was told that the LNP in Queensland avoided, ducked and weaved any serious questions on the finances of Queensland? They did not want to ask questions about investment in housing. They did not want to talk about the 9.6 per cent increase in health funding. They did not want to talk about tackling the cost of living with \$8.2 billion invested in a \$550 cost-of-living rebate on Queenslanders’ electricity bills and an over \$700 rebate for vulnerable households. We know that pensioners on low incomes value that. This morning we heard the Premier speak about pensioners who thought there must have been a mistake when their bill went down to \$20. There is no mistake that this side of the House backs Queenslanders who are facing extraordinary pressure from the high cost of energy. We back them and we have given them discounts, but there were no questions asked about that.

There were no questions about the \$645 million invested in providing free kindy. When their children are at kindy is the time Queensland parents face the highest costs. Kindy is a vital step. There were no questions about that.

There were no questions about the Big Build—\$89 billion over four years—or our strong commitment to keep investing in Queensland. Even though costs have increased all around the world—the cost of concrete, electrical parts, steel and so on—we are still committed to fighting for Queenslanders and delivering the services they need through the Big Build, yet there were no questions about any of these good things in the budget. It is vitally important that we hold the government to account and show the good things it has done.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.50 am): The estimates process in this state is broken and the LNP intends to strengthen it. You only had to look at the goings-on of this committee to work out just how broken it is. The member for Logan has just explained what in the member for Glass House’s mind is a stalling tactic. I will unpack it for the member for Logan. He does not need to ask the person who is asking the same witness a series of questions to whom the question is directed each time. The member might think it is a simple waste of time, but it is designed to filibuster, to break in and to stop the flow of questioning.

When I look at other jurisdictions, including the parliament in Canberra, across both sides of politics, I see the estimates process and I see it working. I see an opportunity for ministers to be scrutinised. I see an opportunity for genuine cross-examination. I see an opportunity for the opposition to ask a series of questions that can bring the truth to bear. Then I look at Queensland and I see the protection racket for ministers who are not across their brief. I see the protection racket from a government that does not believe in integrity.


How will we reform this process? It starts by ensuring that the chair conducts themselves in an impartial way and that the chair is independent. It has to change; it cannot continue the way it is. There should not be such a large portion of time dedicated to Dorothy Dixier questions that do nothing—neither for the government members asking them nor for the minister trying to pat themselves on the back in answering—and that nobody, quite frankly, is listening to. There is a better way. That better way is to make sure there is genuine scrutiny and genuine opportunity for members to ask questions of interest to their electorate and, indeed, to the state of Queensland. Ministers should provide answers that are relevant. There are so many examples throughout this process—and, indeed, the hearings we are debating right now—of where that did not occur. The constant points of order and the constant breaks in the flow of questions must change—and it will change.

The Leader of the House raised a point about Professor Coaldrake not talking about the estimates process, but he did raise a few points about integrity and about public servants being in fear. He raised a few things about public servants not being able to do their job without pressure coming from government. Didn't we see that time and time again, particularly when it comes to the transport minister? He also made some comments about a clearing house. To see the government walk away from a commitment to deliver a clearing house shows everything we need to know about a government in its third term that has given up on integrity. The way the estimates process in this state is run shows that government members would rather run a protection racket than let the sunshine in to the parliament.

What did we learn about the service delivery failures in this state? We learned about the cost blowouts on the Gabba and the fact that a business case was never done for either the \$1 billion or the \$2.7 billion project. We heard about the watering down of the youth crime laws. We spoke about the failure to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and about the lack of new homes built by the Housing Investment Fund. We found out that, two years on, just five per cent of health and hospital announcements have been delivered. This is a government that is all about the announcement and never about the delivery.

Most of all, we found out about a \$2.4 billion cover-up. Despite repeated questioning, the Premier refused to give a straight answer. We now know why: it was the Premier who signed off on the deal many weeks before, in the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. What should be of most concern to the government is not just its inability to manage things on time and on budget or that it is bereft of any form of integrity and will cover things up; it is that its own Cabinet Budget Review Committee is now leaking against itself. How have we reached the point where a group of only five cannot be trusted not to rat on each other?

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.55 am): I am so pleased to follow the Leader of the Opposition. We have to pay close attention to the Leader of the Opposition, because never has there been a more slippery character in this House. We have just heard disinformation, misinformation and fabrication from the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition says that the estimates process is broken. If it is broken, it is broken for one reason: the gross incompetence of the LNP. As I have said in every estimates committee report debate since my election to this House and since my appointment as a minister, if LNP members want better answers they should ask better questions.

Today I will not accept this fabrication from the Leader of the Opposition that somehow chairs of committees were interfering with the process when questions were asked directly of public servants. Those public servants, including the Acting Under Treasurer in my portfolio, gave direct, straight answers to those questions. I will not have those—

A government member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection: under the LNP they would not have a job. I will not have those hardworking, diligent public servants denigrated by the Leader of the Opposition and the people who make up his parliamentary party. Even when public servants gave answers they were verbally, and they have been verbally in the statement of reservation tabled in this parliament. The worst person at

that was the shadow Treasurer. The answers that public servants gave were clear and unequivocal. The opposition may not like the facts, but they are still facts. I call on them to apologise. I call on the member for Toowoomba South to apologise to the Acting Under Treasurer. I call on the member for Mermaid Beach, as I have consistently, to make good on his comments at past estimates committees and publicly apologise to the State Actuary.


The members of the LNP are happy to denigrate anybody who stands in their path to government. We know that they utterly disrespect public servants, because when they had their chance they sacked 14,000 of them. Queenslanders deserve better. Members opposite should show some respect to the public servants who make this state work. Everything I have ever achieved in public life was because of hardworking, diligent public servants. I respect them.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr DICK: I take that interjection. The one group public servants are frightened of is the LNP, because they know what happens when the LNP gets its hands on power. We have heard the Leader of the Opposition say 'cuts, just not savage ones'. We have heard from the member for Chatsworth about 'pruning' the Public Service. This is as plain as day. These people would revel in the fact that they are in government and would cut the Public Service again.

As the member for Logan identified, we did not get questions on the budget—I pay tribute to the member for Logan for his stewardship of the estimates process—or any questions about the \$89 billion Big Build over four years. This government will support 58,000 jobs, 65 per cent of them in regional Queensland. There is \$19 billion for the Energy and Jobs Plan. We heard a little bit from the LNP on its energy and jobs plan—its nuclear energy and jobs plan, backed in by a Queensland leader of the LNP, Peter Dutton; backed in by the deputy opposition leader in Canberra, another Queensland LNP MP, David Littleproud; backed in by the shadow federal minister for energy, Ted O'Brien, an LNP MP. On Friday there was another opinion piece in the *Courier-Mail* about why Queensland needs nuclear energy.

I call on the opposition members of the Economic and Governance Committee and the Transport and Resources Committee to say where the nuclear reactor is going to be built in Queensland because that is their plan. I also call on them to apologise to the people of Woodridge. Of course, they could not wait to say by way of interjection that the first nuclear plant would be built in Woodridge. What an utter disgrace. They have always looked down on people who live in the City of Logan. I can tell members this: the City of Logan and the electorate of Woodridge is the future of Queensland and it sure is not the LNP.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.00 pm): I am going to draw a sharp contrast to the contribution of the Treasurer. The committee responsible for the portfolio area of Treasury is responsible for talking about the things that matter. Right now that is the cost of living and a series of other issues putting pressure on households throughout Queensland. As the chaos and crisis continues to build in this government, the Treasurer continues to grow ever more irrational and more unhinged in his contributions in this House. We have just heard a five-minute contribution from the Treasurer of this state and not a single mention of the cost-of-living crisis facing Queenslanders.

There are two key features that we need from a Treasurer in Queensland. The first is the accountability that the Treasurer provides to his Cabinet Budget Review Committee. We have heard again today that the transport minister has been woefully caught out in a series of versions of events. What we do know is that the Cabinet Budget Review Committee, with the Treasurer on it, is leaking, and it is the people of Queensland who deserve answers as to why. Why is it leaking? Why is not every single dollar currently under review by the Cabinet Budget Review Committee given the respect it deserves?

Accountability also runs into the projects that are announced in the budget. The hydro project is apparently the cornerstone underpinning their Jobs and Energy Plan and there is not a single dollar in the capital statements for that project. The Treasurer can come in here and make ever-increasing irrational and unhinged contributions, but the simple truth is what is he doing to drive down cost-of-living pressures. How is he putting downward pressure—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock! Treasurer, cease your interjections or I will warn you.

Mr JANETZKI: How is the Treasurer solving the service delivery crises in Queensland that will put downward pressure on the cost-of-living crisis facing Queenslanders?


Another key feature of what the Treasurer should be doing is building confidence in the Queensland economy. We know that he has been a threat to the local, national and international economy. He has offered threats. He has broken promises—26 times he promised no new or increased taxes. What has he done? He has broken these promises time and time again. The Treasurer is happy to trash Queensland's reputation to save his own. We know that we cannot trust a single word that the Treasurer says in relation to taxes in this state. He has chosen to pick fights with everybody. He has chosen to launch war on every industry in every sector imaginable in our economy. We know that the Treasurer is fighting with those who employ us, with those who house us and with those who heal us. It is on this point that the Treasurer talked about the responses at estimates.

I call out the Treasurer on the patients tax because it remains a significant issue around the nation, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria. What we heard in Queensland should alarm people. It is now clear the Treasurer has never modelled what the patients tax will mean to bulk-billing rates in Queensland. The Treasurer has never modelled what it will mean for emergency departments when this patient tax starts. The Treasurer never modelled what it will mean for residents in aged-care facilities if their bulk-billing doctor stops coming to visit or increases the cost. It is up to the Treasurer to model and explain to the House and to the people of Queensland why he is making it more expensive to see a doctor in the middle of a health crisis.

In my remaining time, I want to pass one last comment and that is in relation to the member for Logan as chair of the committee. Nearly half of all the questions I asked were interrupted, were commented upon or were subject to general interference. We have heard from the Leader of the Opposition why we need the estimates process to be fixed. We need it to be fixed to bring transparency back to Queensland. We need it to be fixed to make sure that the people of Queensland understand where every last dollar of their hard-earned taxes is going.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER(Mr Hart): Before calling the next speaker, I remind members of those members on a warning. They are the members for Burleigh—he should be okay for the minute—Bonney, Chatsworth, Pine Rivers, Kawana, Maryborough, Glass House, Broadwater, Clayfield and Currumbin.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (12.05 pm): First of all, I would like to thank the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee for the way in which he conducted the hearing and also thank the members of the committee—even the member for Mermaid Beach was reasonable this year, I must say.

Our budget is about delivering for Queenslanders—whether that is the Big Build or cost-of-living relief or building the hospitals, the satellite hospitals, the trains, the schools that we need as part of our growing economy. The Treasurer is delivering the fastest economic growth in the nation. We said to the people of Queensland that if we had a strong health response it would lead to a strong economy. That is exactly what has happened. I am very proud that our government is leading the nation and we are creating jobs and giving people employment because I always say that there is dignity in work.

As we know, the opposition has talked about reforming the estimates process. Let me give a little history lesson here today. We know that if the opposition gets into government they will take a wrecking ball to the estimates process—and not a good one at that. The Newman government trialled shortening budget estimates hearings in Queensland. They reduced estimates from seven days to two days, with ministers giving evidence concurrently. This meant that the media could not cover all the hearings and nor could opposition members get to all of the hearings. That is not transparency. That is an affront to democracy. That is exactly what those opposite will do if they get back into office.

There are numerous articles that talk about that. Let us see what the member for Kawana said then. He said, 'The House holding all the hearings simultaneously would enable them to run longer. That is a transparent process.' No, that is wrong. As the then leader of the opposition I committed to restoring the estimates process to seven days. Those opposite want to talk about transparency and integrity in government, but those opposite have no transparency and integrity. They talk about a clearing house. The clearing they did was to clear out 14,000 public servants. That was an absolute disgrace.


On this side of the House we are focused on the things that are concerning Queenslanders—that is, the cost of living. I will say it every single day that I can that we are giving electricity rebates to families to ease cost-of-living pressures. Whether that is the \$550 or the \$1,000 to our seniors and concession card holders, every single dollar counts. It matters to Queenslanders. In terms of the appliance rebate, we are making sure that people know what they are able to access. Of course, we

are going to be delivering free kindy. The Treasurer, the Deputy Premier, the education minister and I know how important the early years are. Free kindy is vital. The member for Greenslopes was at a local kindy when we made that announcement.

We are also extending the FairPlay vouchers. We have the biggest spending on health, on housing, on renewable energy and on infrastructure. I often say that Queensland's best days are ahead of us and they absolutely are. There is excitement out there. The FIFA Women's World Cup is just a taste of what is yet to come. Queenslanders and Australians love their sport, but it is more than sport: it is about the infrastructure and the legacy that it brings. One of the reasons we were successful in getting the Olympics is that we talked about the equality of women. We talked about how we embrace our multicultural communities. We also talked about our Path to Treaty and how important it is to recognise First Nations people in our Constitution.

Finally, let me say this: the next election is a contest of ideas, but those opposite have zero ideas. They have nothing. They are the laziest opposition. They the most well-resourced opposition in the country and we are yet to see any new ideas. In fact, I will give credit here: the Katters and the Greens do more work than that lot over there. They all think that they can sneak into power and not have any policies. We know what the policies are—we know and Queenslanders know. They will come in here and they will sack public servants. They will decimate regional and rural communities. They will axe projects. We will not see projects built. That is an absolute disgrace. They need to start working and stop being so lazy.

(Time expired)

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.10 pm): One of the most disappointing things about this state Labor government is that they claim to have assigned resources to areas such as housing and then failed to build the houses. They claim to have assigned funding to health services and then failed to address the need for and the shortage of actual hospital beds. In so many areas they have made big promises and unfortunately have let down some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

This Premier has given up on integrity by failing to give a clear time frame for the implementation of all of the Coaldrake recommendations. I hear she is trying to make light of and pass the buck in regard to one of the recommendations of Coaldrake's damning report into the culture of the public sector under her watch. Professor Coaldrake recommended that there be a complaints clearing house. Why does it matter? It matters because whistleblowers need to be able to raise issues about the government and government services and have those matters properly addressed and properly investigated. The Premier has walked away from doing that. She is making light of it. In fact, she is making a joke of it. That tells you everything. It is all about spin and media management. She has heaps of media and communication people working for her and her government but not enough people delivering houses and ensuring that the most vulnerable people in our community who need key frontline services can actually benefit from them.

Let's talk about the estimate process. It is an absolute joke when you see some of these chairs interfering and interrupting somebody asking a question. They will say that they are there to keep order when they are the ones who are creating the disorder. You can be 26 words into a question and you have a chair who wants to interrupt you. You try to keep your question going and they try to interrupt you again. It is completely inappropriate, and it is a deliberate strategy. It is not just that they are hacks and they are poor chairs. It is a deliberate strategy to try to obstruct questions being put to the government. They are trying to give themselves a tick in their pecking order within their own ranks. What they are in fact doing is obstructing democracy by interrupting legitimate questions and then asking for those questions to be reframed.

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As a former Speaker herself, the member should realise that she cannot reflect on the chair. Even though it is not at that point in time, you still cannot reflect on the chair's orders.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Let me rule on that point of order first, member for Mansfield. Please take your seat. I remind all members to be cautious of directly reflecting on the chair. It is okay to make general statements about the performance of estimates, but let's not reflect generally on the chair. Member for Mansfield, do you have a point of order?

Ms McMILLAN: My point of order relates to the fact that I take personal offence at the comments made by the member for Maroochydore and I do not appreciate my professionalism being questioned.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, resume your seat. I was listening carefully to the member for Maroochydore. She did not mention you by name. She mentioned 'chairs'.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am a chair of a committee and I take personal offence at the comments being made.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I think you have been here long enough to understand that you cannot take personal offence unless you are mentioned. We have had rulings by the Speaker before that when members reflect on the government they are not personally reflecting on members. Member, for you to take personal offence you need to be directly referred to. There is no point of order.

Ms SIMPSON: The process of estimates should allow for free flowing questions and answers. There are other jurisdictions that do it far better. That process was started in this House. I do not want to see any effort to try to gag us discussing how we can do estimates better because it can be done better and it must be done better. I refute the claims of the Premier that they were in fact allowing a proper estimates process.

Ms Farmer interjected.

A government member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, you will cease your interjections. Member, you will cease your interjections as well or I will start warning more members.

Ms SIMPSON: This government has presided over a \$2.4 billion blowout in its Train Manufacturing Program and also a blowout in Cross River Rail. Yet it was like pulling hen's teeth to try to get straight answers out of the government both in and outside the chamber.

I think that goes to the culture of this government. It is a culture of cover-ups. It is a culture of blowouts and cover-ups. The people who pay the price are those who do not get their critical frontline services in a timely way, are those who do not get their houses built and are those who do not get roads constructed in a timely way where there is a high and growing rate of road deaths. There is a need to address those frontline services.

It may not matter to the Treasurer that there was a \$2.4 billion blowout in that program and that they did not come clean about it for a couple of months, but these things do matter. They are issues of integrity and accountability for which this government does not want to be held to account. We will call them out because it matters.

The people of Queensland deserve to be told the truth and not have all of these slippery little excuses of who did what—no, they are not responsible; it was a staff member, so they blame the staff member. Figures were deliberately taken out of public documents and not reported in a clear way about significant cost blowouts. This is the culture of this government. Coaldrake exposed it in the *Let the sunshine in* report. This government is still shady and does not want to address not only the key recommendations that they have not yet put a time line on to deliver but also the ministerial oversight of their staff, where departmental people are acting on what they believe are directions to do things in the name of their minister.

(Time expired)

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The reference that the previous speaker made was to a particular timed event. I have looked through the *Hansard* and find that it was a reference to me. I find it personally offensive. The other thing that the *Hansard* reveals is that the member started to read from a commercial website and had a long preamble. The member was instructed by the chair to not make a speech before asking a question but then the member proceeded to talk over the chair in a way that was completely unparliamentary. I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Logan, you have made your point. I will take some advice on that. Members, the rule is that you have to be personally reflecting on a member. That is clear and concise. Member for Logan, I will not entertain any more points of order on this matter. Before calling the next member, I recognise the principal and school captains from Stretton State College in the gallery this afternoon.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (12.19 pm): I am pleased to contribute to this debate on the Economics and Governance Committee estimates report. The ongoing transformation of Queensland's rebounding visitor economy is a key focus of the 2023-24 budget. The Palaszczuk government committed to increasing Tourism and Events Queensland's base

funding to \$125 million a year for the next four years. This multiyear funding guarantee recognises the importance of tourism as an industry that supports our regions and sustains Queensland jobs. During the estimates hearing I was pleased to release TEQ's new Blueprint, which describes TEQ's long-term strategy and foundations for future growth.

The budget also delivered \$10 million for the Inclusive Facilities Fund to enable sport and recreation clubs to upgrade infrastructure. I was pleased to join the Premier on Sunday to announce a tripling of this funding to \$30 million. The Matildas' FIFA Women's World Cup performance has inspired the next generation of girls—and indeed boys—and we want to translate that inspiration into participation. To help achieve this we announced a \$37 million funding package for women's and girls' sport which includes: a tripling of funding for the Inclusive Facilities Fund; \$15 million in new funding under the Active Clubs program for equipment purchases and training for women and girls to become coaches, umpires and referees; and a \$2 million increase to the Queensland Women's Football Legacy Fund, taking the Palaszczuk government's contribution from \$4 million to \$6 million of the total \$10 million program, in partnership with Football Australia, for grassroots football infrastructure for women and girls. This significant investment in women's and girls' sport is on top of the 91 female facility projects that we have contributed over \$161 million towards. The Palaszczuk government is committed to innovation through the Advance Queensland initiative. At estimates I was pleased to announce that an \$8 million super round of Ignite Ideas will open in September, and I know that people are looking forward to that.


I want to turn to the way in which some people who had access to that committee hearing took advantage of it. Unlike the member for Hervey Bay, who was a great contributor and asked some really good questions, the Leader of the Opposition spent less than 30 minutes in the tourism, innovation and sports estimates hearing. He asked questions on five issues and ran out the door so quickly that I thought he was trying to catch a bus. This is the level of scrutiny the opposition gives to the tourism industry in Queensland.

It is a disgrace but it is not surprising, as the Leader of the Opposition is missing in action when it comes to tourism in particular. When I recently commented in parliament that no-one knows who the opposition tourism spokesperson is, I received a text message from a prominent member of the media gallery asking me who it is. When I replied that it is the Leader of the Opposition, they were astounded. It is not surprising no-one is aware that the Leader of the Opposition is also the opposition tourism spokesperson: he was nowhere to be seen at the most important events in the Queensland tourism industry calendar, including DestinationQ and the Queensland Tourism Awards. There were comments from industry that not a single member of the opposition fronted DestinationQ last year, even though it is free and open to all and was held a couple of kilometres from the Leader of the Opposition's electorate. Also, instead of attending the Queensland Tourism Awards late last year the Leader of the Opposition was at a LNP fundraiser. That tells you where their priorities are.

The member for Everton's efforts during estimates were even more woeful. When the Leader of the Opposition did the bolt and left the all-star team of the member for Everton and the member for Bonney to hold the show together the wheels really did fall off. The member for Everton made it clear he could not understand words, challenging me to explain the meaning of a question on notice response and failing to understand the concept of reprofiling. The member for Everton then went on to reveal that not only could he not understand words but he also could not use basic search functions on the Queensland Government Open Data Portal, accusing Stadiums Queensland of not disclosing its contracts when the information is plainly all available on the portal site and has been provided and updated each year. The whole show was embarrassing.

What was clear is that the opposition has nothing—no plans, no policies, no idea—except a secret plan for more cuts, as we have seen from them on so many occasions. Because the LNP does not support Queensland getting a fair share of record coal profits they need to find \$7 billion in savings to fill their budget black hole which they ignore. The only way they can do this is through their secret LNP plan of sacking frontline workers, slashing vital cost-of-living support, cutting Queensland's Big Build and selling Queensland's assets. From the respect they have shown to important areas of our economy such as the tourism industry—that is, very little indeed—we know where those cuts would hurt the most.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chair and committee members for their work throughout the estimates hearing process and I thank them for their scrutiny.


 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.24 pm): It is again my privilege to partake of the estimates committee process for the Economics and Governance Committee. Unlike other speakers who alluded to the charring of that particular committee, I would like to say that I think the chair this year

demonstrated at least a 10 per cent improvement in his obstructive behaviour over last year. In this regard I reflect back on great Labor icons like Robbie Schwarten—there was a rant of Robbie's in the paper today—and Terry Mackenroth and their approach to estimates. They loved questions coming thick and fast because they were over their briefs and they could answer them. This is in contrast to the cover-up, obfuscation, 'repeat the question', and running cover we get today for ministers who do not know their briefs. There are no men of the same quality in those positions today mainly because they cannot find them anywhere in the union movement. That is why we have an estimates process that, as the Leader of the Opposition alluded to, is seriously broken.

Following on from what I have been saying, one of the main issues is that bureaucrats are so frightened to answer questions the director-general of the Premier's department basically gave a political answer to a genuinely straightforward question. I could not believe it when she came back with, 'If you've got any problems you should refer it to the CCC,' which is clearly a political answer from a director-general. I cannot believe they are so frightened to own up to the truth in these matters that they have to run the political line of their political masters, as alluded to by Professor Coaldrake.

The Treasurer continues to shuffle around telling the absolute truth to the people of Queensland about the deal he has done with QIC to pick up 25 per cent of the \$7.8 billion titles office and what assets the QIC swapped for that 25 per cent. They could have been readily saleable assets. Those particular assets may even be sold now, but we cannot find the truth from this Treasurer because again it is hidden behind figure shuffling to make sure they do not get the financial downgrade they deserve. They do deserve it, because just on my quick reckoning alone I have \$10 billion worth of blowouts here: we know the trains are at \$2.4 billion; we have a \$250 million blowout on light rail that is ruining businesses in my area; a \$220 million blowout on the Wellcamp white elephant Wagner donation; a \$1.7 billion blowout on the Gabba redevelopment estimate; and of course there is already a \$4 billion blowout on Cross River Rail. I am told by people in the know that that is not the end of the blowouts on Cross River Rail.

I would really like the Treasurer to provide one project that is on time and on budget, because at this stage everything they touch blows out in expenditure. The \$10 billion in blowouts I have just announced equates to \$2,000 that you could give to every person in Queensland to alleviate the cost of living. As we know from our appearance at the Ekka, which was well supported, the cost of living is the major issue for Queenslanders. The \$10 billion blowouts these guys have contributed to left, right and centre are the main factor in this government costing the people of Queensland enormous amounts of money. They need a new government and they need it now.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.29 pm): I rise to make my contribution to this debate and reflect on the Economics and Governance Committee's estimates report. I must admit that the estimates process still baffles me to some extent. I understand the intent behind it. It is an opportunity to examine the appropriation bills tabled in parliament on budget day. It represents an opportunity to scrutinise the spending of departments and to ask questions of ministers, directors-general and chief executives. It is an opportunity for members to ask 'any question which is relevant to the examination of the appropriation being considered'. It is right there under standing order 181. I think the one word doing the heavy lifting during our committee's estimates hearing was the word 'relevant' because, quite frankly, I could see very little relevance in the majority of the opposition's questions—'relevant to the examination of the appropriation being considered'.


Our estimates sitting appeared to be merely focused on planes, trains and automobiles and we are not even the transport committee. The opposition had a laser-like focus on the fleet of Queensland Government Air, specifically about the divestment and acquisition of airframes. QGAir is operated by the Queensland Police Service and the director-general did outline details of a report which showed significant maintenance and availability issues and a decision made to divest QGAir's Hawker. I can understand this line of questioning—it is about expenditure and I think it is relevant to understand the reasoning behind the investment in new airframes. However, we had the member for Maroochydore positing a question as to whether the Premier just wanted a new set of wings, knowing such a question was not in line with the standing orders. Such a line of questioning from someone who should know better about the standing orders—just to throw out a defamatory remark and then withdraw it—shows that this had nothing to do with relevant questions of appropriations; it was just showboating. The fact that there were media releases by the police minister containing all this information—which opposition members did not seem to be aware of—shows either a lack of serious consideration of the issue or maybe just plain laziness.

We did see that the opposition can be interested in media releases when it suits them—just not the figures in the budget papers. When the Premier was questioned about the train spending, the Premier attempted to outline the budget procedures and the contracts being signed but was cut short and interrupted because she was referring to the budget when the opposition were more interested in the drafting and signing off of a media release. They were not interested in the budget and not interested in appropriations. It was not relevant but it went on.

But, wait, there were questions about the Governor's automobiles—questions on spending that did not occur. There was a significant period of time devoted to questioning the Office of the Governor's consideration of converting one vehicle to an electric vehicle. It was considered and ruled out due to cost. There was a quote, and the executive team within the Office of the Governor chose not to proceed. We were then subjected to an attempt to make a tenuous link to government ministers attempting to influence this decision. The question line could have been mercifully cut short had members listened to the response by the Office of the Governor that they are independent from the Premier's office and ministers, yet it continued.

Now we spend today talking again more about the process of estimates rather than the outcome of the appropriations. Those opposite say that they want to improve the estimates process. Well, we know how they improved it last time they were in government, so what is their plan this time? Are they going to be open and transparent about how they plan to implement this? We did hear that having an independent chair is going to make the difference—someone like the Speaker. I can tell the House straightaway what problem they might find with that—that is, the Speaker will have far less leniency with the unparliamentary language, the unparliamentary questions, the reflections on the chair and the arguments with and disrespect of the chair. None of them would last an entire day on the committee. They would be ejected. Sure, let us have an independent chair like the Speaker in there and we will see how long they last asking such unparliamentary questions and raising questions which are offensive to the standing orders.

I have been a servant of natural justice for my entire career. There are processes in place when people want to make allegations about the behaviour of public servants. Tabling anonymous emails containing absolutely no evidence in an attempt to besmirch public servants is not natural justice.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Economics and Governance Committee budget estimates process and the committee's report No. 50 of the 57th parliament. We have listened today to those opposite criticising the questioning by the members of the opposition and members of the crossbench on more than one occasion. It is interesting that there does not seem to be any problem with the minister or the director-general of the day not actually answering the questions that were asked. I will walk the House through an example of that. In fact, it reminds me of John McEnroe back in the day, if you can remember his great outcry of 'Just answer the question!'

The point is that it is not okay if a member asks a question about a health matter, and just because the word 'health' is referenced in the question, then the minister, the Premier or the director-general goes off on a huge tangent and talks about something else to do with health. If a question is asked, then that question should be answered, yet we saw in the Economics and Governance Committee that the chair of the committee would say, 'The question has been answered. If you don't like the answer, that's not the issue. The question has been answered.' If we said, 'It hasn't been answered. Let's ask the question again,' we were told, 'No. Now you're becoming repetitive.' Think about it, colleagues.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Logan.

Mr CRANDON: If a question is asked and properly answered, we are not going to repeat the question. If a question is asked and the minister, the Premier or the director-general decides, 'The word "police" has been mentioned in this question so I'm going to go off on another tangent and talk about something else completely different,' that is not okay. They have not answered the question.


Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I have warned you enough times. You are now on an official warning.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. That was the situation we found ourselves in right throughout the day. It was a long day but we did not mind; we would have gone on even longer if we could have. We asked questions of all those who came before us—the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe, as the minister for sport and those other bits attached to his title.

Invariably, what we could be assured of was that the questions asked by the government members would be fully responded to. In fact, you would think those questions were given to those government members beforehand, because it seemed like the ministers had written responses in front of them. When we asked our questions, the ministers just went off on a tangent and talked about this, that or the other thing. It did not matter what the question was about; we never seemed to get a direct answer.

The latest ABS figures tell us that the northern Gold Coast community has had 9.9 per cent growth over the last 10 years from 2012 to 2022. We have a population of 86,000. I can assure the House that those people have had enough of this. Those people have had enough of this type of playing around with the figures and playing around with the questions. I will finish on one high note. After a long fight for a PCYC, we now have a funding commitment from this government. I have been on this road for almost 10 years. We now have \$5 million towards a Police Citizens Youth Club for the people of the northern Gold Coast. I thank the people of the northern Gold Coast community for helping in that fight.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.39 pm): I rise to add my contribution to this debate on the Economics and Governance Committee estimates report. The recommendation of the committee, as we know, is that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the bill, be agreed to by this House.

The estimates hearing brought into focus the continuation of the great work being done by the Palaszczuk Labor government in leading Queensland through one of the most difficult periods in our collective memories. It highlighted the ongoing commitment of the Palaszczuk government in working to ensure the state of Queensland leverages its strong economic response by driving recovery in our fast-growing economy and, in doing so, by providing action on national cost of living throughout Queensland. It also gives me great pleasure to say that the EGC budget estimates report emphasises the strong leadership shown in our state by the Premier and her ministers. This clearly shone through in the estimates hearings and in the detail of the report we are debating, ensuring that the people of Queensland get a fair share from the natural resources that every man, woman and child own.

The Premier and ministers have delivered a budget that will be delivering better services for Queenslanders no matter where they live and, in particular, in regional Queensland, including the electorate of Hervey Bay, through planned expenditure on things that matter: more jobs, better infrastructure and great service programs needed for this time and well into our future.

The 2023-24 budget has delivered a record investment of \$8.2 billion in cost-of-living assistance packages to tackle the national cost of living to Queensland families and businesses and deliver improved services. As noted in the committee report amongst the many initiatives are continued support for the hosting of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, putting in place the procurement opportunities and benefits for all of Queensland, and in particular regional Queensland. Also included are initiatives to deliver better local health care by supporting hospital builds across Queensland, including Hervey Bay. Further initiatives highlighted by the Treasurer were extending the discounts on payroll tax for eligible regional employers, and extending the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate on the exempt wages of apprentices and trainees until the end of June 2024. These are all initiatives focusing on a timely response to our current economic situation with a clear understanding of the impact these times are having on the mums and dads managing a home budget and employers who run their local small businesses.


The opposition's statement of reservation contained in the report is again what we now normally expect from the other side of the House. Whilst the opposition has agreed to pass this excellent state budget, they continue to make no real contribution to the budget estimates process, with the opposition statement even making the outrageous statement that the government has not provided effective cost-of-living relief. If they had spent at least part of their time during estimates listening to the responses by the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister, they would have heard that a record \$8.2 billion in relief is being provided to Queensland families. I do not know about you, Deputy Speaker, but \$8.2 billion is not, as the opposition put it, little. What it is to those who need it most is making electricity bills more affordable, cutting costs for local small businesses, providing free kindy for all four-year-olds, increasing the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and providing relief on the costs of many daily activities and providing critical food relief to many. This may seem little to those opposite, but to the people of Hervey Bay, their families and businesses, it means a lot.

The opposition's response to this estimates process is clear for all to see. Their sole focus was not on examining the budget; theirs was an exercise in ratcheting up fear within our communities. That is all it was. They showed no desire to highlight alternative policies, they showed no desire to make a better Queensland, and they showed little care about what their mistruths are doing to our state.

We know what the LNP did with their last budget when they were in power. They chose to cut vital services, sold everything they could get their hands on, and sacked thousands of frontline nurses, doctors and public servants. That is what you get under an LNP budget: cut, sell and sack. It will never be any different under them.

I must thank the chair, the member for Logan, for his patience and skill in managing to keep the estimates program and the opposition on track in the best interests of the people of Queensland. I thank our hardworking committee secretariat for their tireless work through this process.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that has targeted its budget on cost-of-living assistance, delivering more jobs, increasing health and education services and building new and improved infrastructure and housing that works to keep Queensland strong and that works to build a better Hervey Bay into the future. I support the recommendation before the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.44 pm): Firstly, I have great news for all Queenslanders: we will have a candidate in the field in Hervey Bay very soon, so they will not have to go through that sort of a contribution again. In relation to innovation, last July the Premier announced the next stage of Advance Queensland. We were told the government was providing \$100 million over three years for new and existing programs under Advance Queensland. We were told this funding was essential to create good jobs in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. The innovation minister said this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and he even justified the time frame for this spending by citing the huge investment in sport tech over the same period. However, at estimates we found out that this promise has been quietly broken. The \$100 million announced last year will now be diluted over five years instead of three, stretching out the funding to 2026-27. This puts innovation in Queensland at risk. The director-general described this as a funding 'deferral', but it is a dilution. It is a broken promise. The minister said it was a decision made through engagement with the sector. Is the innovation minister seriously saying that the tech and innovation community of Queensland did not want this funding spent as soon as possible? There was nowhere in the innovation space that it could be spent. It should also not have taken questions on notice in estimates to reveal this broken promise.

We also found out at estimates that the government has given up on the Future Lab, a native animal genome lab at Dreamworld that would have linked research and tourism of which they approved the millions of dollars for to be redirected into a roller-coaster.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Sorry to interrupt, member for Bonney. The time for debate has now finished.

Report adopted.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The question is—

That the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee be adopted.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.46 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the report and indeed the fantastic budget that has been presented by the Palaszczuk government. I will first start with a quick rebuttal. The member for Glass House criticised me for clarifying where the questions came from during estimates. I say that when they stopped interjecting and stopped making snide remarks, I could hear them clearly each time. That is something to look forward to next year.

I will start with some simple stats. Five hours and 11 minutes of time in our committee hearing was granted to non-government members. Two hours and 28 minutes of time was granted to government members. Non-government members had over twice the amount of time to ask the questions that they needed to. They had a lot of time, yet they still complain, as we have already seen, but as the Treasurer said earlier, if you want better answers, ask better questions. For us, that means making sure you ask questions that adhere to standing orders, however we saw that constantly disregarded by those opposite during our committee hearing.

We had a member bring in a toy elephant as a prop, for goodness sake. That reveals the dismissive attitude of the opposition to estimates. I want to say this about the attitude of opposition members during estimates: their attitudes towards Queensland's public servants was very concerning—derisive, dismissive and denigrating. Witnesses before the committee were subjected to aggressive questioning, hectoring and dismissive comments from opposition members. I believe their treatment of public servants has not changed since they were last in government when they got rid of 14,000 public servants.

The LNP members during estimates hearings displayed no real interest in examining the budget beyond searching for political advantage. Their questioning was concerned with simple political posturing, not examining expenditure. Queenslanders should be concerned that the opposition show no real interest in the process or programs of government, but are only interested in political gamesmanship.

People have called for an end to questions from government members, but I always say that you will learn a lot from listening to the government members' questions and the answers. What we learned this year—

Mrs Frecklington: What are the answers?

Mr WHITING: For the benefit of members opposite I will go through that again. There is \$8.2 billion in cost-of-living relief measures. That includes a \$550 electricity rebate for every Queensland household and \$1,072 for all eligible pensioners; \$650 back on electricity bills for eligible small businesses—that is over 200,000 small businesses throughout Queensland—and free kindy, 15 hours a week for four-year-old Queensland kids. That will save some Queensland families over \$4,000 a year. A nice one I always like to see is the cost of just \$35 to replace a driver's licence. They are great cost-of-living relief measures.

I do want to give a special commendation to the last minister we saw on the day. Often the last minister does not receive much attention. I want to commend Minister Butcher for what he said, and I will go through some of these things. We have created \$5.2 billion in water infrastructure since 2015, creating or supporting 3,400 jobs, and dedicated \$540 million to raising Burdekin Falls Dam. That will increase its capacity by the equivalent of six Rookwood Weirs.

Mrs Frecklington: Where's the business case?

Mr WHITING: Member, I saw your many questions in estimates on this. You got your answer numerous times.

Mrs Frecklington: The business case, there is none.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The member for Nanango will cease your interjections. Through the chair, please, member for Bancroft.


Mr WHITING: Let me point out that Rookwood Weir is the largest weir built in Australia since World War II.

Mrs Frecklington: Yes, thanks to the former federal government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, there will be no more warnings.

Mr WHITING: I do want to commend the minister for the concealed leak policy he announced on the day. The opposition shows great chutzpah in pursuing us on the subject of train and rail. When those opposite oversaw the inland rail debacle it went from \$9 billion up to \$31 billion under the federal LNP. No-one knows where it starts or where it ends. They can keep pursuing this subject of trains all they like, but that record of theirs is one of the biggest bin fires in Queensland history.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (12.51 pm):** I too rise to speak on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee estimates report. Obviously I was in a completely different estimates hearing to the speaker who just resumed his seat because it was thanks to our side of the House that we were able to inquire around the budget rather than just sit there and listen to the dodgy Dorothy Dixers prepared by the ministers to try to hoodwink Queenslanders into what the government wants us to believe. We all know this is a government that has lost control of the books; they have lost control of the budget in Queensland. We know that from seeing blowout after blowout.

We saw the Deputy Premier announce that we are going to have 2.2 million people by 2046, but there are no infrastructure plans to meet that target. I know the member for Kawana will have something to say about that. When you ask the water minister about infrastructure plans for the increase in the Queensland population in the south-east corner before 2032 there is radio silence. We know that this is a government that has failed to plan because the only thing they are trying to control right now is the chaos and the crisis surrounding this government.

What about the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax? They cannot even get their facts straight. The hearing uncovered the stark contradictions between the ministers on the so-called cornerstone announcement. The Treasurer claimed that the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project is absolutely proceeding, while Minister Linard said it will only proceed if approvals are given for the project. Who is right: the Treasurer or the environment minister? We know the water minister had no clue about this announcement before it was made.

I also used the opportunity to quiz Sunwater, who knew nothing about the announcement. Queensland's operator of water assets in regional Queensland knew nothing about the announcement before the government decided to scribble on the back of a piece of paper and stand up and announce this big pumped hydro hoax. They had not even undertaken a desktop study—not at all. They had not even scratched anything on to a bit of butcher's paper—nothing at all. The question remains: where did the idea come from? Was it because the Premier wanted to get away from the Mackay health debacle? Is that why she went there and announced this big pumped hydro hoax?

We also know that Queensland Hydro was not even formed until months after that announcement. There are so many more questions. Now when we talk about blowouts, my goodness me. The speaker who just resumed his seat wanted to talk about Rookwood Weir. That was thanks to Michelle Landry and the former federal government, who got in and actually made this project happen.

Mr Whiting interjected.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. The Queensland government is the builder of dams and what have they done? They have blown it out by \$201 million. This is a fifty-fifty project, but the blowout is being paid for 100 per cent by the Queensland people. Thank you very much, Palaszczuk government! No wonder they never build dams in this state, because all they do is rip down walls. When they do try to build a dam, guess what happens? There is a \$201 million blowout and Queenslanders are not going fifty-fifty because the Queensland government cannot negotiate with their own federal colleagues to make up that shortfall.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Bancroft, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. I note the member for Bancroft talked about the raising of Burdekin Falls Dam. I ask: where is the business case? Once again this is a government that goes straight into a big public announcement just to get a bad story off the front page of the paper. They make the announcement and there is no business case. I know TEL in Townsville will be looking for that business case, so that will be interesting.

Then there is train manufacturing and the blowout there, yet we have a Korean company saying in their local media that they are manufacturing the trains. We know that the member for Maryborough is gunning for his boss's job, the minister responsible for train manufacturing. There is a \$2.4 billion blowout and he is still arguing. He is still talking about why he should still hold that job. The assistant minister has his head down because he knows that that minister should go and the Premier should sack him.

 **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) (12.56 pm): I rise to welcome the tabling of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2023-24. I note the recommendation from the committee that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their work in examining the 2023 budget as it relates to my portfolio responsibilities. The committee's work plays an essential role in Queensland's democratic process. I would like to thank other members who participated and provided scrutiny of the estimates as well as the committee secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their work.

This budget is a true Labor budget and a budget for all Queenslanders. Queensland is booming. Six million people will call the south-east home by 2046. Our economic strength combined with significant population growth provides the opportunity to invest in things that matter to Queenslanders, including providing cost-of-living relief to families and delivering improved services in health, housing and community safety.

The budget includes the biggest infrastructure build ever undertaken by a Queensland government. Queensland's Big Build is delivering new hospitals, roads, trains, schools and police stations and is supporting the delivery of more homes. We are investing \$89 billion over the next four years and most of it—65 per cent—will be spent outside of South-East Queensland in regional Queensland. Under this government funding for Queensland's health services has increased every single year. We are building seven satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland. Caboolture Satellite Hospital is operating, and the ones at Redlands and Ripley are due to open next week. We are increasing health spending by 9.6 per cent.

Queensland is embarking on the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history which includes an investment in Queensland's future, in new industries and in jobs in the regions through our Energy and Jobs Plan. We know the world is shifting towards cleaner and more sustainable products and services. That is why our budget includes an additional \$53 million to continue the highly successful Industry Partnership Program to grow priority industries that will contribute to decarbonisation. To address the impact of housing pressures we are providing additional funding to build critical infrastructure to unlock new residential blocks. Recently I announced an additional \$21.2 million to be released through our Catalyst Infrastructure Fund. That funding will support road and trunk upgrades at Greater Flagstone and Ripley Valley. Total infrastructure expenditure proposed by developers for Greater Flagstone and Ripley Valley is expected to facilitate around 59,000 lots.


This budget also includes the funding that is needed to start building venues for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are leveraging the opportunities that Brisbane 2032 provides to deliver world-class infrastructure that will shape our state's future. Budgets are about choices and the Palaszczuk government has chosen to prioritise Queensland families and Queensland's future.

Debate, on motion of Dr Miles, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Youth Crime; Minister for Transport and Main Roads

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Eight years ago, this state government watered down the youth crime laws and, on the back of it, we have a generation of untouchables—a generation who know that their rights outweigh the rights of victims in this state; a generation who have grown up under weaker laws which they no longer fear. There was a time when they ran from the law, but now they run at it. If you want an indication of how bad the youth crime crisis is in this state, look no further than the number of hardcore repeat offenders. It was 10 per cent only a handful of years ago; today it is at 20 per cent. This shows that the government is failing young people and the community—both ends of the spectrum. It is failing young people by not giving them the opportunity to turn their life around and it is failing the community, who are having their lives ripped apart. Queenslanders know that crime is getting worse. They are feeling it in their homes and they are saying it on the streets. They have had enough. They have every right to have had enough, because it is impacting every facet of their life.

If it is not bad enough that there are weaker laws, this government has also presided over a decline in frontline full-time-equivalent police officers. It took the budget process to reveal how bad it is. There were 202 fewer police in the last year. That would be bad enough if the government had been honest about it—if it had just reluctantly admitted it—but for the police minister to have run a defence for so long—that came crumbling down during estimates—was an embarrassment for him and a disaster for Queenslanders. I will read some quotes from the minister. In November 2022 he said—

My figures are the Queensland Police Service figures, which is the actual headcount and the approved strength, and on both measures [we're] up by hundreds.

In November 2022 he also said—

The numbers clearly show that, year on year, police numbers in Queensland have increased.

Again in November 2022, nearly a year ago, he said—

I'm told that the pipeline of new recruits is very good.

It has not been. There are fewer men and women protecting Queenslanders. The thin blue line has become thinner, and this government has given them the cocktail of weaker laws and fewer of their colleagues. Is it any wonder that we are in the middle of a youth crime crisis?

What do the statistics show? Since this government came to power in 2015, break-ins are up 58 per cent, stolen cars are up by 108 per cent and assaults are up 178 per cent. Queenslanders are asking: where is the Premier? Today we heard the minister parade and parrot and say that everything is fine. It is not, and Queenslanders know it. They want to see consequences for action. They want to see the judiciary unshackled and the removal of detention as a last resort, and they want this state to get serious about gold standard early intervention.

The greatest barometer of the failings of this state government is the number of repeat hardcore offenders, because that shows that it is neither being strong enough with those who are holding knives at people's throats and ramming police cars nor being compassionate enough with young people to turn them around before a lifetime of crime. That is an abject failure. It is a failure that every Queenslander is now living, and they are feeling it. They are feeling it in the way they feel in their homes. They feel it in their insurance premiums. They feel it when they speak with their friends and family. They feel it when they have a discussion about where to leave the keys at home. It is hard to believe that we have reached the point that Queenslanders are not debating whether or not they can keep people out of their homes; they are debating whether or not they should make it easier or more difficult for someone to take the keys of the car they are trying to steal. Should they leave them at the front door so that their child who is asleep is not impacted, or should they hide them because they have worked really hard for it and they deserve to keep it? That is not a discussion that should be had. The discussion should be: 'Are there more police to protect me? Are there stronger laws for them to use? Does my state government acknowledge that community safety matters?' That is the discussion that should be had.

In crime, it is the cover-up that often gets you. So it is that we saw the mother of all cover-ups this morning when it came to the transport minister. The Premier said that she did not know when she found out about the \$2.4 billion blowout—the cover-up. It turns out that she found out over a month before the distribution of an incorrect figure—over a month before. Today there was one question that was not answered. It was not answered despite the minister repeatedly saying 'but I have answered that question'. Repeating that comment without answering the question provides us with the belief that the minister knows the answer. I believe that the answer is: not only did the minister see the email in question; the minister's fingerprints were all over it. Not only did the minister believe that the email was important to shape the content of what was being distributed to Queenslanders; he was the architect of it.

It is up to the minister to come into this House and say whether or not he knew about the email. At the heart of this saga—the train shame scandal—is not only whether or not this government knows how to deliver things on time and on budget but also the kinds of people who are running this state. They are the kinds of people who believe that Queenslanders do not deserve to know the truth. This is a cover-up that started in the transport minister's office and was distributed by the Premier's office. That is why the minister remains a protected species in this place. The Premier knew full well what he was up to, because she was part of the cabal that signed off on it.


This is a minister who has overseen cost blowouts on almost every project he has touched. The Brisbane Northern Transitway is the latest one. It has blown out by \$100 million. The new Gold Coast rail projects, budgeted at \$120 million only a handful of months ago, are now at \$500 million. How can a project go up 400 per cent in a matter of months? Yes, there are pressures and, yes, there is a war on Ukraine, but no-one goes to their builder and locks in a price of \$120,000 to put on an extension and then cops a half a million dollar bill. That is what the government is asking us to believe—that somehow it is business as usual that a 400 per cent blowout can occur.

That is what happens when a government is beset by chaos and crisis. That is what happens when a government is more interested in its survival than in the survival of the people who put them into office—the people who are telling us about the real pressures of the cost of living, the people who are wondering whether or not they will be able to meet their rent payments in the middle of a housing crisis, the people who wonder if they are able to keep criminals out of their home in the middle of a youth crime crisis and the people in their hour of need who are waiting for an ambulance to turn up in the middle of a health crisis.

That is the result of a government that has given up. It has given up on valuing taxpayers' money. It has given up on treating people with respect. It has given up on governing with integrity, and so we saw that this week when the Premier—despite saying lock, stock and barrel to the Coaldrake recommendations—ran away at the first hurdle when it came to a clearing house. There is a reason why, because the Premier and the ministers never wanted to have a Coaldrake inquiry. It was never about letting the sunshine in; it was only about a political pressure relief valve, and that is what it has always been about. Those opposite have never believed the health crisis is as deep as it is; it is about

trying to bat it away. They have never believed that the housing crisis is as bad for working families and the vulnerable as it is; it is about batting it off as an issue. They have never believed that the youth crime crisis is as deep as it is; they just want to see the issue go away. Tomorrow people will have their voices heard because this is a government that has given up on governing for Queensland.

Leader of the Opposition

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.10 pm): Let Queenslanders be in no doubt: the Leader of the Opposition is hiding his secret plan to cut—to cut services, to cut infrastructure and to sell off our valuable assets. Why else would we see the attack on Queensland train manufacturing? Why else would we see the attack on satellite hospitals? Why else would we see the attack on hardworking Queensland Health staff that they call ‘duds’ in regional Queensland? All of those attacks are a smokescreen—an effort to conceal and hide the real truth, and the truth is that the LNP wants to cut. It is time we put aside the false arguments and got to the real issue facing Queensland. What is the LNP going to cut? Is it going to cut nurses, midwives and senior police like it did last time? Is it going to cut satellite hospitals? Will it cut domestic local train manufacturing in Queensland just like it did when it was last in government? It is high time for the current Leader of the Opposition to tell the truth, to make his plans clear and to answer the big questions, but the Leader of the Opposition, as he always does, keeps running away and hiding from accountability. He is not being transparent and open with the people of Queensland.

We all know the LNP leader has to cut because of what he has said about royalties. When the Leader of the Opposition was asked directly about progressive coal royalties, he said this: he wants to cut taxes on business. That means one thing—that is, a \$7 billion hole in the budget that can only be filled with cuts. Our government has been very clear about progressive coal royalties and the benefits that they are bringing to our state. So long as our government is in power, we will continue to invest the benefits from progressive coal royalties into our state. Because of our progressive coal royalties, we will never have to implement LNP Crisafulli cuts on Queensland.

We are approaching 12 months until the next election. There is a requirement for honesty from the Leader of the Opposition, so I ask again, and the Leader of the Opposition must answer the question: what is his position on progressive coal royalties? It is the simplest of questions and the most repeated of questions from which he must stop running. Will the LNP leader support them lock, stock and barrel forever like our government? Will the LNP leader refute the comments of his frontbencher the member for Burdekin saying his government would ‘sit down’ with the industry? Will the LNP leader rebuke the member for Condamine, who said that they do not support royalties? Will he override the member for Burleigh who, when the LNP was asked whether it supported progressive coal royalties, interjected and said, ‘No’; or, maybe as it seems, is it the case that the member for Burleigh was telling the truth? I do not often compliment the member for Burleigh, but he is an honest man on that topic at least.

If the LNP makes cuts to revenue, as it says it wants to, there must be cuts to services and that means the member for Broadwater must reveal his secret plan for cuts. He holds it very tight, but every now and again a little bit of the plan slips out. The member for Chatsworth coughed up that quote—

... we’ve already identified a couple of billion dollars worth of savings.

That is what the member for Chatsworth said. The Leader of the Opposition has forecasted a secret debt reduction strategy on top of the \$10 billion in infrastructure cuts he has already identified. In the Far North when the LNP was asked about its support for the Cairns Hospital innovation precinct, all it said was that ‘all options are on the table’. We know what options 1, 2, 3, 4 and the rest are—cut it. Every satellite hospital, which the LNP has relentlessly criticised from the day they were announced, will be on the chopping block; CopperString unstrung, wound back, ripped out; new schools mothballed; frontline jobs pruned back, in the words of the LNP; and forget pumped hydro. It will not be able to support that. It is straight out of the Newman-Nicholls playbook. Those opposite have done it before. They cut expenditure. They said there was a black hole and then they cut and cut deep and cut in a way that Queenslanders have never forgotten. That is their agenda.


Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There seems to be something wrong with the microphones, because I can hear—unless they have intentionally turned them on over on that side of the room while they are making interjections—their interjections as if they are on a microphone.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): That is not a point of order, but just be mindful of keeping your microphones off. Are they all off?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe you need to be quiet then.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): In 2015 the now Treasurer came in here—he was not the Treasurer at the time—and tried to suck up to the right wing of the Labor Party when he made a speech about how bad the union movement was. If members remember, there were Labor luminaries who called him a gormless show pony because he was sucking up to one side of the Labor Party. Someone in his office advised him to come in here this morning to try and suck up to the left wing of the Labor Party after his speech this morning like he is an option to take over from Anastacia Palaszczuk as the Premier. They are going to have the member for Nicklin before the member for Woodridge for goodness' sake, and that is saying something!

The Treasurer believes that his little performance this morning had everyone covered and he is the next in line. It ain't gonna happen! The Labor Party will never have the member for Woodridge, the current Treasurer, as their leader because Premier Palaszczuk has checked out and is more interested in red carpet, glitz and glamour than the people of Queensland. Speaking of red carpets, today is an anniversary: it is the one-year anniversary since the Premier cancelled her cabinet meeting so she could attend a paradise party off a beautiful island on a superyacht, so that is the one-year anniversary today.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Bonney. The Treasurer wants to lecture people on honesty. Well, I would say to the Treasurer that he sat around the cabinet table that authorised and approved the \$2.4 billion budget blowout on the Train Manufacturing Program. Those opposite try and say that the LNP is against train manufacturing. No, we are not. We support the workers. We support the train manufacturing. What we are advocating for is honesty, openness and transparency and to expose the cover-up of Minister Bailey. That is what we are trying to do. If the Treasurer wants to come in here and lecture people about honesty, tell us what happened at the CBRC? One would think that if the Premier were doing her job she would have said to Minister Bailey, 'For goodness' sake, how many more budget blowouts are there going to be? Get your act together!' and if she did not she was derelict in her duties.

The Premier has been continually asked about this train manufacturing budget blowout and it is like she has no idea. This morning she was asked about the lead story on Channel 9 news last night and she replied, 'Oh, um.' Authenticate it, for goodness' sake! None of her advisers told her what was on the news last night. It is like she forgot that she signed off on the project. She signed off on it. She is the chair of the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. The question that members in the backbench must answer today—although I suspect it may not be the backbench leaking against the honourable minister—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I reckon it might be someone high up in CBRC who has control of the finances possibly, because the quote from Labor members is—

There's a lot of angst on the backbench and the Premier's going to have to do something.

I like this—

The backbench is restless because of the damage it's—

that is, Mark Bailey—

doing to the government.

...

... the cover-up—

Labor's words, not ours—

had proved to be a damaging distraction, but they doubted Premier ... Palaszczuk would turf Mr Bailey as she was known to have a soft spot for him despite his ongoing blunders—including the ... 'Mangocube' ... scandal.

I quote another Labor MP—'He hasn't helped himself, and there's a definite sense of frustration because it's Bailey, again.' Who are the Labor MPs quoted in the *Courier-Mail*? Is it the backbench? Is it Minister Fentiman? Is Minister Fentiman lining herself up to take over? Is it the Treasurer? Who is it?

Put your hand up. Tell us. Give us honesty. If you are prepared to put a quote in the paper at least do the decent thing and put your name to it. This government is in constant chaos and crisis. That is why the Labor Party members are leaking against Minister Mark Bailey. They want him gone. He is an embarrassment to the government. He is an embarrassment because of all his blowouts.


An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. You know what, I am happy to keep him there now. I think he should stay right up to the election. Absolutely he should stay. The disgrace Minister Grace, who is on the CBRC, said, 'everyone just move on'—move on from the blowout, move on from the cover-up, move on from the questions. No, we are not going to move on. There are so many questions that remain unanswered by the Premier. This train shame scandal gets murkier and murkier by the day. If there is one thing we know out of all of this it is that 'Hollywood Anna' has checked out. She is not interested in Queenslanders. She is over the job.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Member for Kawana, there is a comment you made in relation to calling the Premier other than her correct title. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Police Citizens Youth Clubs

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (2.21 pm): I have just been out to the PCYC attached to Suncorp Stadium with the Minister for Police where we announced the list of locations to receive extra PCYC funding. What a great program. We know that you have to work in the community with young people who are at risk of entering the youth justice system or to stop them from coming back. We have the harshest laws in the country in terms of youth justice. We have announced two new therapeutic youth detention centres. We want to keep the community safe by putting those young people in detention, but we do not want to see them back in the system.

Early intervention and prevention programs turn the lives of those kids around so that we can keep the community safe. This morning I read out the extremely long list of programs that we have already implemented. PCYC is one of them. It is literally changing people's lives. We have electronic monitoring, we have the vehicle immobiliser program, we have Transition 2 Success, we have intensive case management—many of them already showing very good results. I have said many times publicly that when we evaluate these programs and they are not working we will stop doing them because the community expects us to have the evidence.


I am always keen to hear new ideas. In fact, I am looking forward to meeting members of the Voice for Victims group tomorrow. There will be a rally here and we will be meeting with them to hear their ideas. I am always keen to hear ideas from others. Every time I hear the opposition leader speak I think, 'Okay, well, maybe there are some ideas here.' If he is going to be doing an interview on youth justice I sit at my desk, my staff are ready to go, and then I hear their three-slogan announcement. I cannot call it a policy because they do not have any policies. There are three slogans and there are 13 words in it. We know the community is really concerned about youth crime and the solution of those opposite is 13 words. I listened, ready with my pen, but no, nothing more than rolled gold early intervention programs. We have them already; I read out a list of them.

I was so looking forward to estimates because I thought we might actually have some good questions. I love talking about the results of our programs. I thought we might get an opportunity for the opposition leader to put some ideas to me. He did not even turn up. We were on the third day. He was obviously absolutely exhausted after two days of estimates and was not able to turn up. He goes across Queensland and talks about how youth crime is absolutely their No. 1 priority with his 13-word, three-slogan announcement, but he did not turn up to estimates. We had the shadow Attorney-General and someone who is not even on their frontbench. That is the status that they apply to youth justice.

When one does not have any policies all people can do is think about what you did last time. In the absence of anything else I can only assume that those opposite will do boot camps again. That was the special trick of the deputy opposition leader. They picked someone who was about No. 7 or No. 8 on the list—the people he wanted—and there was an evaluation. It was an absolute shambles and did not have any impact whatsoever. In fact, a person was more likely to reoffend if they went to one of those boot camps: 63.5 per cent had reoffended by the time the evaluation was published; something like 90 per cent of them had reoffended by the end of the first 12 months.

We are talking about what works. I would like to hear some policies from the opposition about absolutely anything. We have 13 words now. Maybe we could get another 13 words on new laws. We are happy to work with them. Just a policy, just some evidence, just a plan—anything—and we are happy to work with them.

Bluewater Rural Fire Service, Emergency Vehicle

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.26 pm): When our emergency services respond to an emergency every minute counts. As several of my colleagues and I know, driving in emergency services vehicles under lights and sirens in an emergency situation is demanding. The drivers of those vehicles rely strongly on their colleagues, on other vehicles and on their equipment to arrive safely and as quickly as possible. In 2002 the Bluewater Rural Fire Service took delivery of an Isuzu NPS 300. I table the specifications of that vehicle, noting in particular the front axle rated capacity of 2,600 kilograms. Herein lies the problem that has been ongoing since 2019.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'NPS 250/300 4x4' [[1161](#)].

Today the Bluewater Rural Fire Service vehicle, known as Bluewater 51, is off the road. That is right—a vehicle that is essential in protecting lives and property cannot be used. Despite the best efforts of the first and second officers there is no solution on the horizon. As it stands today, Bluewater 51, if fully crewed and filled with water, would exceed the capacity of the front axle. In layman's terms, that means the vehicle is unsafe for use on the road, let alone to respond to an emergency.


It is the responsibility of Queensland drivers to ensure their vehicle is safe and in a roadworthy condition. The same concept applies to drivers of emergency vehicles. Failing to do so puts the driver at risk of fines and possibly prosecution in a court of law. In the event of an accident, driving an unsafe vehicle can also make a driver liable to civil proceedings. As a result, the members of the Bluewater Rural Fire Service have taken Bluewater 51 off the road. In their fight to have that vehicle modified, the members of the Bluewater Rural Fire Service have learned that only some of the Isuzu NP 300s across the state have been upgraded. That is right, we are not talking about just one rural fire service appliance. There are six in North Queensland and possibly more spread throughout the state. Given the fact that these vehicles could be operating all throughout Queensland, it is extremely concerning that no-one seems to know which vehicles have been upgraded and therefore which vehicles pose a danger to rural fire service volunteers and other road users. This issue has been repeatedly raised by members of the Bluewater Rural Fire Service, but to date they have no clarity. Modifications to reduce the weight were suggested. Reducing the amount of equipment was suggested and, heaven forbid, reducing the number of crew members was also suggested.

Thankfully, the Bluewater Rural Fire Service members have put their safety, the safety of other road users and their ability to respond to an emergency as their highest priority. I commend them for that. Four years of uncertainty for them and other brigades throughout the state must come to an end. We are talking about volunteers putting themselves in harm's way to protect other Queenslanders and the best that this government can do is expect them to use 21-year-old vehicles that may or may not be safe and that may or may not even be legal to drive on Queensland roads.

It is a blight on this government that this issue has not been addressed. It is a blight on this government that no-one can confirm which vehicles have been modified and which have not. Most of all, it is a blight on this government that volunteers are expected to put themselves and others at risk based on assumptions and incomplete records. The LNP recognise the importance of the Rural Fire Service and we recognise the crucial role that Rural Fire Service volunteers perform throughout large parts of Queensland. When responding to an emergency they face uncertainty, but they should not face uncertainty from government. I for one will not sit back and wait for our volunteers or another road user to be seriously injured or to lose their life due to defective vehicles.

Today I have written to the chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee requesting that the committee urgently enquires into this issue and time is of the essence. It is the least that we can do and it is the very least that the brave volunteers of the Bluewater Rural Fire Service and others like them throughout the state deserve. They deserve to be driving around in vehicles that are safe, that are compliant and that meet the needs of Queenslanders. It is a blight on this minister that this has been allowed to fester for so long. Today they need to step up to the plate and resolve this issue as a priority.

Ripley Satellite Hospital

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.31 pm): Just over a week ago, on a beautiful Sunday morning, I was proud to welcome the Premier, the health minister and the members for Ipswich and Jordan to South Ripley in our local community for the opening of our state-of-the-art Ripley Satellite

Hospital. We joined with over 300 locals who had come out to see their brand new health facility. There was absolutely overwhelming interest from our local community and I have to say that there was nothing but positive feedback and many smiling faces. The Premier and I had a wonderful time chatting to residents as they looked at our brand new health facility. It is only fitting that members of the very community that this satellite hospital will serve were the first to look at it before it welcomes its first patients on 30 August, next week.

It is incredible to consider that it was only in May of last year that I was standing with the then health minister where the satellite hospital is now and there was nothing but a vacant lot. Just over 12 months later, I am proud to say that we have delivered the Ripley Satellite Hospital. I acknowledge the contributions of both the Deputy Premier and the member for Redcliffe in making this a reality.


The Ripley Satellite Hospital will deliver free public health care seven days a week, from morning till night. It will take pressure off the emergency department at Ipswich Hospital while allowing locals to access world-class health care closer to home. Whether it is an ache, a sprain, a burn or a simple infection, our satellite hospital will help ensure more locals are treated in the community where they live and not in our hospital emergency rooms. Thirty staff have already been recruited for the facility—nurses, doctors, allied health and administration staff. This is what Labor delivers: jobs, new infrastructure and better services. That stands in stark contrast to the LNP.

When last in government, the LNP health cuts in West Moreton were savage and deep. They cut 124 health staff, including 92 nurses, as part of 4½ thousand sacked frontline health staff from across Queensland. Given the chance, they will do the same again. On 15 March this year the leader of the LNP published online and on social media the now infamous LNP cuts list and satellite hospitals were on it. Unsurprisingly, the post was quickly deleted. So much for honesty, openness and transparency, even in opposition. Apparently, the LNP are so addicted to cuts they immediately cut their own cut list.

Labor is proudly delivering an \$89 billion Big Build. In contrast, the LNP have billions in cuts that they are trying to hide. Labor is delivering record numbers of frontline health workers. On behalf of the LNP, in his budget reply speech their leader committed to delivering a 'contemporary Queensland Health workforce plan'. That has to be enough to send shivers down the spine of Queensland Health workers. In order to help with the cost of living, Labor are delivering more public health care through our satellite hospitals. In contrast, the LNP have delivered a campaign targeted at seniors to subtly solicit political donations through their LNP 'pressure relief' fund. That is an absolute shame.

When the LNP talk about cost blowouts, pruning or debt reduction plans, they are talking about cuts. To the LNP these are just numbers on a spreadsheet to be balanced. What the LNP are really talking about is sacking workers, selling or cutting infrastructure and cancelling services such as health care. We know that the LNP want to close or sell off our satellite hospitals. Our community knows that. South Ripley knows that. Our frontline health workers know that because they have been through it before and Queenslanders know it. Our Ripley Satellite Hospital is a game changer. It is a game changer for families in Ripley and it is a game changer for Ipswich, along with our massive expansion to the Ipswich Hospital and along with the extra 174 public beds that we are going to deliver at Springfield. We will deliver better services, not more LNP cuts.

Railways, Level Crossings

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.36 pm): Kerry Packer once said that you only get one Alan Bond in a lifetime. In its lifetime, this parliament will have only one member for Miller. As I keep on saying, this member is the gift that keeps on giving. If I went through *Hansard* I know there would be any number of times that the member for Miller, the transport minister, has said that everything is awesome. Sadly I have only five minutes to make this contribution because I could spend the next five days talking about this, but I will confine my contribution to open level crossings.

In the estimates hearings we get only a couple of hours, but there is such a plethora of information that we cannot do a deep dive. However, let us use the logic of the member for Miller. Cross River Rail is meant to enable more trains to run more regularly—tick—but let us think of that logically and you do not need to be a traffic engineer to work this out. What will eventually happen at the ends of Cross River Rail on different lines throughout the passenger network? I will give the example of Cavendish Road, which is close to my patch in the eastern suburbs. I could use Beams Road or a half dozen others, but let us look at Cavendish Road.

Probably about eight weeks ago I drove my car to the Cavendish Road level crossing. I had someone record me from the passenger seat so it was all aboveboard. I was there for about 17 minutes waiting for two trains on the Cleveland line, one going to Cleveland and one going back into the city,

and then a coal train, no doubt heading to the Port of Brisbane. For 17 minutes the open level crossing boom gates were down. Reports have been done that say if more trains are going to run more regularly then that particular open level crossing could be down for up to 34 to 35 minutes in an hour.


Let us compare and contrast. Over the past six or seven years in Victoria plenty has been done wrong but—boy oh boy—did they get something right. About 70 open level crossings have been removed from their metropolitan and semirural lines. Let us compare that to Queensland. What is the figure that we have after three terms of a government in chaos and crisis that is being led down the garden path by an incompetent minister? A big fat zero! Zilch! Nothing! When I am out in my community it is pretty rare to meet people who know the names of ministers. Generally they know the Premier—and that goes down real well. They know this gentleman to my right, the opposition leader. However, normally they do not know any other minister.

They know the Premier and they know the opposition leader, and they absolutely know another minister of the Crown: the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Boy oh boy, do they know him! Is it any wonder? When we said 'budget blowouts' or 'cost increases' initially they were shaking their heads, but now they are actually getting mad.

From the chair where the Deputy Speaker sits, we know from the Premier's own mouth that none of these participants have any chance of being promoted, despite absolute muck-up after muck-up. There have been three monikers—the legacy of the member for Miller. One was rail fail. The member for Sandgate did the honourable thing. He resigned; he fell on his sword, understanding Westminster principles and protocols. The member for Miller has well and truly checked out. You can buy lots of things in life but there is something you cannot buy. No matter how much currency you have, you cannot buy character. You cannot buy ticker.

On one project alone there is a \$2.4 billion blowout. Chatsworth is generally not a Struggle Street kind of electorate. It has its parts, but they are offset by some pretty well-to-do parts. Now, for the first time, you see people on Stanley Road living in their cars—mums and dads who cannot afford a house or the cost of living. It is a disgrace. For this gentleman, the member for Miller, \$2.4 billion is merely one small price tag. We could have funded the Olympics just with his blowouts.

Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme; Homelessness

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to discuss the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme, otherwise known as the PALM scheme. The Wide Bay has a sad history of indentured labour, otherwise known as blackbirding. That is why the actions of Linx Employment are so disappointing—what it has undertaken not only in Bundaberg but also across the state of Queensland. I have spoken with whistleblowers, union representatives, workers and even growers in the Bundaberg community who have witnessed firsthand the intimidation, the threats and the poor work of Linx Employment.

On 17 June I met with members of the Australian Workers' Union, the SDA, TWU and Woolworths and a large room filled with PALM scheme workers. They spoke about the stories of not having work—not just for a day or two but for weeks and months on end. They spoke about the living conditions—having 10 bunks to a room or even five people to a caravan at a cost of \$160 per week. They spoke about having airfares deducted for months on end. This is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of some of the actions that Linx Employment has undertaken.

On 17 July ABC Rural reported that Linx Employment was under investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman and by the Department of Employment and Workforce Relations. In that story the Australian Workers' Union cited that 80 workers within the Bundaberg region had complained to them. They complained about not having their 30 hours on average met and made claims about threats to terminate their visas. They said that homelessness and not having money to provide to their families was a common occurrence. Sadly, I have witnessed documents that prove these allegations. I have seen the pay slips. I have spoken with the workers, with community advocates and with their champions as well.

Only two weeks ago in my office I met with three workers who were part of the PALM scheme under Linx Employment. These workers spoke well of their bosses in Bundaberg—the growers in Bundaberg who do the right thing and look after the workers—but they highlighted the failure of Linx to provide a sustainable workload and sustainable money to ensure they could provide for themselves with groceries, pay rent for their living conditions and also provide for their family. That is why PALM scheme workers come to this country: to provide for their family. In response to this, I met with a senior figure from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations who confirmed to me that Linx Employment has had a mutual termination with the department and is no longer engaged in the PALM scheme.


At the Australian Labor Party's national conference last week I spoke with Tony Burke and encouraged him to continue the work in pursuing this through the Fair Work Ombudsman. I told him that I would be writing to him with the stories, the documents and all of the evidence I have about what Linx Employment has done to workers in Bundaberg. I have also spoken with Senator Murray Watt, who shares my concerns. The PALM scheme is a good scheme. Its principle is right but, with nine years of waste by a federal Liberal government, it was allowed to run wild. The rorters such as Linx Employment—the rogue operators—have brought indentured labour back to the Wide Bay region. It is simply not good enough. I will not let dodgy labour hire companies destroy the good name of Bundaberg growers and I will not allow dodgy labour hire companies such as Linx Employment to bring indentured labour back to the Bundaberg region.

I also want to touch quickly on housing. Housing is a critical social issue in Bundaberg. It is very evident that there are families out there who are doing it tough, struggling and vulnerable. There are also pensioners and people who are independent suffering through some very difficult times. It is absolutely outrageous that members of the LNP try to use people's hardship for political gain. I have here a press release from the member for Burnett, who said—

Numbers are one thing, but you only have to go for a drive along Hanbury Street in North Bundaberg or visit Lions Park ...

I say to the member for Burnett: I do not just go for a drive; I actually go and meet with the people who are doing it tough. I take down their names, write down their situations and go to the Department of Housing. We house those people as best we can. While the member for Burnett just drives by, looks at people as though he is King of England, waves at them and then writes a dodgy press release, I stand up for people in the Bundaberg region who are doing it tough. Our housing minister stands up for them as well. We are not going to be like the LNP that sells them out down the river.

Residential Care Sector

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.46 pm): I take a moment to welcome Lucas from St Catherine's in Proserpine who spent this morning with me and is in the chamber today. It is fabulous to see our young people from regional and North Queensland come down and see our democracy in action.

Over the past fortnight I have had the privilege, along with the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, to host up to 60 care providers in the residential care sector, both here at the parliament and in Cairns. I acknowledge the work they are doing each day with young people dealing with incredible trauma and complex backgrounds, but what they have to put up with under this current Labor government is frightening. I want to share some of their major contributions that were so concerning.

The first issue is funding for family and community contact. It seems that we have a policy in this state that is not facilitating family visits in a safe and affordable way and is putting young people at risk when they have to travel by plane on their own in remote areas of Far North Queensland. It is not helping with their transition or reunification.

Placements were another major issue. I note that the minister is undertaking an internal review, but I can save him the next six months and a lot of time. Children are being placed well outside of their communities, meaning that not only are they being moved again but also they are forced to change schools and be separated from extended family. There are also inappropriate placements such as a male teenager with a history of sexually violent behaviour being placed with young girls in a residential care house. Then there is placement removal, where a child and a care worker are not even given 24 hours notice of the removal of that placement. Then there are the 17 calls on a Friday afternoon to a provider from the department, begging them to take a placement. These issues are only escalating.

I refer to staff safety. When estimates the minister cannot say how many staff have been assaulted, it seems to third parties that it does not matter. Staff have been threatened. Staff have had their hair set alight. Staff have been hit over the head with various weapons. Staff have been punched. Staff have been kicked. Staff have been spat on. Shockingly, debate ensues with departmental staff about whether these acts have actually occurred.


One of the most horrific incidents was when a staff member had petrol thrown outside their door and it was lit and the staff member had to escape through the window. There is a lack of empowerment to discipline these young children. Many of us are parents. Many of us know and understand that children need boundaries and discipline yet a child in residential care will not get that unless their

provider or their support worker breaks the rules. We heard of a youth worker getting a breach for breaking up a fight—for physically restraining a child who is trying to hurt another child. We heard of others getting breached for not replacing a TV overnight when it was smashed to pieces by a child.

There are reports that illicit drug use is being condoned by the department and residential care providers are being instructed by the department to return vapes to 12-year-old children and return a bong to a teenager. These are things that would never occur in a family home in this state, but under this state government's watch it is happening. Under four failed ministers for child safety we ask: why do we now have a record number of children in residential care? There are over 1,100. The minister could not provide the latest detail. The figures we have date back to the end of March. We have over 500 children under the age of 12 in residential care. We have the care worker putting a three-year-old to bed not being the same care worker waking them up. I ask the minister: is this acceptable?

The minister has undertaken an internal review of a department that is already under enormous stress. In Far North Queensland we have 30 per cent vacancy rates for child safety officers, placements that are not being managed, children falling through the cracks and residential care workers who feel that they are operating under a master-slave culture of this government and fear for the safety of children in a child safety system in crisis. Minister, hear their pleas. If they continue to walk away children's lives are in danger.

Russell Island, Deaths

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.51 pm): Our community has experienced one of the biggest tragedies in its history with the loss of five little boys—Zack, Harry, Kyza, Koah and Nicky—and their really brave dad, Wayne. They were lost in the most tragic of circumstances. The house fires were something to be seen. On behalf of my community, and I think of everybody in this place, I offer to the Godinet and Stephenson families our heartfelt condolences for their loss.

The impact has been felt deeply across our island community. There are about 5,000 people who live on Russell Island. On the darkest of nights though the brightest stars shine, and there have been so many in our community who have shone brightly over the last 10 days. I had never before seen a community come together in such a way to support one another.

I want to start with our Russell Island fire brigade officers—the whole volunteer crew—led by Larry and Kev. They did an absolutely incredible job on the morning. They got to that fire quicker than any mainland fire brigade would and they were able to salvage one of the houses. To that team I can only say thank you so much for all that you do in serving our community.

To the Queensland ambulance officers who were also first on the scene and for what they faced I say thank you for your service. To all of our frontline personnel on that day—all of the backup QFES officers, the QPS, the SES: you did an incredible job. To the Schinkel and Howell families who have also lost their homes and everything that they own, our thoughts are also with you, but I am pleased to say that through government agencies and community support they now have roofs over their heads. They have had great counselling. One of the most amazing community responses was from the Redland City Council's disaster management team and the department of communities in terms of the work they did and the support they provided with councillors and chaplains across the island supporting the community and the families that were so heavily impacted.

To the Bay Islands Community Services—a great neighbourhood centre—with Doris and the team there, who took care of the families who flew in from New Zealand and other parts of Australia to be with their family: thank you for helping in complex circumstances. All of the businesses on the island came together so quickly. From the cafes providing sandwiches and cakes on the day and the IGA providing meals to our real estate agents moving nimbly to help find accommodation for the Schinkel and Howell families, it was simply incredible to see.

The school community response has been unbelievable. There are 200 children at the Russell Island State School. It is a really small school and they lost four of their classmates. Kyza and Koah were in kindy and Zack and Harry were in grade 5 and 6 respectively. The Department of Education's response from the get-go on Monday morning was nothing short of incredible.

I do not think anybody can underestimate the leadership shown on the day by principal Leanne McMahon. She had experienced the fires at Mabel Park. To think that she would have to relive the same set of circumstances is unimaginable. For the work that she did in nurturing, caring and showing deep compassion to our school community and to all of the families I say thank you so much for all you have done. I say thank you to all of the teachers and students who have shown remarkable resilience.

I am going to table the principal's newsletter because it is one of the most beautiful and powerful pieces I have read. She closes by saying—

As we come to terms with this tragedy, let us remember that time is a precious gift. It serves as a reminder to cherish every moment we have with our loved ones. In times of darkness, our unity shines as a beacon of hope, and together, we will navigate this journey of healing and resilience.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 22 August 2023, from the member for Redlands, Ms Kim Richards MP, enclosing extract of Russell Island State School newsletter [\[1162\]](#).

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 2208.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.56 pm): Just before the lunchbreak the Deputy Premier stood up in this House and could not bring himself to speak for five minutes on the government's program or agenda or the future for the state of Queensland. He barely rated a three-minute mention on his budget estimates. That is all he did—three minutes. He could have kept going, but he could only speak on the government's agenda for three minutes. Why? Because they have no agenda.

If we look at the budget estimates hearings, it is another year and another budget estimates hearings with Labor committee members not allowing freedom of expression and freedom of debate and chairs of various committees trying to rephrase questions and asking questions of the opposition—sorry, the opposition draft the questions. What we see is just a process whereby the protection racket for various incompetent ministers continues. It was the case with the estimates hearing of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

In terms of most of the infrastructure questions we asked the Deputy Premier, he said, 'It is not my responsibility. It is another portfolio responsibility. You will have to ask the Premier. You will have to ask DPC. You will have to ask TMR. You will have to ask Minister Bailey about those sorts of things.' There were plenty of questions for Minister Bailey, I can tell members that. The infrastructure minister did not want to talk about infrastructure during the estimates process. We started the estimates process with the State Development and Regional Industries Committee talking about Minister Mark Bailey and the cover-up of the \$9.5 billion train shame scandal.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member knows what the standing orders are. This is not about the committee related to my portfolio. It is about the infrastructure committee and he is blatantly and flagrantly ignoring the standing orders and he should be brought to order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): I will take some advice. Member for Kawana, I will give you some scope because it is consideration of the estimates report, but you need to be relevant and be mindful of the language you are using.

Mr BLEIJIE: When we talked about infrastructure, the Deputy Premier kept saying, 'You'll have to ask Minister Mark Bailey.' The Deputy Premier was the one talking about Minister Mark Bailey in the estimates process. He was deflecting to Minister Bailey. He also sits on the CBRC, which oversaw the \$2.4 billion train manufacturing blowout which was subject to lots of debate at our State Development and Regional Industries Committee meeting.

We then talked about more blowouts and that, of course, was the Gabba. Interestingly, the Senate, as we speak, is holding an inquiry down the road where the Australian Olympic Committee CEO has said that the Gabba redevelopment was essentially for the AFL and cricket before the Olympics were announced. Can anyone remember the Palaszczuk government announcing that the Gabba was being knocked down for AFL or cricket before the Olympics was announced? I cannot. I

did a quick search after that testimony was given this morning. The Gabba went from a billion dollars to \$2.7 billion. I asked the Deputy Premier and Mike Kaiser, former Labor minister now director-general of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—

Mr Nicholls: He was a member only. He didn't make it to minister.

Mr BLEIJIE: Sorry, a former Labor member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Member for Kawana, can we stick to their correct title, which is what their current position was at the estimates?

Mr BLEIJIE: He is a director-general, a former Labor member of parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have to be mindful that they are staff. We are here to talk about estimates.

Mr BLEIJIE: He is a director-general.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is right, but you are going on about history. Can we stick to the estimates?


Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I will. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The director-general, who is a self-confessed vote rorter—which was from estimates last year as well—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, can you resume your seat. I will get some advice on that language. Member for Kawana, just be mindful. We are going to stick to estimates and the content of estimates. It would be great if we could stay focused.

Mr BLEIJIE: I asked the director-general about the Gabba redevelopment, which was originally announced by the government at \$1 billion. I asked the director-general if he could provide the business case. He said he did not think there was a business case. He did not know much about it because it was not his department. Now he has it in his department. I said, 'Now you have a \$2.7 billion Gabba redevelopment. Could you now provide the business case you undertook to ascertain the \$2.7 billion?' The director-general responded, 'We haven't done a business case on that.' Interestingly, they advised how they came up with the billion dollar figure for the original Gabba redevelopment. It was because they needed an announcement for a media conference. That is all it was. Literally the Premier picked a billion dollars out of thin air for a media conference. That goes hand in hand with the red carpet, the glitz and glamour. It is all about the announcements; it is never about the deliverables. It is never about actually delivering infrastructure. So a billion dollars is now \$2.7 billion and there is absolutely no transparency about it.

The Deloitte report—Deloitte got nearly \$800,000 for an 18-page report of which the director-general said, 'That wasn't my portfolio. It is now with us but whatever.' The question is this: did Rachel Nolan, a former Labor minister, have anything to do with the commissioning, the authoring or input into that Deloitte report because she is now employed by Deloitte as a special envoy adviser for the Olympics? Did Rachel Nolan, a former Labor minister, have anything to do with the report that recommended the Labor government take all the infrastructure planning in-house? If she did, then it was not independent and the government have done exactly what they set out to do—that is, no transparency, no openness and no accountability around the decision-making.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.03 pm):** I rise to speak on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee's estimates report. Once again, I thank the committee members for their scrutiny and their proposed spending measures in my portfolio. I also thank the chair, Chris Whiting, for his sincere focus on making sure the committee ran very well.

As the Leader of the House said, the committee hearing gave non-government members ample opportunity to put the budget under the microscope. Whether they did that effectively or not is ultimately a matter for others.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, members!

Mr FURNER: It is worth noting that on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee non-government questioning took up 311 minutes versus 148 minutes of government questioning. Therefore, there was a more than reasonable balance of questioning overseen by the chair.

As always, I and my departmental officers sought to provide information and respectful responses. What this government will never do is make a mockery of estimates like the Newman-Crisafulli government did when it was briefly in office. The opposition leader claimed in this chamber and also in the media that they were going to be transparent and seek reform to the estimates process. The opposition leader turned up twice to the estimates hearings. That is how confident and focused he was on reforming the estimates.

I also want to put on record my clear support for the passing of the Appropriation Bill. This budget has a determination and an absolute focus on supporting our world-class agricultural and fisheries sectors, and our rural communities, so they can continue prospering well into the future. We know from the latest AgTrends data that Queensland's agriculture and fisheries sectors are immensely lucrative, recently hitting a record high combined annual value of \$23.44 billion—no doubt in part this outcome was supported by the Palaszczuk government. This is an outstanding performance from our agricultural and fisheries producers and another advertisement for the exceptional produce they bring to our table and to export markets abroad.

Our primary producers generate jobs and wealth across the state, and this budget is focused on supporting those efforts. There is no better example of this than the extra funding the budget delivers to assist primary producers prepare for drought under the Drought Assistance and Reform Package. This means up to \$48.5 million over three years to be invested in programs and grants, and \$100 million over two years allocated for loans. In addition to this, we continue to deliver a highly successful Rural Economic Development Grants program—\$3.3 million is earmarked for these popular grants in this year's budget. In total, \$13.3 million in funding over five years has been provided through this program for 59 successful regional agribusiness projects, worth more than \$52.4 million, creating an estimated 2,500 new direct and indirect jobs.

More than \$21.7 million will be invested in biosecurity over five years, and \$2.8 million each year thereafter, for action against current and emerging plant pests and diseases.

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Callide will cease his interjections.

Mr FURNER: I will not refer to the pest over there from Callide. I am very proud that this budget will create 15 new permanent jobs within Biosecurity Queensland in a much needed boost to our fight against new and emerging pests, and the risk they pose to our primary producers.

Mr Head interjected.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Callide, I have cautioned you a number of times now in the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr FURNER: Front and centre of our biosecurity priorities is the fight against red imported fire ants, which is why we have brought forward \$60 million in funding for the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program in this budget. Sadly, the opposition members of the committee find it impossible to understand the very simple fact that this is a national eradication program between the Commonwealth, states and territories. Either the LNP do not understand this or they are deliberately seeking to sow confusion about an effective program which has successfully limited the spread of fire ants. Had it not been for the national program, fire ants would now infest approximately 100 million hectares in an arc of country from Bowen in the north, to Longreach in the west and Canberra in the south at an annual cost to the economy of \$2 billion.

The budget also delivers \$11.7 million over three years to continue the implementation of our Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027, along with increased funding of \$9.2 million over five years and \$3 million per annum for Queensland's Shark Control Program.

Finally, I once again thank the parliamentary staff and my own ministerial staff for their hard work throughout the estimates process. I look forward on a yearly basis to the estimates process. It is a time when the opposition try to scrutinise this government for its successes throughout the year with regard to the funding it puts forward for my portfolio and for every portfolio, yet they fail on every account with their incompetence and their ineptitude at questioning at estimates. They could not ask one suitable question.

(Time expired)

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.09 pm): I rise to speak on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee's estimates report. Estimates proved that Minister Furner is failing. The minister has no answers about biosecurity risks, fire ants, timber shortages, skills and labour shortages, asset sales from agricultural colleges, the risky closure of biosecurity facilities and how to control feral pigs,

cats and wild dogs and few answers about agricultural training and education. Questions remain about data integrity in relation to fish stock assessments. The minister was ignorant about compensation packages or accountability for lost fishing businesses. The minister was not interested in issues concerning quarry management which are impacting rural road costs. Opportunities for questions were tightly controlled and we were prevented from asking detailed questions about shark control, vessel and marine equipment, failure to ensure cattle tick vaccine supplies, wild dog fencing, grants, AgTech, research and development, and the PALM scheme. Queenslanders deserve answers about brands review, animal management, DAF's work culture, numerous biosecurity threats, industry best practice and the impact of staffing levels on DAF's capacity to deliver, let alone the departmental budget.


The minister's failures not only impact the industries they relate to but also the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis and the health crisis. The complete lack of government assistance, poor policy and failure to understand today's decisions—or lack thereof—have consequences. The abandonment of practical education and training for agriculture, poorly addressed labour shortages and cuts to service delivery are driving up the price of fruit and vegetables, meat and seafood, and timber for renovations and new houses, and are contributing to the cost-of-living crisis. After adjusting for CPI, DAF's appropriation revenue has been cut compared to actual and budgeted spends in 2022-23. While public servants will increase by more than 4,600 next year, DAF's will increase by two.

The management of fire ants is a catastrophe. Government responses were again dismissive and evasive, demonstrating there is no plan to eradicate fire ants in Queensland. We were told that the solution to the closure of the highly visible facility at Coen is to 'broaden and better target the services and programs it delivers'. If foot-and-mouth disease goes undetected it could wipe out the beef industry and drive up the cost of living. Estimates showed Labor's lack of commitment to long-term forest and resource sustainability. With regard to population booms and housing shortages, timber supply shortages—caused by 24 years of policy failures by successive Labor governments—are a ticking time bomb. While the Premier says that the high cost of structural timber is impacting the housing crisis, DAF's director-general said that Queensland has no plan to increase supplies of structural timber. The minister had no answer when asked whether the federal government could ensure imported timber was sourced from countries with sustainable forestry practices. The director-general agreed that a greater supply of local structural timber would reduce the cost of timber to the end user. When asked whether Queensland needs to grow its current forest footprint to reduce its reliance on imported timber he said, 'I do not know how to answer that question.' In 2019 the Premier promised a timber advisory panel and a comprehensive two-year study to identify sustainable future options for timber supply, including on private land. Queenslanders are waiting.

Fishers are being blindsided by decisions made with no consultation and transparency around data collection and stock assessment processes. The minister continually refuses to complete regulatory impact statements. The minister said no to compensation for financial losses caused by changes to Spanish mackerel fisheries. Commercial fishers learned about sweeping changes to gillnet fishing zones in news reports. The minister told estimates it was the decision of UNESCO and the IUCN. Fishers in the Great Sandy Marine Park will be out of business by Christmas. The government has appointed a former WWF international director as task force chair and decision-maker on any compensation package. International pressure seems to be more important than the livelihoods of commercial fishers.

Minister Furner's charter letter compels him to work with the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and contribute to delivering health care in rural areas. In the middle of a health crisis the minister could not identify even one formal meeting with the current health minister around this issue or with the former health minister in the last two financial years. There has only been one formal meeting more than two years ago with the previous minister. Astonishingly, when asked whether rural health care has improved since becoming Minister for Rural Communities the minister answered yes.

Estimates reconfirmed the government is consumed by crisis and chaos. The minister is blundering in the management of DAF and rural communities and failing all Queenslanders.


 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (3.14 pm): I am proud to be a minister in the Palaszczuk Labor government which is focused on cost-of-living relief, creating jobs and delivering Queensland's largest ever infrastructure pipeline: the Big Build. My estimates session was an important opportunity to highlight all of the projects being delivered across the regional development, manufacturing and water portfolios. I would like to thank the committee and particularly the member for Bancroft for his management of the session so late in the afternoon. I do not often get a chance to answer questions during sitting weeks

because seemingly the member for Nanango is not allowed by those opposite to ask portfolio questions in this chamber, and I feel sorry for her about that. I understand that this year 78 per cent of estimates questions were for non-government members, but unsurprisingly the LNP wasted their questions in my session. Predictably, their copy-and-paste statement of reservation was just as lazy as their performance during estimates. As the member for Nanango claimed in a media release after estimates, she apparently grilled me on Rookwood Weir. The member only asked me one question about the project during estimates. I would not call that a grilling.

In the budget we very clearly outlined our increased Rookwood Weir investment to support construction completion this year. I am pleased to report that Rookwood Weir is 90 per cent complete and is on track to be completed by the end of this year. All of the LNP's noise about costs only means one thing in this place: they want to cut it. When it comes to Rookwood Weir, I see up to 150,000 megalitres of new water allocations; new job opportunities and better water security; and over 360 jobs and 30 apprentices and trainees here in Queensland. Clearly the LNP sees something else, and that is what they can cut. They have form when it comes to cutting, sacking and selling. They wanted to sell off parts of Sunwater and they said that new water infrastructure must be built by the private sector. This government is building the infrastructure they talk about prioritising. If the LNP got their way and sold parts of Sunwater, Rookwood Weir would not have happened in the first place.

The member for Nanango cannot stand the fact that under a Palaszczuk Labor government water infrastructure projects are being delivered here in Queensland. Let's remember that, despite all the huff and puff from those opposite and all of their talk about building 100 dams in Queensland, when they were in government they did not build one single dam—not one. They did not even start a project. Let me remind the House of more funding locked into our budget for our Big Build here in Queensland, including: \$440 million to raise Burdekin Falls Dam, taking the total down payment to \$540 million; \$116.4 million for Paradise Dam to be spent this year alone; more than \$300 million for the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline; \$548.5 million for the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline out of a total \$983 million; and \$40.4 million from the Palaszczuk Labor government for the Mount Morgan pipeline. These are just the headlines.

Do not get me started on manufacturing. Manufacturing in Queensland has been transformed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. It has received more attention and investment than ever before. Before the Palaszczuk Labor government there was not even a manufacturing minister here in Queensland. Our government has invested in the manufacturing sector in Queensland to support 180,000 new jobs for Queenslanders, and their families rely on it. We are building trains back in Queensland. We are building them in Maryborough. I also want to say that the member for Nanango should go to Maryborough and talk to the potentially 800 families who are going to have kids, apprentices and jobs on the ground in Maryborough while this government is building trains here in Queensland. Not only are we going to build them in Maryborough but we are also going to get the supply chain in Rockhampton and Ipswich. While the investment in train manufacturing in Queensland is going on we will be fixing the LNP's stuff-ups from when they got trains overseas rather than investing in Queensland manufacturers in places like Maryborough. I have been out there on site with the local member and I know how proud Maryborough is that they are building trains here in Queensland.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.19 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2023-24 budget estimates and the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. The estimates process gives the parliament the opportunity to question the government on its financial stewardship and its proposals for the forthcoming year. As has become apparent throughout this process, the government has no ability to adapt and is losing touch with everyday Queenslanders. It has grown rigid and unresponsive, its management of the state's finances has become haphazard, and there is a growing gap between its promises and its record of delivery—or, should we say, lack of delivery.

When it comes to local government, again the estimates hearing showed the negligence that the Palaszczuk Labor government shows towards Queensland councils. Some 755 days ago at the 2021 estimates, the government lauded how they would reform the onerous conflict of interest requirements placed on mayors and councillors. This is the third estimates that has passed and we have seen no reform from this tired Labor government. Mayors and councillors will have done the whole term in local government without seeing that promised reform. This may discourage many from standing at the next election if there is no significant legislative reform before the March 2024 election as promised. Councillors have been investigated for blocking harassment on Facebook, for arranging the keys to council facilities outside of office hours and for calling for better health services in their communities.

The estimates committee process revealed a confirmation from the director-general of the department that the Bundaberg flood levee is over budget by 119 per cent and will be delivered three years later than the Labor candidate promised in the 2020 election campaign. The people of Bundaberg deserve better. It all comes back to that lack of delivery by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Furthermore, it has become evident that the Palaszczuk Labor government has not devoted the energy that is needed to resolve the chronic gravel shortage experienced by councils across Queensland. During the hearing, the director-general was asked to what extent his department was involved in the working group, and he said—

I do not know. It is not a working group that we have established. If the local government division is not involved, I will seek to have them involved.

We then learned that they were already involved. In fact the local government department is involved in the quarry material native title working group and they have met three times. Then, when the CEO of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority was asked whether his organisation—that is in charge of \$7 billion worth of recovery works—was part of the group, he stated—

I am not familiar with the group, I am sorry.

By the end of the hearing, the QRA was invited to future meetings of the working group. I have been told of councils which have 50 out of 109 gravel pits that expired on 30 June this year and only a few of those 50 pits have been reactivated. This is causing a huge impost on them from a cost point of view to cart that gravel the extra distances. If you go over the border, New South Wales councils do not have this issue with gravel supply.

Ms Boyd: They don't have leasehold land.

Ms LEAHY: It makes you ask the question of why this is happening in Queensland when the legislation referred to is federal legislation. Why is this playing out in Queensland only? And they do have leasehold land in New South Wales. I say to the Labor government: resolve this issue and stop giving councils gravel rash.


Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Members for Everton, Pine Rivers and Maryborough, I ask that you refrain from interjecting so we can hear the member conclude her speech.

Ms LEAHY: The government has only begun to take this issue seriously since the LNP first raised it. Once again, councils have fallen victim to the chaos and crisis of this tired, third-term Labor government.

In estimates we also heard the concerns about the government's failure to act on a faulty pH system in Yarrabah, which resulted in contaminated drinking water. Shockingly, it was exposed that it took the water minister months to speak to the Yarrabah mayor about the issue, following concerns that were first raised with the department in 2022.

The estimates process, despite its well-known and long-standing shortcomings, provided no significant evidence that the government has a sustainable and considered plan to restore and improve key services or bring stability to local government. This government is consumed by crisis and chaos and by shortages that leave councils with gravel rash. This government has again failed in its basic responsibilities for Queenslanders.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.24 pm): I rise to contribute to the estimates debate for 2023. The estimates process aids the parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. Since 1994, committees of the parliament have undertaken the estimates process by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. From 1 August 2023 to 10 August 2023, each of the seven portfolio committees held a public hearing at which the Premier, ministers and certain senior public servants and officers were questioned regarding the proposed expenditures for their relevant portfolio areas. I proudly serve on the state parliament's State Development and Regional Industries Committee which deals with the portfolios of state development, manufacturing, local government, agriculture and water, with the respective ministers being Steven Miles, Mark Furner and Glenn Butcher. On 2 August, these ministers presented themselves to the committee to be examined.

I was pleased that the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development was able to provide an update as to the booming Queensland economy. We have the opportunity in Queensland to support the creation of the battery industry and its associated supply chains. The Deputy Premier said that the goal of the Palaszczuk government is to be a battery industry leader as global demand for new energy


storage facilities surge. One of Queensland's huge natural advantages is our globally significant critical mineral reserves. We are fortunate to have plentiful vanadium, cobalt, copper and rare earth elements. These elements are essential to the development of clean energy technologies like solar panels, battery storage and electric vehicles.

With Minister Furner, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I was pleased to ask him to outline how the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collaborating in Queensland with the fishing industry and the community to ensure they have their voices heard. Minister Furner advised that the Palaszczuk government continues to listen to Queenslanders through the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027, an election commitment which has seen the establishment of fisheries working groups. He advised that there are now 16 fisheries working groups in place across the state, as well as the Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel, providing operational advice directly to government on the management of our wonderful fishery resources in Queensland. He said that the Palaszczuk government is committed to managing our fisheries resources in a sustainable and responsible manner, recognising the interests of all Queenslanders. An important part of fisheries management is stakeholder engagement through these working groups. Recently in June 2023, the minister appointed 10 members to the newly formed Cape York Special Fisheries Working Group. This working group will work closely with key stakeholders in identifying new economic pathways for First Nations communities in Cape York through charter fisheries and tourism opportunities.

Minister Butcher, the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, was asked a question by the member for Nanango as to the future of the Cormorant Bay Cafe at Wivenhoe Dam. Prior to its closure in 2019, the Cormorant Bay Cafe was a major tourist attraction at Wivenhoe Dam, and I was a regular customer of that excellent cafe. The member for Nanango directed her question to Neil Brennan, the CEO of SEQwater, who advised—

Seqwater is supportive of Somerset council's investigations into the future use of the Cormorant Bay Cafe building. Seqwater has provided consent and financial support for council to undertake an engineering review of the condition of the existing building to inform future commercial use. Seqwater is prepared to undertake the required structural remediation works to the building, provided council agrees to enter a lease of the building, undertake the fit-out, secure a tenant and reopen the building for commercial use. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the council and keeping the community informed. The previous cafe lease expired in March 2019 and the tenant did not take up the offer for a new lease.

I look forward to the reopening of the Cormorant Bay Cafe at Wivenhoe Dam.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.29 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak about the estimates hearing before the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. I would like to thank my colleague, the member for Burleigh, for his assistance in the statement of reservation and also all of our shadow ministers—the member for Kawana, the member for Nanango, the member for Warrego and the member for Gympie who assisted us through that process. I would also like to place on record my thanks to the secretariat for the great work they did, particularly Margaret Telford for keeping an eye on the time and making sure that the time granted to the government and opposition was fair. We actually ended up ahead on the ledger in our committee hearing. However, I must say that whilst we received the extra time, the chair, Chris Whiting, did take the opportunity to repeat a few questions and take up some time.

The biggest issue that I have with the estimates process before I go into any detail about it is that the answers provided, particularly in response to opposition questions, are not always directly relevant to the question that is asked. We talked about the Dorothy Dixers that the government asks which are written by the department and asked by the government committee members, trying to promote the government's agenda. The issue I have, in regards to the questions that the opposition ask, is that the ministers are not held to account to answer those questions. I listened to our opposition leader's advice that we will reform the estimates process and we will see some fairness in that process to make sure those answers are being given correctly and properly.

There was a lot of disclosure through our committee. I mention the member for Kawana's questioning of the Deputy Premier and the \$2.4 billion of infrastructure that we talked about that was not going to be spent on Olympic infrastructure. I raised the issue of the north and south transport corridors, but I want to make sure that we see a western transport corridor also delivered as a legacy for the Olympics. Of course, as we heard through the estimates process, there is not a release plan for the infrastructure for the Olympics at this stage, which is very disappointing.


In terms of the other issues, particularly around planning and the housing approval numbers being the lowest on record since 2012, one of the biggest problems we see across South-East Queensland is the lack of available land able to be opened up. I heard the Deputy Premier announce

again through this estimates the Caboolture West corridor. I think this was about the third or fourth time that was announced. Let's see those infrastructure plans coordinated and see these large developments happen because it will then create housing supply that will assist in our housing crisis that our shadow minister, the member for Everton, so eloquently and passionately talks about.

In terms of the local government area, one of the biggest issues, as we had heard earlier, was around this gravel shortage. It was interesting to start off in the state development area, through the QRA, and we ended up with the director-general giving us an undertaking that they would be participants in the working group. During the estimates process, this was prosecuted and we found out that the DAF and resources were part of this working group. I stress to the government that we know the problem is about ILUAs and leases—we know that is the problem—but let's get this coordination group with decision-makers on it so that they do not have to take the time to go back. Get a delegation at that working group, make decisions and let's free up local government to build and repair the flood damage and disaster damage—up to \$7 billion under the QRA right across the state.

As we heard earlier from the member for Nanango, one of the issues was regarding water and particularly water security across the state and, with the Olympics pending, making sure there is enough water security for not only South-East Queensland but also for our farmers. I am pleased to hear that there are some plans coming out regarding that water security and around the use of recycled water. However, one of the biggest issues for my local area is the undetected leaks, and I must say that Rob Foster and Baba Brockman have been working with us to make sure that can be resolved. I thank the executive government who put that cost-of-living measure in place. That is what governments should do to assist our residents. There should be a lot more like them.

(Time expired)

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.34 pm): One of my favourite things to do is to talk about the Palaszczuk Labor government budget. How good is this budget! There is cost-of-living relief, major infrastructure and a brand new Bundaberg hospital, but what I really love about this process is reading the statement of reservation. I have the statement of reservation here. It has been signed by the member for Lockyer, Mr Jim McDonald, and the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart. They have signed it so we know that they are their words. They have said, 'The opposition members of the committee agree with passing the 2023-24 budget.' Hear, hear, comrades! Hear, hear! Well done! Comrade Hart and Comrade McDonald know that it is the Palaszczuk Labor government delivering for the state of Queensland. Hear, hear! Well done!

I do have to raise one issue: they have said, 'The government is becoming increasingly sclerotic. It has grown rigid and unresponsive.' They are saying we are tired, we are weary, we are rigid, but it was funny because I was reading the education statement of reservation and the introduction is word for word. I have a bit of a suspicion that every other statement of reservation will be word for word. Not many people know about this—I keep it pretty quiet—but I used to be an English teacher. Let me just say I can spot plagiarism from a mile away. The LNP get an E-minus—we do not do F anymore—an E-minus all the way down the scale. Well done, comrades, for backing in the budget anyway.

I do have to raise the issue of the member for Warrego talking about the Bundaberg East flood levee. The member for Warrego tried to put out a media release in Bundaberg the following week saying that I had spoken mistruths and that I had committed to the project being delivered by 2024. I said to all of the journalists, 'Can you find the quote where I said that? If you do, go for gold—run the story.' It turns out that the story was never run. I wonder why.

Let's talk about the Bundaberg East flood levee. We know why the levee has not been able to be completed yet: we committed 50 per cent of the cost for the levee and we called upon the Morrison federal Liberal government. They refused to fund it. Keith Pitt was openly telling people that it was a bad project, that it would not do any good for the people of Bundaberg. However, then you get the Freedom of Information request directed to the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Australia, Mr David Littleproud, and it says on 12 April 2021 that the department recommended the funding to the Prime Minister. In fact, it said—

The two funding options recommended by the Director General of Emergency Management Australia (EMA) include funding for a component of the cost of the Bundaberg Flood Levee (the levee). The levee was identified by the Queensland Government as Queensland's priority application.

So, Queensland's No. 1 priority. But there is more. The FOI request to Minister Littleproud further stated—


The Director General's recommendation followed the advice from the intergovernmental Program Review Panel (the Panel) that assessed the project as a highly impactful flood mitigation infrastructure project in accordance with the Program's Guidelines.

And this is the kicker—

The levee project received the highest rated score nationally for all projects submitted to the Program.

So it was the No. 1 project in the country and Keith Pitt blocked it. He did absolutely everything he could to block it. However, luckily not only do we have a Labor state government, we have a Labor federal government and we are delivering that project.

What I also want to talk about is how good it is to build trains in Maryborough. How good is it to build Queensland trains in Queensland, by Queenslanders, for Queenslanders? I will say 'Queenslanders' one more time just because. What we know is that trains built in Maryborough also means jobs for Bundaberg. There will be people in the Bundaberg region who will be jumping in the car, driving a couple of minutes down the highway, about 45 minutes to an hour, having a highly skilled job that is a highly paid job as well. Well done to the member for Maryborough. Well done to the Palaszczuk Labor government and the entire cabinet for making sure that the money is there to build trains in Maryborough, because it means jobs for the people of the Wide Bay region—jobs in Hervey Bay, jobs in Maryborough, jobs in Bundaberg. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government delivering. No wonder Comrade Hart and Comrade McDonald are so keen about trains being built in Maryborough. They are absolutely excited. It is another fantastic budget by an ever better Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.39 pm): With regret, I say that since I have been a member of this place, I have observed a deterioration in the integrity of the estimates committee process. I remember initially I observed ministers sweating under the collar. I remember vividly Jeff Seeney, who was someone I did not share a strong relationship with, once saying, 'Thank goodness that is over.' That was my memory of the estimates process at the start. The profound image I have now is of ministers comfortably walking in, delivering written speeches and written responses and then walking comfortably back out. I think everyone loses from that. I even think the government loses from that. Everyone wants to see interrogation of the budget and some real rigour around that. If government MPs come in and ask the soft questions of their ministers who give a Dorothy Dixier response, everyone loses; no-one wins.

That is not promoting the budget. The government has a huge advertising budget to promote and celebrate its budget, but it should not do it in the House where we are trying to interrogate it. It should not burn that time. The government has a great proportion of the time. There are not hundreds of thousands of people watching what we are doing in estimates. That is our opportunity to really interrogate the budget. I think a good government should welcome that because it is not always going to get it right. There will be people like myself who come from a remote part of Queensland who are given an opportunity to fix things and identify where things may be wrong. I think I got five to 10 minutes every hour to an hour and a half. I got 30 seconds or maybe a minute if I was lucky to ask a question. Instead of me getting to ask a second question, the minister just read a response and burnt up all my time to ask questions giving a response that was pretty vanilla and did not really answer the question asked.

I will say there were some exceptions in the water portfolio. The director-general did a really good job of trying to engage. I did not like the answers she was giving, but she did try to engage and give a real response. I appreciate that and I give her credit for that. I fear that we are heading to a point where if the government is trying to disconnect people from the political process and stop them watching estimates, well done, it has succeeded. If it really wants to build up the integrity of this parliament it has to think about how it is managing that. That has been done in an increasingly poorer way and it is way too soft on the ministers.

I will start with the water portfolio, which I was really interested in prosecuting after the Flinders tender. I think it requires a hell of a lot of scrutiny. We locked horns about property rights. There are some ridiculous conditions in the tender that are requiring people to get agreement from everyone downstream before they can proceed. The director-general was saying that is just like a property right. My response was that of course people had property rights when you are trying to build a bridge or a highway. That is why there is compulsory acquisition. If it is the direction and the judgement call by the government of the day to see this progress, it needs to facilitate that. It cannot be left up to proponents to work everything out themselves. Just saying that they are their property rights and they are enshrined in everything and no-one should touch them—that does not happen; that is not the real world. If so, governments would never build any dam, highway or bridge. I was talking about triggers for compulsory arbitration in that process.

I challenged the integrity of the flow stream data for the Flinders, which everyone on the ground knows is rubbish. I flew over those 2019 floods, which were biblical floods, at 5,000 feet and could see water 30 kilometres that way and 30 kilometres the other way. Honourable members should look at what the flow stream records say, and I know councils were not even reporting some of the daily flow stream figures. We are told rigidly that we cannot compromise the flow stream in the Flinders and we can only take so much percentage. However, the integrity of the data is rubbish and we know that. That needs to be prosecuted in a place like this, but we do not get the time and the opportunity to do so because we are bogged down listening to promotion of the government's position on things.

I also talked about the Longreach agriculture college. That was an absolutely disgraceful decision by the government.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr KATTER: A private entity was going to take it over again and start delivering training. Does the member opposite know how many people have graduated from TAFE with a Certificate III in Agriculture? There has been one a year—that is one a year in North Queensland. That is an absolute disgrace. Members opposite should be ashamed about that. That is when they should listen to what we are saying and say, 'Crikey, maybe we should address this.' Private industry was sitting there and they offered \$2 million more than the next highest offer and the government cut them out at the first run. That was a silly decision and the government needs to be held to account. I did not get a good response on that.

I also did not receive a good response on biosecurity. We were talking about lumpy skin disease with the Indonesians. If the government was doing its job in terms of biosecurity it would say, 'We had our sentinel herds there. We checked them. They were clear.' Bang, there would be no argument. It could not do that because guess what? I know how they have been checking in the Northern Territory. They were doing 20 to 30 checks when we were only doing five. If the Territory can do that, surely—

(Time expired)


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The time for this debate has expired.

Report adopted.

Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The question is—

That the report of the Education, Employment and Training Committee be adopted.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.44 pm): I have listened to a number of contributions in this place today, so I just want to start off with some facts because facts are important. The fact is that our Education, Employment and Training Committee hearing went for seven hours and 49 minutes. Of the seven hours and 49 minutes government questions went for two hours and 34 minutes and non-government questions went for four hours and 47 minutes. There were 186 questions asked throughout our estimates process. That was 186 questions. Of those, 35 questions were asked by the government and they were all very good questions, all interrogating the budget. There were 151 questions that were asked by the non-government members. Let me say that again: that is 35—

Mr Mander: How many of them were answered?

Ms RICHARDS: I am not taking your interjections.

Mr Mander: No, how many of them were answered?

Ms RICHARDS: I am not taking your interjections. There were 35 questions from government members and 151 from non-government members. Of those, 46.2 per cent were asked of the minister and 53.8 per cent of the director-general and other officers. They are the facts of how our estimates hearing was conducted. A very generous amount of time was allotted to members who are equally representative of this parliament.

I want to talk about behaviour, language and tone because how we conduct ourselves in this place is what is on display to our communities. To the member for Moggill, I say thank you; to the member for Buderim, I say thank you; even to the member for Everton in the racing portfolio, I say thank you. However, to the member for Kawana, I say my goodness gracious me, that is absolutely again extraordinarily disrespectful behaviour towards a committee chair.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: That is absolutely and extraordinarily disrespectful behaviour towards a committee chair. It is disrespectful behaviour, totally unnecessary and totally irrelevant to the estimates process. It was time wasted by the member for Kawana. It was absolutely disgraceful behaviour.

Mr Bleijie: I will give you a disgraceful—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Kawana.

Ms RICHARDS: The member for Kawana sets the tone and he is doing it right now.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: That is the behaviour Queenslanders really do not want to see. That is the behaviour that members really do not want to see.

The process was fair to everybody in allowing them to ask questions. We interrogated the education budget and we looked at a range of issues with robustness and rigour. We got to look at all of the great work and some of the challenges that are being faced in all of those portfolios. The world is never perfect.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: In education, we got to look at all of the air conditioning works that have been completed for all of our schools.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, several times I have asked you to cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.


Mr Sullivan interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stafford, that is not required either.

Ms RICHARDS: We looked at important programs that are going to provide cost-of-living relief such as free kindy and the investment in infrastructure, a huge investment in school infrastructure, the new schools that are on the drawing board, our schools that are getting new playground upgrades and new tuckshop upgrades, student wellbeing—all of those things are really important to Queenslanders. They are important to our school communities. They are important to teachers and to students.

In the racing space we looked at a number of elements. We looked at the betting tax revenue and what that is contributing to racetrack infrastructure and we also looked at country racing. The member for Hinchinbrook is very passionate about country racing as is the member for Rockhampton.

With regard to industrial relations, so much time was absolutely wasted in not genuinely interrogating all of the aspects of industrial relations and its importance to workers here in Queensland. Time was wasted with media sensationalist bad behaviour, to put it simply. In the area of training, we looked at Fee-Free TAFE and the TAFE upgrades. We have seen some great work in that space. In the area of small business, we looked at the Queensland Workforce Strategy and the jobs committees. I thank the Small Business Commissioner for appearing. In the youth justice space, we looked at a range of complex issues that our society is facing. There are challenges that we all need to be on the same page to solve. This process was fair and equitable and interrogated an important budget for all Queenslanders.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.50 pm): With reference to the education estimates, I reflect on the comments made by the member for Redlands about behaviour. I say to her that 'behaviour' also applies to the chair giving equal opportunity and not interrupting, as was the case. Those opposite might not like the questions; they might not like us prosecuting the issues. There is something I do not accept under the estimates process we have. We ask a question and the minister does not give the answer, but when we ask again in a different way, because we are demanding an answer, we are told, 'No, it is okay. They have decided not to answer the question.' It used to be the case that directors-general and ministers were transparent in an estimates process and they would give information, but under this government that is not the case. I was thrown out of that committee at the end of the hearing—

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Redlands. When I mentioned Rebecca Young, her competitor, the chair threw me out. I was thrown out because I mentioned the LNP candidate for Redlands—a little sensitive, I suspect.

Through the estimates process I exposed, through the industrial relations minister, that WorkCover had hired an ex-bikie—an ex-criminal—to give motivational speeches. Is it any wonder that the department—the minister is an ex-union official herself—would hire ex-bikies to deliver motivational speeches? They said that he had reformed, but last year he committed an assault—

Ms Grace: Disgusting. You should be ashamed of yourself.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the minister: disgusting. This fellow was convicted last year of assault occasioning bodily harm in the minister's own electorate, in the Valley. He put someone in hospital for four days. Then the department hired him to deliver motivational speeches to public servants. That is the disgrace. It is an absolute disgrace.


What also is a disgrace is that for years the minister kept telling me that I should not be mentioning Helen Burgess, a senior officer in the Office of Industrial Relations, and the cosy relationship between the OIR and the CFMEU. It was exposed not with my complaint to the CCC but through a Queensland Industrial Relations Commission judgement. Had that judgement not been released in March, Queenslanders would not know that Helen Burgess had allegations that were substantiated. The allegations that she used her personal mobile phone to receive a complaint from the CFMEU about SEQ Formwork was substantiated. Not only did she receive photos from the CFMEU to her personal mobile phone; she then on-forwarded those to another senior officer's personal mobile phone. She just did not happen to use the 'official mobile phone'. That was substantiated. Then when you read the court case you see that it just so happens she does not have that mobile phone anymore. She could not tell the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission what else was on the phone because she just happened not to have that particular personal mobile phone anymore.

We also exposed that when the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission handed down that judgement in March this year, SEQ Formwork—suddenly, out of the blue, three years later—received a letter from the QBCC questioning whether the director was a fit and proper person to hold a directors licence. Was it just a coincidence that SEQ Formwork made complaints about the Office of Industrial Relations—and senior officer Helen Burgess in the Office of Industrial Relations—and practices between the Office of Industrial Relations and the CFMEU? Those allegations were made in 2021. The department wrote back to me to say that none of the matters were substantiated. Then there is a court case saying that they were substantiated. I think that warrants a far more thorough investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission. Suddenly, three years later, after the matter is finished, the QBCC get involved, and now they are wondering whether this person is fit and proper. The department could not tell me who referred the matter to the QBCC from workplace health and safety. Something is going on in the Office of Industrial Relations. This minister does not support her independent workplace health and safety officers.

(Time expired)

Interruption.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge in the gallery James Tien, who is the deputy minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taiwan. I thank him and the other delegates for their kind visit here this afternoon.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report

Resumed.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.55 pm): After that disgusting behaviour in the House, it is no wonder they think the estimates system does not suit them. In all of the time we had—and there were hours; this committee had the longest set time—the facts, according to the chair, are that 30 per cent of the time was taken up with government questions and about 69 per cent of the time was taken up by those opposite. I would not mind if they were asking me questions about our \$17.8 billion budget. I would not

mind if they wanted more information on free kindy and how we will roll it out. I would not mind if they talked about the \$2.1 billion infrastructure spend, the nearly \$50 million in remote teacher housing, the new special school in Logan, other schools, and our tuckshops and playgrounds funding. I would not mind if we talked about the independent review of racing which shows that racing is thriving in this state. I would not mind if we talked about the new sustainable funding model which is the envy of every other state and territory in the country. If you talk to any trainer or any person in racing they will tell you that they think what we have done in Queensland is unbelievable. In industrial relations, I would not mind talking about our leading record in standing up for workers, new codes that give stronger protection for workers or the changes to the IR Act that strengthen worker protection.

Instead, what do we hear? We hear a character assassination of public servants, which has been never-ending, by the member for Kawana. He continually attacks a senior public servant in the department. There is a big difference between claiming corruption and collusion to the CCC and the breach of a workplace code of conduct. When that was found, the department took action. An appeal was lodged in the QIRC. The QIRC, as we know, is public and publishes its decision. The decision was that there was a breach, and action was taken by the department. It has nothing to do with corruption or collusion in the CCC.


The fact that the member for Kawana, as a previous IR minister, does not understand the distinction between the thresholds of corruption and collusion versus a breach of a workplace procedure is outstanding. It is incredible. What do we get? We get the character assassination of a person who was merely defending their rights. People have a right to appeal and they have a right to set the record straight. In this case, the decision was handed down. Somehow we are supposed to interpret that decision for the member for Kawana. The member for Kawana should do his homework and make his own interpretation. We are not here to do that.

WorkCover gave a \$1,000 donation to the CEO Sleepout. That program's ambassador is Matt Kratiuk. Matt is the St Vinnie's CEO Sleepout ambassador. This man's life is an open book. He turned his life around. In fact, Matt says—

My life today is just miraculous. People need to know I was that guy you walk past on the train and you think he is too far gone. He is past the point of no return.

But the fact is, that's not the case. All these people need is to be loved back to life, and I'm happy to work very hard and rally for any organisation such as Vinnies that's going to be a part of that journey for people.

Matt has turned his life around. He is an ambassador for Vinnies. He has raised hundreds of thousands for homelessness because he thought he was at the end of his road. He has turned it around. He speaks to some of the major law firms—contributors to the LNP, I might add—and some of the most prominent boardrooms in Queensland and around the world. It was a thousand dollar donation. He was not employed by WorkCover. It was an informal, voluntary address if staff wanted to come along to hear Matt as a St Vinnies CEO Sleepout Ambassador, yet the character assassination by the member for Kawana in this House is absolutely appalling. He said that Matt mentioned WorkCover on his website. I wonder whether he mentioned that John Howard was a big supporter of Matt Kratiuk.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.00 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I rise to address the Appropriation Bill for 2023-24 and specifically the proposed expenditure of the Palaszczuk state Labor government as examined by the Queensland parliament's Education, Employment and Training Committee during the budget estimates hearing on 3 August 2023. Throughout the estimates hearing the Labor Minister for Education continued to backtrack on the ironclad election commitment that Labor made to Queenslanders at the 2020 state election when Labor said that it would hire 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides.

Ms Grace interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I know the Labor Minister for Education does not like to hear this, but no amount of rubbery figures or tricky semantics from the minister could mask the fact that this state government will barely be able to replace the teachers that it is losing through attrition, let alone recruit the teacher numbers that it promised at the 2020 state election during this term of parliament. Even the latest Queensland public sector workforce profile showed that it had only recruited 587. What is more, and as revealed through pre-estimates question on notice No. 17, 5,700 teachers and teacher aides have quit the Department of Education over the last 18 months. The director-general of the Department of Education, when questioned, confirmed that there are no specific measures or processes in place to comprehensively understand why so many Queensland teachers are leaving the Department of Education.

Also during the hearing important transparency and accountability measures were raised in relation to the interactions with Labor aligned lobbying firms and sustained lobbying activity with not only the Minister for Education's office but also senior executives of the Department of Education. Important questions were also asked regarding Anacta Strategies meeting with the then chief of staff of the Minister for Education on behalf of Aspen Medical just a week and a half before a Cabinet Budget Review Committee meeting was attended by the minister prior to the awarding of a \$40 million contract with Aspen Medical.

Ms Grace interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I know the Labor government does not like to hear about Aspen Medical, but what we know is that Aspen Medical—

Mr STEVENS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Education has been interjecting time and time again, and not from her own seat. She knows the rules well and if she wants to—

Ms Grace: Leader of the House.

Mr STEVENS: No, you are not the Leader of the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, members! I will hear the point of order in silence. Member, there is no point of order. I am listening. The member is in her allocated seat at the moment and there is no point of order.

Dr ROWAN: We know that this government does not like to hear about Anacta, but what we do know is that during the last election Anacta was there at 1 William Street and has been lobbying on behalf of various Labor mates. I know the minister does not like to hear about that, but there are important questions about that. On the subject of the Cabinet Budget Review Committee, the minister was also specifically asked—

... given you sit on CBRC: when did you find out about the \$2.4 billion cost blowout for train manufacturing?

The minister refused to provide a date, and we now know why, and she wants Queenslanders to move on, but Queenslanders will not move on from that scandal—the cover-up—that has been engulfing this government. Queenslanders are absolutely seeing what has been happening.

Ms GRACE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in terms of relevance in relation to the portfolio we are discussing at the moment. This is under the transport portfolio and completely irrelevant—not even close.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I will give you some caution to come back to the report.


Dr ROWAN: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, but the point was that that was asked of the minister during the estimates hearings.

Ms Grace: Yes, and was completely irrelevant then and it is completely irrelevant now.

Dr ROWAN: The minister continues to interject. She did not like hearing the questions and does not like hearing the truth when it comes to this government and the lack of openness and transparency, but I will return to what we are talking about here in relation to the education estimates hearing. The estimates hearing also uncovered the extensive use of external consultancies by the Department of Education, and there were certainly significant questions about outsourcing and not utilising the expert skills of our internal public servants. There are also matters raised in relation to the awarding of contracts to Deloitte, specifically given the awarding of contracts following the 2022 federal election, given a senior director of Deloitte also ran as the federal Labor candidate for Brisbane and campaigned alongside the Premier and the Minister for Education, so there are serious questions about this.

Importantly, we also found out that not a single educational target in reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 has been met, and Indigenous outcomes are even worse in Queensland. The Minister for Education does not like to hear that, but the fact is students in Queensland are being failed and it is even worse in our Indigenous communities, particularly when we also look at declining attendance rates. Not only is there a teacher workforce crisis in Queensland but educational outcomes are declining and targets are not being met across years 3, 5, 7 and 9, and again it is even worse in Indigenous communities. This government might like to talk about closing the gap in Queensland, but the gap is widening and it is widening under educational outcomes when it comes to Indigenous communities in Queensland. This Labor government obviously needs to look at this particularly and do more. It needs to get kids to school so they can be learning in those schools and the government needs to address the teacher workforce crisis in Queensland.

I also note that the director-general of education raised the forthcoming new proficiency levels for NAPLAN. In advance of the release of NAPLAN results this year, the Minister for Education must explicitly outline how these results will be interpreted and importantly be read and interpreted against previous years' results. We also know that the behavioural management framework is broken in Queensland and that drug use and suspensions are up by 190 per cent under this Labor government since it was elected in 2015. There are many more matters that we will continue to prosecute. There was not enough time at estimates and there are many matters that this government must address when it comes to the portfolio of education.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (4.06 pm): I want to thank the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its consideration of matters in relation to my portfolio. I thank the very excellent chair, the deputy chair—whom I do have a bit of a soft spot for—all members who participated in the hearing, the committee secretariat and the public servants of my department who work so hard to get us ready for estimates.

After listening to those opposite, what a mob of whingers. They are such a mob of whingers. When those opposite were in government the opposition had seven members and they truncated estimates down to two days to make it impossible for any accountability or transparency, yet they come to our estimates and whinge, whinge, whinge. They got 69 per cent of the questions in our hearing, and they just ask the same questions every year. The member for Buderim literally asks the same questions every year. The member for Clayfield just asked the same question over and over, and I do not even know why the member for Currumbin was there because she did not even seem to be listening. What an insult to the members of the committee like the wonderful member for Southern Downs that she was brought in over the top of them.

The estimates hearing did give me an opportunity to talk about some of the really fantastic things we are doing in skills and training such as our \$1.4 billion investment in skills and training and Fee-Free TAFE, and we have seen a 134 per cent increase in commencements. We are leading the nation in completions and we are leading the nation in VET in schools. We have a big VET review underway. In employment I could talk about our Queensland Workforce Strategy and the fact that we have put more than 45,000 people into jobs just in the last year alone. In small business we have the results of the Big Plans for Small Business Strategy and we have a new strategy coming up, our 30 per cent procurement policy and the big Olympics procurement strategy. We have our mental health package and our Small Business Commissioner. In youth justice we have the strongest laws in the country. We are building two new youth therapeutic detention centres. We have invested almost half a billion dollars in early intervention and prevention programs and we are starting to see some great results.

It was a great chance to talk about some of those wonderful initiatives. I was amazed to read the statement of reservation. I am surprised they managed to do even a page's worth because there is no content in anything they say. Let me speak to a few issues they raised. Those opposite complained about critical workforce shortages and that we are not addressing those. I do not actually recall one single time I have ever been asked in this House by those opposite about workforce shortages. If any of us go to any of our employers in our electorates around the state the No. 1 issue is workforce shortages. Not once have those opposite ever asked about it, but they stuck it in their statement of reservation.

The member for Buderim likes to ask about completions. I will tell the member how you guarantee completions: for a start, you do not sack TAFE teachers; you do not close TAFE campuses; you do not annihilate the public providers so people in rural and remote Queensland do not have access to campuses; and you do not open it up to private sector cowboys so they can double or triple the fees from one semester to the next or cancel courses. That is how you avoid people not completing their courses.


In relation to youth justice, those opposite make it sound like they go around Queensland and talk about youth justice as if it is their No. 1 priority. The opposition leader and the deputy opposition leader left it to the B team to come and ask about youth justice. They could not be bothered. Their—I cannot call it a policy; it is not a policy. It is 13 words long. It is three slogans. I asked them earlier today to give us another 13, another 10 maybe. We thought maybe we could get a bit more information. We asked ChatGPT if it could do a haiku about the LNP's youth justice policy. We actually got 13 words! Do members know what it comes up with? ChatGPT is so clever; they should use it. It says—

LNP's empty words

youth justice policies missed

hollow promises.

Just ask ChatGPT. Those opposite cannot come up with anything.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.11 pm): With the indulgence of the House I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the death last Sunday in Buderim of Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith SG, MC. Harry Smith was the company commander of Delta Company 6RAR at the Battle of Long Tan. There will be few Australians unaware of the gallantry of the 108 servicemen who battled the Viet Cong at the Battle of Long Tan. Harry Smith's bravery and leadership were recognised. It was his unstinting commitment to fighting for his soldiers that I admire most about Harry Smith. Long after he retired he was fighting for the men whom he served with. He never took a backward step and was always loyal. His death has sent shockwaves through the Queensland veterans community. On behalf of the Buderim community and on behalf of the veterans community I would like to acknowledge his contribution. Vale Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith SG, MC.

Turning now to the estimates debate, I did have some notes, but after the contribution from the minister I think I might depart from my notes. This is the minister who presided over the kids in watch houses debacle; the minister who has literally created the problem in youth justice that is besetting our communities right now. The minister has the hide to come in here and rattle off some rubbish from ChatGPT. Is that what Queenslanders deserve? Queenslanders deserve policies that will deliver for them and right now this Palaszczuk Labor government is failing Queenslanders—it is failing Queensland families, it is failing Queensland businesses. To have a minister like Minister Farmer responsible for youth justice—


Ms Boyd: Attacking the women all the time.

Mr MICKELBERG: Listen to them playing victim! We have people like the member for Pine Rivers, whose own community is beset with crime, and she comes in here silent all the time because she wants to get promoted when Bailey gets the chop. Never mind that another year has gone by—and what have we seen from the Palaszczuk Labor government? Another year where they have failed to meet their own apprenticeship completion targets, they have failed to meet their own school-based apprenticeship targets and they do not have a plan to train the next generation of workers. They have a generation of failure.

Over the last 12 months the Palaszczuk Labor government's apprenticeship completion target was 11½ thousand but they delivered 9,800. Apparently that is achieving. Over the last eight years the Palaszczuk Labor government has never delivered on their completion target for apprenticeships. This is a Labor government that prides itself on training, supposedly, and they have never met their own target for apprenticeship completions. They like to talk about commencements—they sing about commencements—but it is all for nothing when people do not actually finish their training. More people quit training than finish training. More people are dropping out of construction apprenticeships than finishing construction apprenticeships. When I asked the minister and the director-general about what modelling was done to arrive at those targets the answer was they are stretch targets. That is the target you have when you do not really care if you are going to hit the target. They do not care because it is all about the announcement. They focus on commencements and not completions because it is all about the announcement. They do not care about delivery. Frankly, Queenslanders deserve better.

Trade areas like construction have some of the worst outcomes. Any Queenslander can tell you about their experience trying to get a tradie at the moment. It is affecting projects like building trades and Cross River Rail which are blowing out by billions of dollars. It is because of the failure to act and the failure to deliver by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I asked some questions, such as 'What actions are you going to do to ensure this downward trend does not continue?' The silence was deafening. Do members know what the Palaszczuk Labor government's response to the problem has been? They took a program from 2006 called Train to Retain. They changed one word—give them some credit—and reannounced it as Train and Retain. They made no changes to the program from 2006 and they expect that will fix the problems besetting Queensland's skills and trades sector at the moment. The minister has simply rebadged an existing failure and pretended that they will get a different result. Time and time again Queenslanders see the result of this Palaszczuk Labor government's failure. They see the result because this Palaszczuk Labor government only cares about the announcement and they do not care about the delivery.

I am fast running out of time, but I want to address the issue of crime on small business. I asked questions about whether or not the department had considered the 41 per cent increase in offences against businesses in the last 12 months. The answer was no. They did not ask it in their survey. They do not think it is an issue. The minister, to her credit, does. Her director-general has not even thought about it. How can those businesses have any confidence that this Palaszczuk Labor government is working for them when they will not even listen.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.17 pm): On 3 August the Education, Employment and Training Committee examined the Appropriation Bill 2023 and budget estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility. The estimates process allowed members to ask questions of Minister Grace and Minister Farmer. I congratulate the ministers, their staff and the government employees from the various departments. All were very well prepared and I appreciate the large volume of work that takes place behind the scenes.

Minister Grace in her opening statement spoke of delivering yet another record school and early education budget of \$17.8 billion. This includes free kindy for all Queenslanders. I know in my electorate it has been extremely well received, as I am sure it has been in your electorate. Not only will it leave a positive legacy for years to come; it will also provide cost-of-living relief, with families set to save up to \$4,600 per year.

All our teachers, support staff and students deserve to work and learn in world-class facilities, which is why our ambitious investment in education infrastructure continues. There is \$2.1 billion this year alone to build, improve, expand and maintain schools right across the state. In my electorate I have seen an investment of around \$100 million in school infrastructure since the Palaszczuk government was elected.


In the industrial relations portfolio, the Palaszczuk government continues to stand up for and support Queensland workers with our nation-leading reforms. The minister spoke of the important codes that have come into force, giving our workers some of the strongest protection in the country when it comes to psychological wellbeing and silicosis prevention.

In the racing portfolio, the independent IER report found that under the Palaszczuk government the economic contribution of the Queensland racing industry has soared 83 per cent to a record \$2.2 billion. Racing is thriving in this state and our new sustainable funding model is providing not only certainty but also a big boost to our country racing clubs, which are the heart of so many communities in regional and remote areas.

Minister Farmer spoke of her priorities for youth justice and community safety, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and targeting serious repeat offenders. She made the commitment that everything they will do will be based on evidence. In addition to the evaluation of the youth justice programs and services being undertaken by the Auditor-General, her director-general will also be undertaking evaluations.

The minister spoke of her government's investment of more than \$1.2 billion per annum in skills and training. She said that we must ensure that the government's investment is attuned to the jobs that we need now and into the future. Currently, the state government is negotiating a new national skills agreement with the Commonwealth. VET qualifications will support Queenslanders gain employment in eight of the 10 largest growing occupations by 2025-26. Through this review the department will make sure that our systems meet the needs of our current workforce now and into the future. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, representing 97 per cent of Queensland businesses and nearly 50 per cent of private sector employees. They bring \$145 billion in revenue to Queensland.

Non-government members were given well over 50 per cent of the time to ask questions in comparison to the government members. Finally, I would like to thank the secretariat and parliamentary staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process and the staff involved in the preparation. Well done to all.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.21 pm): I want to make some comments in relation to the report on the employment and small business, training and skills development, and youth justice portfolios. I will start by reflecting on the comments just made by the minister. We have a minister who is so bereft of ideas and solutions to the youth crime crisis, which is plaguing Queensland and has developed under her watch, that when she stood in this place to talk on the report she said that we should have used estimates to answer her questions about what our solution is for the youth crime crisis. This minister is so totally incompetent that she has no ideas of her own. She wanted us to come to estimates to provide her with the answers. She spent some of the time answering questions by saying, 'You tell me what you think the answer should be.' That is a failure of government. That is a failure of the last eight years. Since 2015 we have seen the systemic weakening of our youth crime laws and that has led to the explosion of youth crime now being experienced by Queenslanders up and down this state.

The minister mentioned ChatGPT and preparing speeches. Anyone who listened to her opening speech in estimates, her answer in question time this morning and then her speech this afternoon would recognise that she does not need ChatGPT because she just recycles the same speech time and time

again, giving no new answers and no new information. The only thing we found out from the minister is that the percentage of serious youth offenders has increased from 10 per cent two years ago to 17 per cent last December and 20 per cent this August. That is what we have learned from this minister. The minister said that there has been a reduction in the total number of young offenders and so on. What she did not mention is the absolute number. The absolute number of young serious repeat offenders has gone up. Bob Atkinson's report shows that the number increased from 369 in 2018 to 461 in 2021, which is a 26 per cent increase in absolute numbers. According to an answer to a question on notice on June 2023, the number of serious repeat offenders has increased from 501 to 660. We do not want cagey answers about percentages and numbers. The absolute number of serious repeat offenders has gone up and this minister has been responsible for it over that entire period.

Let us think about what the minister has done successfully in the past. We would all remember the youth bail houses. A sum of \$30 million went down the drain because this government could not run them and it cost them three consultancies: an Ernst & Young report, a validation report and then another Ernst & Young report at a cost of over \$100,000. That is what this government does when they come up with a new answer that obviously does not work.

Another interesting statistic that came out of the estimates process relates to electronic monitoring devices. Members will remember that we were going to use electronic monitoring devices to deal with it all and increase the cohort. The first plan, that is, the 2021 plan, if I recall correctly, was going to use electronic monitoring devices and I think a grand total of less than 10 were ever employed. We now find that zero electronic monitoring devices have been fitted in the new trial areas of Cairns, Mount Isa and Toowoomba. Zero devices have been put on people. That was another interesting snippet that came out of the estimates process on 2nd August.


Crime is getting worse. In absolute numbers, serious repeat offender numbers are getting worse. The percentage rate is also getting worse. We also found out that the thing that is working is breach of bail as an offence. Oh dear! Breach of bail as an offence is the one thing that is actually working. The minister said—

Under our breach of bail laws—

Not only is she plagiarising, which is bad enough; talk about ChatGPT—

we have seen 402 unique young offenders charged with a total of 1,681 charges of breach of bail. I would say that those figures, under anyone's terms, would be successful.

The only policy that they have used that is actually having a demonstrably useful affect is the LNP's breach of bail policy, which they hijacked word for word. They are the ones who should be in jail for stealing policy. This government continues to fail to deliver the safety and security that Queenslanders demand and deserve from an increasingly chaotic government.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the estimates committee report from the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I cannot believe that I follow the member for Clayfield, who talked about the Education, Employment and Training Committee with no self-awareness given that in this chamber he is the person most responsible for the sacking of 14,000 public servants, including TAFE teachers. You do not improve education and training results in this state by sacking TAFE teachers. In terms of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, we had many questions on the day—

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: I heard that, mate. Well done. You do not improve results for Queenslanders, from an individual or an economic point of view, by cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which is what the member for Clayfield did as Treasurer. Then, as opposition leader, he took to the election a commitment to cut it again. I see all the Tories coming to openings and graduations for Skilling Queenslanders for Work, slapping themselves on the back, yet they refuse to admit to their own communities and to my community that they cut it to start with and they would cut it again. That is their form.


In terms of the Education, Employment and Training Committee estimates hearing, I want to thank the ministers for their genuine contributions. I am really proud of the infrastructure that has gone into my beautiful electorate, including at Wilston State School and recent upgrades to Wavell Heights State School as well as at Kedron, Stafford Heights and many more schools. I thank them for that. I was going to thank the chair but I probably have a complaint to make. For questions, we received half the amount of time that those opposite received. I will take that up with the member for Redlands later.

She is a very good chair. If those opposite were genuine, I am sure they would admit that she did a very good job and provided those opposite with ample time for questions. Perhaps they need some assistance with writing their questions.

We saw on the day with the member for Kawana—and we saw it again today when he doubled down on it in his contribution to the debate on the Education, Employment and Training Committee report—why the LNP had to instigate ‘Operation Boring’. His own party had to try to pull him away from public statements because of the disrespect that he showed to the chair and the disregard that he showed to anything to do with education and training, which would have been an embarrassment should school students come here and see him perform. It is embarrassing. We understand. Some of us actually remember that the LNP not only instigated ‘Operation Boring’ but then leaked it to the paper so that everybody else knew about ‘Operation Boring’.

I feel sorry for some of my fellow committee members—namely, the deputy chair and member for Southern Downs and the member for Theodore. I think the deputy chair had one question, and I do not think the member for Theodore asked any questions on the day. I understand how this works. I have been at estimates from different perspectives: as staff of the now Premier as opposition leader asking questions; at the front table serving the then attorney-general; and now as an MP asking questions. I get it. If those members were passionate about this portfolio—a crucial portfolio to Queenslanders—they would ask a question. If members of the leadership team on the other side cared at all about their members who work day in and day out on the committee, they would let them have a go. Not only did those poor fellows not get a question on the day; they have now been bumped down the speaking list and cannot even contribute to this debate today. That is the disrespect those opposite show to their own MPs and to this portfolio. It is not good enough.

I thank the chair for her work and thank the ministers and their teams for their genuine efforts on the day and in our ongoing interactions. I thank both ministers, who have visited Stafford on several occasions. I thank them for their ongoing partnership. I ask them to pass on my thanks to their ministerial teams and their departmental teams as well as, of course, the statutory bodies such as TAFE, Racing Queensland and so on who again participated in a fulsome way on the day and continue to work with them very closely. For the parliamentary staff and Hansard it is a hectic couple of weeks—it is a couple of weeks; it is not two days like it was in our opposition days—so I thank everybody involved behind the scenes who make it happen.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to speak about the racing component of the education minister’s portfolios. Education, industrial relations and racing are an unusual combination, I must say. I see that the member for Mermaid Beach has just risen in interest as I talk about his great love: racing.

Ms Grace: The Gold Coast.

Mr MANDER: And the Gold Coast in particular—I take that interjection from the minister.

Mr Stevens: That was probably Lawlor’s time.

Mr MANDER: I am not taking interjections from the member for Mermaid Beach. The first thing that was a bit of a concern was that we had only half an hour dedicated to racing. I heard the minister speak earlier about how she would have liked to talk a lot more about racing and the racing portfolio. I support that sentiment. Having only 15 minutes for the opposition makes it very difficult to explore issues and to ask follow-up questions. I wanted to do that, particularly with regard to QRIC.

There have been some big changes in QRIC of late. Of course, there has been a new commissioner in the last 18 months. Upon questioning the acting commissioner, I was concerned that a number of senior staff have left the organisation over the last 18 months—people who have a high level of expertise and a high level of corporate knowledge. They included the general manager of racing in North Queensland, the thoroughbred deputy chief steward of North Queensland, the manager of the Greyhound Adoption Program, the QRIC senior counsel, the chief vet, the chief thoroughbred steward and the director of racing, licensing and registration. They are some very senior people who have all left in the last 18 months. In fact, the attrition rate over the last 18 months in QRIC has been 24.6 per cent. That is a huge turnover. The acting commissioner seemed to dismiss that as not being an issue of concern. I have heard that people are very concerned about that. I must admit: if I were the head of an organisation where the attrition rate was 24.6 per cent, I would be very concerned about the workplace culture. It is very important that QRIC be run effectively and be beyond reproach. I will be interested to see how that progresses over the next 12 months.

Another issue of concern is our jockey shortage. When I talked about a jockey shortage in regional areas, the head of Racing Queensland said, ‘It’s not only in regional areas; it is everywhere.’

Mr Stevens: The apprentice program is failing.


Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, who said that the apprentice system is failing. It is having an effect right across the board. The number of scratchings is so high that it is affecting race meets.

Mr Stevens: The jockey is missing.

Mr MANDER: Exactly, because the jockey is missing. That is not a good thing. I raised this at an estimates hearing a couple of years ago, and the then head of Racing Queensland said, 'We are very much aware of it and it's under control.' Guess what: it is not under control. I would like to see Racing Queensland's strategy to address this very serious issue. Racing in regional Queensland is very important. It very much adds to the fabric of the community.

Mr Stevens: A lot like Rugby League.

Mr MANDER: Again I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach: it is just like Rugby League. It is very important. In fact, you would say that in the regions Rugby League and racing are the major sports. When there is a big Rugby League game, everybody turns out to watch that game. It is the same with the couple of racing meets per year. That is where we have an issue. I would like to see this issue addressed. I want to see a strategy that addresses this issue. It is a very serious issue. It is important for the future of racing, particularly in our regions, that it is addressed.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.36 pm): As a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee, I rise to make my contribution to the debate of this year's estimates report. I am very proud to be a part of this committee. Members of the committee get along quite well in the way we assess and vote on issues on their merit. In terms of how the committee process played out during the estimates hearing, I acknowledge our chair, the member for Redlands, and our deputy chair for the way they conducted themselves on the day. Of course, there will always be a little bit of toing and froing and arguing over time and time allocated, but I feel, having looked at the spreadsheet that showed the time allocation to government and non-government members, that it was pretty fair.

The Education, Employment and Training Committee was able to query, as usual, the education, industrial relations and racing minister and talk about issues important to Queenslanders. During estimates hearings I like the opportunity to draw back to my own electorate and ask questions which I think are important to the people I represent. I was able to ask the education minister questions that I thought were quite pertinent, especially for the member for Traeger and his electorate. I asked what is being done to ensure that students who are unable to be supported in years 7, 8 or 9 in the remote communities of Western Queensland do not fall through the cracks.

When the state government made the decision to move year 7 students from primary school to high school, it worked really well for metropolitan and built-up areas. When applying rules across the large, vast land of Queensland—it is home to us in the west—some rules change the way people live. For example, year 7 children going into high school—unless they are to give up schooling altogether; no-one wants that for their kids in the bush—are usually moved to a boarding school. That is very daunting for such a young person. It was refreshing to hear that the minister is happy to continue to look at ways to support kids going to year 8 or 9 in some rural areas. I hope that the member for Traeger gets an opportunity to continue that conversation with the minister.

While I am on the topic of things that are pertinent to the Hinchinbrook electorate, during the estimates hearing I wanted to make sure that money spent on country racing is ensuring that racecourses are kept up to standard so we do not have cancellations. We have had a number of cancellations because of track conditions. When there is only one or a maximum of two meets in some of these rural areas we want to make sure that good money of Queensland taxpayers is being spent properly. We had some problems—


Mr Stevens: It is the social fabric of those communities.

Mr DAMETTO: I will take the interjection from the member. It is the social fabric of regional Queensland. The Ingham Gold Cup is one of the best races in regional Queensland.

I want to talk about something that is very important to me—that is, training in regional areas. We need to make sure we are training our kids and attracting people to our area to train kids, especially in agriculture. We need to ensure we have the farmers and others involved in the agriculture industry so we can fill the important jobs that contribute to building the state's economy. The agriculture and fisheries industries contribute \$23.44 billion a year to the Queensland economy. Here is something that might make members' heads spin. We have only had one person in North Queensland per year over the last five years achieve a Certificate III in Agriculture at TAFE.

Mr McDonald: How many?

Mr DAMETTO: That is 1.2 per year if you want to split a person. I will take the interjection from the member. More needs to be done. I asked a question about that of the training minister. Her response sounded quite fruitful at the time. We have had the Gateway to Industry Schools program in schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate. It is a program that is funded through Agriculture and Fisheries and administered through the training portfolio. Funnily enough, I searched this afterwards and none of the three schools in Hinchinbrook that engage in this program do anything in the agriculture and fisheries area. That is a blight on the government, TAFE and training in Queensland, if you ask me. We need to ensure we are training those who work in these important sectors into the future.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.41 pm): I would like to congratulate Minister Grace for her outstanding stewardship of the education portfolio and delivering on behalf of the Palaszczuk government a record budget of \$17.8 billion for schools and early education. The Queensland education system is delivering world-class education to our Queensland students, no matter where they live.

In my relatively new role as the Assistant Minister for Education, I have had the pleasure of getting out and meeting teachers and students in Central Queensland. The outstanding work being achieved in our small state schools is remarkable. For some of our smaller communities, schools are the hub and meeting place for families.

Capella State School has been educating students for 140 years. They celebrated their milestone with their own YouTube song and video clip titled *Capella Country Life*, written and performed by the students and proudly presented at their 140th celebration day. It was a real treat.

Just down the road from the primary school, Star FM radio station is run by the students at Capella State High School. The high school also boasts ribbons for their prize cattle. The high school also has an outstanding music department. This proves that students do not have to be in a large coastal school to have a quality education.

Principal Sean Maher at Emerald State High School told me that he is getting more teachers applying for work at his school than he can employ. We know that this is not the same across the state. That is why Minister Grace has initiated and funded the Trade to Teach program—a program upskilling our tradies looking for an opportunity to take their much sought after trade skills into our classrooms as fully qualified teachers. There are also the return teaching programs.

Free kindy is the latest buzzword around young families. Up to \$4,600 in cost-of-living relief will be delivered to families when four-year-olds access free kindy from 1 January next year. I met with C&K Chief Executive Officer Dr Sandra Cheeseman at Slade Point kindy. She said that play-based education in the early years of learning will set our young ones up to be school ready. I know from my experience as a teacher that in early education staff can pick up health issues like hearing and sight issues and coordination problems. These only become apparent in more formal settings. These may be detected in kindy, allowing an opportunity for appropriate supports to be put in place before children start prep.

We need to be conscious of water safety for our young children. A good way to keep them safe is for them to learn to swim. Eligible four-year-olds are able to access one of 30,000 SwimStart vouchers.

We know that education is a passport to a person's future. Having quality learning places is a must for students. This budget delivers the necessary funding for ongoing maintenance and upgrades at Mackay schools. We will see refurbished classrooms, new and improved playgrounds, fencing and, everyone's favourite, tuckshops. School is for everyone.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Mackay, I am afraid the time for debate on this report has concluded.

Report adopted.

Health and Environment Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The question is—

That the report of the Health and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.45 pm): As chair of the Health and Environment Committee, I rise to support the 2023-24 estimates report on the Appropriation Bill 2023. With the indulgence of the House, I wish my daughter, Ashleigh Kate, a happy 16th birthday. It is unbelievable that she was just seven when I started here.

As chair of the Health and Environment Committee, I want to start where the member for Redlands and my fellow chair left off. Good, appropriate conduct and respectful behaviour should be the core principles we adopt in this House and in estimates. Sadly, the standard I saw through some of the estimates process was at times disgraceful and unacceptable behaviour by some of the LNP opposition members. I am glad my fellow chair kicked the member for Kawana out because what we just witnessed in this House with the nasty interjections by the member for Kawana, who always goes low with personal attacks, demonstrates why people tune out to politics. The standard needs to be lifted.

I thank all members of the Health and Environment Committee, visiting members and members of the opposition—yes, even the member for Mudgeeraba—who were far better behaved this year and only needed to be warned twice. Let the record show that. My intention was to allow as much time as possible for the opposition and crossbench members to ask questions. As chair, I did set the tone of how I wanted the day to run. I am pleased to report that it went quite well.

Here is the evidence of how it panned out. All up, non-government members had four hours and nine minutes to ask questions versus government time of two hours and three minutes. To further put that into perspective, non-government members asked 197 questions and government members asked only 33. I question the Leader of the Opposition saying in this House this morning that chairs were running a protection racket. I completely disagree with that. Let the evidence show that this was not the case with the Health and Environment Committee. I hope we can continue to run a similar estimates process next year.

I want to talk about the record investment in health and ambulance services, particularly in my hometown of Townsville and my electorate of Thuringowa. Some \$538 million for the Townsville University Hospital will provide an additional 143 beds. There is \$40 million for my electorate of Thuringowa for the new build of the Kirwan health campus, which is due for completion next year. I know the hardworking, dedicated health staff will welcome that new build. There is a funding agreement of nearly \$7 million for operational costs for the 24-bed Yumba-Meta step-down health facility located on Riverway Drive. I want to thank the health minister and the housing minister for getting together and working that out.

I must mention more funding for additional staff, allied health workers, nurses and doctors, and record incentives to attract health workers to rural, remote and regional Queensland to keep pace with our growing and ageing population, which is placing more pressure on demand for health services. Let's not forget the 2,200 additional beds funded under the Queensland Health Capacity Expansion Program—\$9.7 billion over six years.


Record funding of over \$700 million has been allocated to address ramping in Queensland as yet again we have seen over a million calls for service to the Queensland Ambulance Service throughout the state. That has a huge impact on our dedicated, hardworking dispatchers and paramedics throughout Queensland. It was great to see investment in 200 additional ambulance staff, further funding for 144 new ambulance replacement vehicles and new stations such as the one at Burdell—one of Townsville's highest growth areas—and that build is well and truly underway.

When we compare the record funding for health infrastructure and more staff to the LNP years of slashing funding and sacking nurses, we are poles apart because a good Labor government cares and backs our frontline health staff. We do not sack staff.

I have run out of time for the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, but it went well. They have record funding of \$789 million and total expenses of \$913 million, which is an increase of \$38 million to support reef protection and the Indigenous land and sea rangers who are doing awesome work in North Queensland.

I looked at the Education, Employment and Training Committee's statement of reservation and it is almost word for word with the Health and Environment Committee's statement of reservation. I think the opposition could do a little better with their statements of reservation and not copy and paste. I support the report.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.50 pm): Well, here we go again—another year, another budget estimates. We have a new Labor health minister but the same problems plaguing the Labor government's health system. The Queensland health crisis deepens, and either those occupying the government benches choose to bury their heads in the sand or they genuinely have no idea how serious the problems are.

There is a lot to unpack about the committee's hearing but, to kick things off, one of the biggest takeaways of the day was the revelation that ambulance ramping in Queensland is 45 per cent—the highest ramping in the nation, ramping at a level that is uncharted. If there were a chief symptom of this government being terminal, it is the level of ambulance ramping across Queensland's hospitals—inherited at 15 per cent, doubled before COVID and now it has tripled to 45 per cent.

That is a sad indictment on a government that no longer listens, that no longer acts with integrity and that baulks at any hint of scrutiny and accountability. That is no more evident anywhere else than in those opposite's management of our public health system. It goes without saying that Queensland has world-class doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals. They are exceptional, but they are being horribly let down by a government that no longer listens to them.


The committee's hearing brought that very fact to the fore. It is not just our incredible health staff whom the Premier and her minister do not listen to; it is Queensland patients as well, and not just those who languish on ambulance ramps. There are now nearly 60,000 Queenslanders waiting for elective surgery across the state—a number which has nearly doubled since the Palaszczuk government took office. Behind these numbers are real people, with real experiences, living in pain or living through an accident or urgent medical episode. That fact now seems to be totally lost on the Palaszczuk government.

The hearing featured the health minister's launch of a new website, which unravelled after only a few hours. Of course, the number of hospital beds at each facility was initially omitted. It was only after questioning from the opposition that this oversight was discovered. The bed numbers were later updated but with huge discrepancies compared to previous figures. In each instance there were fewer beds. What the uploaded figures actually represented is unknown, but the oversight casts serious and legitimate doubt on the actual capacity of Queensland hospitals given the huge differences compared to previous versions of the website.

The embarrassing ordeal for the minister which played out across the day goes far deeper than incorrect numbers online; it goes directly to the principle of ministerial oversight. In health care it is the little things that matter. It is attention to detail. It is checks and balances. It is careful and meticulous preparation which ensure quality patient care and a safe and effective health system. Every clinician across this state will tell you those things are absolutely vital in the delivery of health care. The minister's botched website, revealed on the day, shows that she lacks these critical qualities. It is only the announcement in her mind that matters. The great clinicians of this state will not cop that from the person leading the system.

The minister's unwillingness to provide an honest answer to how many part 9 health service investigations have occurred across Queensland was a deeply troubling revelation to come from the hearing. These are the most serious investigations—like those at Mackay Hospital last year. How can the minister herself not know how many of these investigations are currently underway or have been previously started? Is it not concerning enough? Is it not a worry? What if there is a trend or a similar theme? I do not know what is worse: the minister not knowing how many or where these investigations are, as she claims, or the minister knowing but choosing to keep it hidden. Either way it is a disgrace and an affront to clinical oversight, transparency and accountability in the health system.

The Palaszczuk government might have a new health minister and a new website, but the same deep-seated problems continue to plague the portfolio. The opposition will continue its relentless pursuit in holding the government to account on its failures in managing the health system. Queensland's hardworking clinicians and patients deserve better than what they are getting from a tired and broken government, mired in chaos and crisis.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (4.55 pm): I thank the House for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Health and Environment Committee's budget estimates report. Committee members work hard to ensure that health care in Queensland is held to the highest standard, and I want to thank them all. I especially want to pay tribute to the committee chair, Aaron Harper MP, the member for Thuringowa.

Despite only being the health minister for a couple of months, I was proud to discuss the work being done by Queensland Health, our Queensland Ambulance Service, and our health and hospital services right across the state. Every day in Queensland Health over 6,100 people present to an emergency department; over 12,000 people receive care as an inpatient; 25,000 people receive community mental health care; almost 3,100 calls are made to triple 0 for an ambulance; and 127 babies are delivered every day in Queensland Health. Above all, there are 100,000 people working

hard to look after all of us, caring for our kids, our brothers, our sisters, our parents, our grandparents, our friends and our loved ones. The people of Queensland Health are heroes in every sense of the word and deserve our gratitude and respect.

That is why it is beyond disappointing that the LNP again used estimates as an opportunity to attack, belittle and undermine our frontline staff. Instead of asking about the improvements that we have seen in elective surgery, they are more concerned with their cheap points. Instead of asking about the continued strong performance in specialist outpatient appointments, they talked over the top of senior public servants the entire time. Despite having a well-known publicised problem with women—surprise, surprise!—the party with just six women did not ask a single question about the gender pay gap, women's health or any other women's policy. Let's be frank: the pitiful, embarrassing show that the LNP—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. The member for Mudgeeraba will cease her interjections.

Ms Bates interjected.


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

Ms FENTIMAN: Let's be frank: it was a pitiful show where they undermined health workers and public servants. If I were the member for Mudgeeraba, I would be very embarrassed that my boss felt the need to hover over my shoulder the entire time to make sure I did not muck it up.

The Leader of the Opposition went to two estimates committee hearings—his own with the Premier and the health committee. He and his advisers were so nervous about what the member for Mudgeeraba might do or say that he had to sit there and make sure she did not say anything embarrassing. Who could blame him! You would not want to risk her calling our frontline health workers 'duds' again or risk her calling herself a registered nurse even though her registration had lapsed like the estimates committee found she had done several times or—and this would be bad—risk her recycling last year's questions like when she read one of Rachel Nolan's old speeches. Do members remember that? She became a minister and she read the exact same speech word for word.

The truth is that the member for Mudgeeraba is a liability for the LNP, and they know it. That is why the Leader of the Opposition had to show up to make sure she did not stuff it up. It is the only explanation. Housing? 'No, I will leave that to my opposition spokesperson.' Youth justice? 'No, my opposition spokesperson has that.' The economy? Transport? Energy? Education? 'No, my front bench can handle that.' Health? 'Oh, my God, I'd better get in there!' Honestly, what an embarrassment to the member for Mudgeeraba. It is almost as embarrassing as the member for Glass House sitting there for hours without asking one question. The member for Glass House is paid over \$25,000 to sit on the Health and Environment Committee but he cannot be bothered to ask a single question about health policy. Does the Leader of the Opposition distrust him as much as he distrusts the member for Mudgeeraba?

Queenslanders know they cannot trust the LNP when it comes to health. They cannot trust the member for Mudgeeraba. They cannot trust the Leader of the Opposition. Queenslanders will never forget that both the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Broadwater stood side by side with Campbell Newman. They sat around the cabinet table as thousands of frontline health workers were sacked. Only the Palaszczuk government is investing in our frontline workforce with our satellite hospitals—which those opposite still will not get behind even though their candidates are happy to show up for the open days to enjoy Queensland Health's hospitality. It is embarrassing and the LNP should hang their heads in shame.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.01 pm): I rise to address the environment estimates hearings and what we were able to find out this year in the time we had available. The Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project is the biggest project in our state's history—in fact, it is the biggest project of its type in the world—and it underpins the government's plan for a transition to renewable energy. As someone who is interested in the action our state is taking on climate change I asked quite a few questions about this. Unfortunately, very few details have been provided to Queenslanders about the project, especially when it comes to potential impacts on the beautiful biodiverse environment of this area and neighbouring Eungella National Park.

At estimates we got very little clarity on the role the department of environment has played in this project so far. We were told the environment department was intimately involved with the selection of the site but provided with few details on what their advice was. The department said this project is at

the early stages of development, which means that none of the environmental assessments have even started, let alone been completed. The project design is still nowhere near being finalised. As I raised at the hearing, the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro environment fact sheet is just two pages long. It says that no project will proceed if impacts to the local environment cannot be adequately mitigated or offset. We have no certainty about whether this will stack up environmentally. No-one can confidently say that Pioneer-Burdekin is a given, and if they do they have no respect for environmental approval processes. Disappointingly, when the Treasurer was asked if it is possible a different site might need to be chosen if issues arise with Pioneer-Burdekin he said, 'No, we are absolutely confident that this will go ahead.' How can he possibly be so sure when none of the work has been done?


The other issue I raised at the hearings was subsidence, which we have seen in the much smaller Snowy Hydro 2.0 project. Pioneer-Burdekin will involve three multi-kilometre tunnels under a national park. We received no assurance this risk has even been considered by the department which manages these parks. The lack of detail on such a major project from Labor after nearly a decade in power is pretty standard behaviour and gives no certainty to Queenslanders who want to see genuine climate action. We did get a commitment from the minister to visit Eungella with the member for Mirani, who I think was going to give her a bit of a tour. I hope that happens as soon as possible with a briefing on the aspects of this project which relate to the neighbouring national park. I have been there and met the locals. They just want to be heard.

In relation to Linc Energy, we were told it was purely coincidence that data from bore sampling in February this year, over six months ago, was only uploaded the night before estimates. On the day before estimates the most recent data on the department's website was from October 2022 which was, in another coincidence, around the same time the media reported on high levels of cyanide and benzene at these sites. Once again we see that, when the media stops looking, the government stops being transparent. I know it does take time to complete the laboratory analyses of these samples, but surely it does not take the many months it currently does. Queenslanders deserve to see this data in a timelier manner.

Queensland is the worst state in the nation for recycling. The department's own data shows that our state is only on track to meet two of the government's seven targets. We were not able to be provided with an updated assessment of where our state is at. On poppers, or liquid paperboard containers, once again we see the government claim credit when the Containers for Change scheme is going well, but when there is an issue they keep their distance and palm it off to the scheme operator. We were told that an audit was conducted of the tens of millions of these containers collected by Queenslanders and shipped to India, but when access was refused to that audit nothing further was done by the government. It is not good enough for the government to just send these items overseas and hope for the best. We cannot do it here because our industry has not been supported—from the underspend in funding programs related to the waste levy to the regulatory uncertainty they are facing. With regard to the expansion of that container deposit scheme to wine and spirit bottles, we are still hearing from stakeholders about issues with how this expansion is being implemented and the complete lack of clarity they are receiving. It was disappointing that we could not get further details about the cost-benefit analysis of expanding the scheme or even be provided with any data to show it will increase recycling rates. Clearly Queenslanders back expanding the scheme, but it should be evidence based and producers and suppliers should be given more notice.

Finally, on the Scientific Consensus Statement, the central policy document for the Great Barrier Reef, we found out there was a two-year delay. It should not take estimates hearings for us to figure that out. It should be provided to Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.06 pm): It is a bit rich for the member for Mudgeeraba to talk about attention to detail because we all know many examples of her attention to detail, including: her attention to detail when it comes to being a registered nurse; her attention to detail when it comes to nepotism; her attention to detail when it comes to the lobbyists' register; and her attention to detail when it comes to having sick leave but going to Bali. This is who those opposite are putting forward as the alternative minister in charge of the biggest expenditure in the Queensland budget. Queensland Health was an absolute disaster during the Newman years. The member for Mudgeeraba had to resign, and I want to bring this up because I am going to be bringing this up for the next 14 months—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Capalaba, can I draw you back to the debate, please.

Mr BROWN:—all the way to the election because the health portfolio is such an important area. We need to ensure we do not have a minister who resigns via text message. Who could forget that she resigned to Campbell Newman via text message? That is her attention to detail.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, can I draw you back to the debate, please.

Mr BROWN: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. As the member for Mudgeeraba was reflecting about attention to detail, who could forget her attention to detail in resigning via text message? She was a complete and utter disaster when she was a minister, and that is who the opposition wants to have in charge of the biggest and most important portfolio in the budget. This gives me the chance to talk about all of the wonderful health investment in Redlands. We have heard over and over again about the satellite hospital in Redlands which opened Monday. We had the community day.

Mr de Brenni interjected.

Mr BROWN: I will take the interjection from the member for Springwood because he saw the LNP candidate for Redlands at the open day. I saw one of the preselected candidates for Oodgeroo, Daniel Hobbs, down there as well, so there was not only one potential LNP candidate but two. They loved it. They were coming to see our wonderful health infrastructure and you cannot blame them, because the last time they were in government they took away health infrastructure. What did they close down? The member for Lytton will be able to tell us. They closed down the Wynnum Hospital. They closed down the Moreton Bay nursing clinic.


Ms Pease: I am going to talk about that!

Mr BROWN: Sorry. I have taken the member for Lytton's thunder in this speech. They closed down health infrastructure. David Crisafulli, the current Leader of the Opposition, was at the cabinet table. Ros Bates, the member for Mudgeeraba, was at the cabinet table. They were all sitting around there while these cuts occurred. What are we doing? We are building whole new hospitals, with our satellite hospital delivered. The community loved going through there and seeing the renal dialysis unit. It was fantastic to see Sharon, who is a renal dialysis nurse. She helped set up the satellite hospital renal dialysis unit, but she also helped set up the Redland Hospital renal dialysis ward 17 years ago. She even had the news article from 17 years ago with the then minister, Stephen Robertson. She is a proud worker doing it again. It is only a Labor government that invests in health.

Ms Pease: She is lucky she kept her job under the old government.

Mr BROWN: I take that interjection. She is very lucky that she kept her job. We are also delivering at Redland Hospital itself. The 28-bed ward is just about to open. That is more investment down there. We have a seven-level car park. We promised five levels but we actually delivered seven levels for the same amount of money. We are also getting on with stage 1 at Redland Hospital that includes an ICU. The demolition of the old buildings is occurring. We are completely transforming Redland Hospital. It will look completely different under this Labor government.

What are the plans from those opposite? Absolutely nothing. They want to put the member for Mudgeeraba in control of the largest budget after her stellar career as a minister under the Newman government. We cannot risk this, Queensland. I will be ensuring that I remind my community of Capalaba and the entire state of the efforts of the member for Mudgeeraba while she was a minister for a very, very short time.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.11 pm): Don't you just love the rehash of history? It has been eight years, three terms and four ministers since this side of the House were in government, and they are still trying to blame Campbell Newman for the health system failures.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. The member for Lytton will cease her interjections.

Mr MOLHOEK: They are still trying to blame unprecedented population growth and a myriad other factors for the current health crisis. I want to acknowledge the work of the committee and thank my fellow committee members. I also want to thank those colleagues from my side of the House who participated in the estimates hearing. Most importantly, I want to acknowledge the 105,686 full-time-equivalent health workers who turn up every day across this state and have to deal at the front end, the pointy end, of this health crisis. It is not their fault and they are doing the best they can, but they are not getting the support that they deserve and that Queenslanders deserve from this Labor government.


We have 105,686 full-time employees from the top of Cape York all the way to Coolangatta, and from places like Boulia in the far west—which is actually closer to Adelaide than Brisbane—to places like Bundaberg and all those major coastal regional centres up the eastern seaboard of Queensland,

as well as here in South-East Queensland, but what are we doing to support these people? About three years ago, the health committee held an inquiry into health services across Queensland. That report made a whole raft of recommendations to the Queensland parliament and some recommendations to the federal government, which we have no control over. It would be interesting to ask those members on the government side of the House whether any of them have actually followed that report up with the now Albanese government and raised those issues and recommendations with them. I bet we would just hear chirping crickets. I bet that report is sitting in people's offices gathering dust, that it was just a cheap political stunt at the time to try to throw a bit of mud at the LNP government of the day but lacking in sincerity. I bet absolutely nothing has been done to follow up the recommendations of that inquiry.

The health committee at the time spent some six months travelling the length and breadth of Queensland listening to people in rural, regional and remote Queensland. We heard some heartbreaking stories of Queenslanders who were struggling to get basic services and access to maternity services and mental health services, even just access to basic day-to-day procedures. People are having to be choppered from places like Emerald and Longreach into Rockhampton or the south-east under dire circumstances and emergency circumstances to get the support they need.

There is so much more I could say about the failings of this government, but I would rather spend a bit of time acknowledging a few people in my electorate. I particularly want to pay tribute to Ian Langdon, the chair of the Gold Coast Health Board. He has been on that board for 10 years. He is an absolute true champion of our community, and it would be remiss of me not to mention the great work that he and the board have done. They have worked tirelessly to improve health services and to make them as efficient as they possibly can so they can actually increase services to Gold Coasters. I thank Ian and Ron Calvert.

I also want to pay special tribute to David Green, the head of the ED at Gold Coast University Hospital. David would be embarrassed that he is being mentioned in parliament. I have actually nominated him in the past for Gold Coast citizen of the year and a few other things. He has been there for more than 30 years. We talk about erecting statues of people—which has been another announcement this week, and that is a whole other discussion—but if anyone should have a statue erected in their honour it is Dr David Green. He has worked tirelessly serving the city of the Gold Coast in some of the most extreme circumstances. We owe him a great debt of thanks for the work that he does.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise to speak to the estimates report for the Health and Environment Committee. I am delighted to be able to stand up here today and it is wonderful to follow the opposition members who talk so negatively about Queensland Health and the environment and all the money that is being invested in it. It is very interesting to follow the member for Southport, who spoke passionately about how terrible the health system was and that we do not do anything. May I ask a question. Why did he not ask one question during the health committee proceedings? What we had was the C team up there. We had the member for Broadwater's team. We had the member for Broadwater himself and the member for Mudgeeraba, whom we have already heard about. She likes to refer to health workers as 'duds'. I am sure the member for Southport would disagree with that. He spoke about how highly he regards health workers—as do I—but he did not say that at the time. He did not ask one question. That was all left to the others—to the C team, as I like to refer to them.

Queenslanders can always count on the Palaszczuk government to deliver record health budgets. Those opposite might like to listen to this so they can have an understanding about this, or maybe they need to have a lesson on reading budget documents. We have delivered a record \$24.2 billion, and that represents a 9.6 per cent increase on the 2022-23 budget. What does that mean for health? It means new ambulances. In the Wynnum Ambulance Station I have had a new appliance delivered. They have a brand new ambulance which has a lift on the stretcher which makes a huge difference to the paramedics who are out on the ground doing the work.

We are working very hard on our workforce attraction strategy. We are positioning the health system to meet the needs of today, so we continue to invest in our health system for that reason. My colleague the member for Capalaba touched on a subject that I have raised often in this House. To the member for Southport, you mentioned that this all happened eight years ago. Can I tell you that eight years is a drop in the bucket for the people who lost their parent's homes in the closure of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, so how dare you belittle that.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Lytton, please direct all your comments through the chair and stop arguing across the chamber with the member for Southport. Member for Southport, stop arguing with the member for Lytton.

Ms PEASE: Thank you very much for your guidance. I remind the member for Southport and all the members opposite that, whilst they think eight years ago is a long time. It is not a long time; it is a drop in the bucket for someone who lost their loved one due to a forced move from their retirement home, their place of retirement—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southport, I just said stop interjecting. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Mundingburra, you are also warned under the standing orders. You have had a good run, too.


Ms PEASE: It is not that long ago, and we have long memories. My community has a very long memory. We lost our Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and our Mental Health Unit that also operated out of there. So many people lost their homes and many lost their jobs. We also lost our hospital service at Wynnum. Thankfully we were able to deliver the brand new Gundu Pa, which is a 24-hour primary care clinic. It has all the facilities and a range of health services that operate out of there. They will operate in unity with our rehab centre at Casuarina Lodge a few doors up and with our ambulance centre just next door.

May I also say how wonderful it is that our government has provided the land and transferred the title of the old Wynnum Hospital site to Winnam Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for a new wellness centre. Out of despair and a terrible moment, something great has happened for my community simply because my government backed this organisation to deliver a residential aged-care facility that will provide in-place culturally appropriate aged care for residents. I am really proud of Auntie Becky and everyone who has been associated with that, and I am really proud to be part of the government that delivered that.

I would like to acknowledge also the great work we have done in the environment space. Simply talking very briefly on the Containers for Change scheme, it has raised a significant amount of money for the community—over \$10 million has gone to community groups. That is another great initiative of the Palaszczuk government.

Another great one which I do not have a great deal of time to talk about is the LiveMUM project which is technology that is used by the Ambulance Service to record big data from past incidents. I have run out of time.

(Time expired)

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill with particular reference to the report on the estimates process of the Health and Environment Committee. You do not need to look very far to find a recent story on the worsening healthcare crisis in Queensland, whether it is about long wait times for appointments, lack of access to basic health care, spiralling costs of services, the availability of medicines or burnout amongst healthcare staff who do a great job of providing what they do here in Queensland, and I take my hat off to them every day and night that they have to work under the situation.

At the estimates hearing, we heard that ambulance ramping has worsened to 45 per cent across Queensland and that there are now almost 60,000 Queenslanders waiting for elective surgery across the state. Meanwhile, Queenslanders with suspected cancers are being kept waiting months to receive the results of their biopsies, scans and MRIs, putting many patients' lives at risk. Pathology Queensland confirmed that at one point things got so bad that they were forced to send some scans to Victoria for testing due to the enormous overload with which they were faced. Then there is the decline in Queenslanders with private health coverage and chronic shortage of medical staff across all areas within health care. At estimates, the minister revealed that 584,431 people presented at Queensland's emergency departments last quarter—the highest recorded amount in the state's history. This growth is placing enormous strain on the Ambulance Service, with patient-off-stretcher times, or POST, steady at 55 per cent.

All of these issues are even more acute in rural and remote areas. In my electorate of Mirani and surrounding regions, there has been a big drop in the patient-off-stretcher times at both the Mackay and Rockhampton base hospitals since 2015. According to Queensland Ambulance Service data, the average POST rate at Mackay went from 95 per cent in 2015 to 73.5 per cent in 2021, while the


Rockhampton Hospital dropped from 99 per cent in 2015 to just 52 per cent in 2021. A recent report by the Queensland Audit Office found that for the period from July 2020 to February 2021, only one of the top 26 reporting hospitals in Queensland met the 90 per cent target for both patient-off-stretcher times and emergency length-of-stay rates.

The Auditor-General notes that overall POST performance for the top 26 reporting hospitals has decreased from 88.9 per cent in 2014-15 to 68.5 per cent for the period July 2020 to February 2021, and in 2023 it remains steady at 55 per cent. Both the Auditor-General and the minister attribute this huge decline in standards to the increasing complexity of emergency department presentations in Queensland. Since 2015, category 1 presentations—immediately life-threatening—has grown by a massive 41 per cent, while category 2 presentations—imminently life-threatening or very severe pain—increased by 50 per cent.

Maternity units remain under considerable strain across the state. The Biloela and Gladstone hospital maternity wards have been out of commission for many months, forcing women to travel significant distances to Rockhampton just to have their babies. Some of them have had them on the side of the road, I believe. Currently we have no maternity services at Weipa, Chinchilla, Biloela and Cooktown, and there has been no indication as to when these services will be back online. We need immediate and long-term solutions to address maternity healthcare access issues in regional Queensland, including better incentives and workforce rotations. The additional stress, uncertainty, cost and risks that the lack of maternity services is causing people in regional Queensland is unacceptable. This should not be happening in a First World country or a First World health service. The crisis in maternity healthcare access is being replicated across health care more widely.

It is time we saw a restoration of critical services to deliver appropriate care across the whole healthcare system in Queensland, especially in the regions. We need more recruitment and retention initiatives and incentives, better workflow management and better funding to make it happen. We also know that attracting doctors and nurses to regional areas is made much harder by the lack of housing, the lack of schools and the lack of social infrastructure. Services need to be designated to meet the needs of diverse communities in consultation with communities they serve. The government needs to start listening.

Improving the lives and the health of people in the regions requires a holistic approach, not the same old one-size-fits-all model we are seeing fail time after time. Above all, we need real action. There is not a lot of action here in this health space, nor in the environment space with the renewables as well. The situation is getting worse and regional Queenslanders have been waiting far too long for the access to basic health care that they so desperately need.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.26 pm): As a member of the Health and Environment Committee, I too rise to address the Health and Environment Committee's estimates report. At the outset, I want to correct a comment made by the Minister for Health. What was very clear and, I guess, the summary from the Minister for Health's appearance before the Health and Environment Committee was that she is wonderful at announcements but really bad at delivery and checking some of the facts in particular. She again today made some comment about the fact that, as a member of the committee, I get paid a certain amount. The minister is wrong. As the Manager of Opposition Business I get paid a certain amount. It has nothing to do with my membership on a committee at all. In fact, I actually enjoyed being at the Health and Environment Committee hearing purely for the fact of watching the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow minister for health, ask very forensic questions of the Minister for Health and expose the Minister for Health for the shortcomings that—

Mr Janetzki: The many failings.

Mr POWELL: The many failings—I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South—that we exposed. It all started with clearly what was designed to be a drop to the media the night before about this new website that the minister would launch and this new era of open data that Queenslanders could see with the member for Waterford as the new Minister for Health. That did not last very long. It became very readily apparent that there was some key data missing from that website, specifically the number of hospital beds. When this was pointed out to the Minister for Health, the minister said, 'Well, look, that is clearly a mistake. We will fix it. We will get that sorted.' Sure enough, they did. The only problem is they uploaded the wrong data. In every single case, including Caboolture Hospital, Redcliffe Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital, the number of beds that were loaded onto that website in the break were far less than the actual beds. What is very clear yet again, even with the change in minister in the health portfolio, is they keep getting it wrong. They keep getting it wrong. It does not matter who the minister is. This government cannot manage the Department of Health and cannot provide the important health services that Queenslanders need.

We heard from the previous speaker, the member for Mirani, that hospital ramping is now up to 45 per cent across the state. What did those opposite inherit? It was 15 per cent. It has trebled in the eight years they have been in government. What does that mean for the people of Glass House? It means if they ring triple 0 and ask for an ambulance they have a one-in-two chance of them turning up because the other ambulance is sitting on a ramp at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Nambour Hospital or the Caboolture Hospital, or they have had to bypass those hospitals and go to Redcliffe or Chermside. That is what it means.

We also saw a very interesting situation occur where we could not get an answer from either the minister or the director-general as to how many part 9 health service investigations were actually occurring across Queensland. What does this mean? These are the most serious internal reviews undertaken by Queensland Health. The director-general has to be notified if they are occurring, yet the director-general could not provide a straight answer as to what was actually unfolding in Queensland Health at this time.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

LIQUID FUEL SUPPLY (MINIMUM BIOBASED PETROL CONTENT) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 13 October 2022 (see p. 2718).

Second Reading



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise to give my contribution to the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill. On behalf of the KAP I am proud to stand in this House to move the second reading of this bill. The reality is that the biofuels industry in Queensland has been simmering away for many years. It has had a lukewarm response from the state government. I will not go over the contents of my introductory speech, but I will remind people in the House exactly what we are trying to do for the ethanol industry in Queensland.

It is very simple. The reason I say that is that when I was going through the transcripts and the committee report I think some people may not have understood what we are trying to do. This bill has only two objectives. They are very simple amendments and adjustments to how we deal with biofuels in Queensland. The first objective is—

To increase two-fold all penalties for non-compliance by liable fuel retailers liable with the State's bio-based petrol mandate, which presently sits at four ... per cent of the total volume of all petrol sold;

Doubling that fine would send a clear message to fuel retailers across Queensland that if they are not complying with the mandate that was intended to raise the profile and the consumption of biofuels in this state they will be fined double the current amount.

An opposition member: It is pretty simple.

Mr DAMETTO: It is pretty simple. It will send a clear message to those fuel retailers that are doing the wrong thing. I must remind people in this House, though, that since the mandate was introduced not one fine has been handed out to any of the larger fuel retailers. I would suggest that perhaps we are not checking to make sure people are doing the right thing, or maybe we have 100 per cent compliance. I would be very interested to know what the answer to that question is.

The second objective of the bill is, again, very simple. The bill states—

To require that fuel retailers take reasonable action (on a continuing basis) to ensure that the bio-based petrol blended fuels (referred commonly to as E10) they sell contains a minimum of nine ... per cent ethanol and is advertised as such.

It is pretty simple, like I said. If retailers are selling E10 fuel at the bowser they would have to take reasonable steps to assure the consumer there is at least nine per cent ethanol in that fuel—not one per cent, not two per cent, not three per cent but nine per cent. It is very simple.

We want to ensure that when Queenslanders are going to the bowser to back the biofuels industry by choosing E10 for whatever reason—whether it is because they want to back and support farmers who grow the sugar cane or the grain to produce ethanol here in Queensland or they choose to use E10 or ethanol or bio-based fuels because they care for the environment. This is a renewable fuel source. This is a way to actually reduce tailpipe emissions. Studies have shown that up to 28 per

cent of all tailpipe emissions can be reduced by simply using E10. If people are making the choice to use E10 and they are expecting their tailpipe emissions to come down by up to 28 per cent, wouldn't they like that to actually be the case? If they are using a dirty unleaded fuel with as little as one per cent ethanol, that will not be the case.

We have not broken new ground. This is exactly what is going on in New South Wales right now. Fuel retailers in New South Wales are being subjected to this. It is not as if we are proposing something new. We are just aligning with the other states.

The committee recommended that the bill not be passed. The problem with that is that I do not think the committee understood exactly what we were trying to achieve with this bill. The committee report states—

The provision makes it an additional responsibility of fuel sellers to ensure the fuel they sell as E10 contains a minimum nine per cent ethanol. While we appreciate that the onus of proof here can be rebutted by the demonstration of reasonable efforts on the fuel sellers' part, we are wary about adding to the regulatory compliance load of many small-scale, family business service station operators, given that the value proposition from doing so does not appear significant ...

I am sorry, but when has the state government been worried about throwing extra regulation onto small businesses? It is very nice of them to all of a sudden grow a conscience when it comes to asking small businesses to do something. However, the reality is that those small businesses that were picked up in the committee report will not actually be picked up by this legislation because fuel sellers that own and operate 10 or fewer service stations are exempt. Only companies or organisations that have more than 10 service stations or sell over 500,000 litres of petrol within a quarter will fall under the legislation. The small retailers everyone is worried about are not actually picked up by this legislation.


We are trying to make sure the big corporate fuel retailers are selling what they are telling us they are selling, making sure that they are doing the right thing by Queenslanders. I have made the analogy before. Can honourable members imagine going to the pub and buying a full-strength beer, which I believe is about 4.2 per cent for a Great Northern, and then realising after they have drunk a couple that they are only getting about one per cent alcohol for their money? That is ridiculous.

I do acknowledge the minister for replying to us when we asked for support on the legislation. We do acknowledge that the state government is trying to implement a sustainable liquid fuels strategy. That is great. It is good to see that the government is interested in hydrogen now. It is good to see that other renewable fuel sources are being identified. We do not want to stand in the way of that. However, for the last 10 years all we have heard about is ethanol being the saving grace when it comes to a liquid biofuel that is a renewable fuel source. It seems that it is no longer in fashion so we are not caring about it. There has also been commentary that E10 might not be safe for certain vehicles. I can tell honourable members right now that most modern vehicles run very well on E10 and higher ethanol blends. The fact that is these cars are built for it now.

Once again we are not the first ones to have a crack at this. In Europe there are ethanol blends and up to 95 per cent of all petrol-based fuels sold in America have at least 10 per cent ethanol. It is happening in Brazil. We are really behind the mark on this. All we are asking for is the state government and the opposition to support something very minute, just to send a small signal to the ethanol industry that there is a glimmer of hope and a future for biofuels being used in Queensland.

Once again I acknowledge the minister, the work of the state government and their investment into jet fuels and biofuels for jets. We have hundreds of thousands—maybe millions—of vehicles out there on the road right now, polluting every day, using a fuel source that is not renewable. They could be switching over to biofuels, and we could increase that. Instead what we have now, I believe, is a committee that does not support this. We have a government that is lukewarm on ethanol in petrol-burning vehicles. I acknowledge that we will see a shift towards other vehicles like electric or hydrogen in the future, but we are talking about 20 to 50 years away for some of these vehicles being implemented on our streets every day.

Anyone who says that we have a demise of petrol-based fuels or internal combustion probably has not gone for a drive around any of our major cities lately. Our large fuel retailers still see an opportunity in petrol-based fuels. That is why there is a new service station popping up on nearly every corner in Queensland. I believe that we are doing an injustice to the biofuels industry by not supporting this legislation to ensure two things: that large fuel retailers are adhering to the four per cent mandate; and that if you are buying E10 in Queensland it has at least nine per cent ethanol in it.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (5.40 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022. As the House expects, based on the government's tabled response to the committee's report, the government intends to oppose the bill. I

rise to also speak in support of our sustainable liquid fuels industry. I will also speak to the committee's recommendations. In doing so, I congratulate Queensland and Queenslanders for leading the way. We have been leading the way on seizing the opportunities in sustainable liquid fuels for a long time now. I take this opportunity to outline the steps the Palaszczuk government is taking to deliver sustainable industry growth in this sector for the future. I know that the members for Hinchinbrook, Hill and Traeger are very keen to work with our government in that space.

It is well known to this House that the Palaszczuk government has been invested in transformational opportunities through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It is a plan that is already delivering cleaner, cheaper, more secure energy across the Queensland SuperGrid. We are committed to locking in this enduring action. We are so serious that we have announced this government's plans and our intention to legislate our targets of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035.

It is a fact that Australia cannot meet its legislated emissions reduction targets without concerted action here in Queensland. It is also a fact that no nation can meet any of these bold climate targets without serious abatement in the transport sector. Queensland is already proudly leading the way and seizing the opportunities in sustainable liquid fuels. We have been doing this by boosting the sales of E10 and boosting biodiesel supply chains with our mandates.

Under this government, the share of ethanol sales has almost doubled. The volume of E10 sold has increased by 63 million litres. E10 is now sold at 836 service stations right across Queensland. That is up from 343 prior to this Labor government's action in this space. These are concrete outcomes delivered by this government's commitment to develop a sustainable biofuels industry in Queensland. We have achieved this in partnership with the fuel sector and by working with producers, and we will continue to do that. These outcomes are also a clear demonstration that when this Palaszczuk government commits to action we deliver.

We have also committed to taking the necessary steps under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan to develop the next stage of opportunities for our biofuels industry. As consumers exercise their choice—that is very important—to make the move to lower emission and zero emission vehicles—hybrids, electric vehicles and others—we are already seeing the demand for regular unleaded and E10 fuels decline. I think the member for Hinchinbrook may have acknowledged that.

While ethanol fuels will continue to play an important role as a transitional fuel in the light vehicle segment, government and industry need to be focused on developing the sustainable fuels industry of tomorrow. I inform the House that this government is already taking action to deliver on that commitment. Our sustainable aviation fuel sector is taking off, with plans for a new biorefinery that could produce sustainable aviation fuel to power flights right across the nation, creating 1,000 construction jobs and 100 operational jobs and producing more than 100 million litres of sustainable aviation fuel each year for use in domestic flights—backed by this Labor government and by major industry partners like Qantas and Jet Zero Australia.

As this House knows, we are 'all in' when it comes to green hydrogen. It is a real game changer in decarbonising heavy haulage, shipping, manufacturing and aviation—one which will slash emissions, take real action on climate and safeguard this state's natural wonders for generations to come. We have funded hydrogen cars, buses, coaches, ferries, trucks and even trains. On Friday, the rubber really hit the road when we opened the nation's first hydrogen refueller at a public service station in the electorate of Lytton.

I note that the committee's first recommendation was to not pass the bill, and the government has indicated that we intend to vote that way. Put simply, this is not a question of support for this industry or otherwise, but it is the government's view that the proposals in the private member's bill—the proposed penalties, the fines for noncompliance measures—are impractical. They attempt to solve a problem that we do not think is borne out and would not have a strong prospect of influencing motorists' behaviour in any case, if dealt with in the way proposed in the bill.

I am pleased to support the committee's second recommendation to consider promoting strategies to improve consumer confidence in fuels manufactured using renewable energy sources. We are very committed and supportive of that recommendation. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan has already committed this government to that. The Palaszczuk government has released an options and opportunities consultation paper that seeks input from industry, fuel users and supply chain stakeholders to support the development of a sustainable liquid fuels strategy for Queensland. I welcome the interest from the members from Hinchinbrook, Hill and Traeger in the development of that liquid fuels strategy for Queensland. We have already heard feedback from across the transport, agriculture and liquid fuel industries, and we will continue to engage with these important partners as


we build that strategy. That process is ongoing right now. I challenge Queensland industry and consumers to contribute and to aim high, because it is another opportunity to shape the future of this state—to match Queensland's nation-leading clean energy plan with a sustainable liquid fuels strategy.

Petroleum fuels currently make up about half of Australia's energy consumption, the majority of which is important. During this debate I take the opportunity, as I expect many other members of this House will, to acknowledge and thank the women and men who operate our refineries, regardless of their base products, and the wholesale storage facilities, and those who work in transport and distribution operations and perform vital roles at both a wholesale and retail market level. I think we all recognise the important work that they do.

The sustainable liquid fuels strategy will be future focused. It will recognise that the electrification of transport, hydrogen and sustainable fuels are all expected to play a significant role in the transition away from high-emission fuels. There will be a continued role for liquid fuels, as both a transitional fuel and a sustainable fuel, for hard-to-abate sectors. In recognition of that, we are taking a collaborative and customer focused approach to accelerate the uptake of sustainable liquid fuels and to show that, as proud Queenslanders, we are serious about meeting the challenge with Queensland-made clean fuel technology and know-how.

I want to conclude my contribution by acknowledging the efforts and advocacy of the member for Hinchinbrook and his colleagues, the members for Hill and Traeger, and the effort that they have gone to. I think it is fair for this House to recognise that they have contributed more on behalf of their communities from their small party than members of the Liberal National Party have done on behalf of the constituencies that they purport to represent.

I also want to recognise and thank the committee. It has provided thoughtful and insightful recommendations into this issue and I know that it will continue to work with me and members of this House as we develop the sustainable liquid fuel strategy, and we will work with the member for Hinchinbrook and his colleagues as well. I support the recommendations in the committee's report. I am pleased to support them because they will help us continue to play a leading role in not just Queensland's future but a crucial and critical continuing role in our sustainable liquid fuels industry to lead the world's push to net zero.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (5.50 pm): I commend my fellow KAP member for Hinchinbrook for bringing the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022 before this House. The objective of the bill is to expand the provisions enacted by the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015. The bill seeks to address issues that exist with the operation of Queensland's bio-based petrol mandate which, despite being in operation since 2017, has failed to adequately deliver on its aspirations to drive the uptake of cleaner and cheaper locally produced fuel.

The ethanol mandate has been operating since 2017 yet has never reached a minimum mandate of four per cent ethanol in our total fuel supply, and that is probably disappointing with regard to never being able to deliver. Even though that bill has been in operation since 2017, the bill was introduced into parliament in 2015, so there was a lot of lobbying before this. I acknowledge the Minister for Transport and Main Roads because as KAP members we were very persistent in trying to pursue an ethanol mandate in Queensland, but over the years we have seen all of these Clayton's bills that have come before the House since 2004 but nothing concrete and nothing really had been delivered until the bill was passed in 2017 when the KAP introduced the amendment of four per cent. Sadly, we have come to the point where we have to introduce another bill in this House. There seems to be a lack of political will. There is the passion out there. There is the opportunity of expanding and creating a massive sugarcane industry stretching from Port Douglas right through to the Sunshine Coast and the expansion of the grain industry for cleaner emissions and cheaper fuel. They are all the result of an enforced ethanol mandate.


Passing this legislation in this House is the best hope that we have to provide some form of enforcement. It is great that we have the four per cent mandate, but that four per cent mandate has never really been delivered in Queensland. I believe that the state government has failed to enforce the ethanol mandate and this bill seeks to address that. This bill addresses it by increasing twofold all penalties for noncompliance by eligible fuel retailers liable with the state's bio-based petrol mandate which presently sits at four per cent of the total volume of all petrol sold and requires that fuel retailers take reasonable action to ensure that E10 labelled blended fuel contains a minimum of nine per cent ethanol. Currently, consumers are being lied to as they are being sold E10 which may only contain

one per cent or two per cent ethanol instead of the requirement to have a minimum of nine per cent ethanol. We must enforce this mandate or we will never reduce gas emissions, the cost of fuel or our reliance on international oil and gas companies.

The member for Hinchinbrook's bill requires that fuel retailers take reasonable action to ensure that E10 blended fuel contains a minimum of nine per cent ethanol. In the committee report it was noted twice, along with the statement of reservation from committee members on the committee, that the bill contains penalties that would see small retailers facing significantly higher fines for noncompliance when compared to major wholesalers and manufacturers. This is incorrect and it makes me wonder whether members of the committee have read the bill and the explanatory notes. At the time of the introduction of the ethanol mandate, it imposed a requirement on certain fuel sellers—namely, those who own and operate 10 or more service stations or sell more than 500,000 litres of petrol within a quarter period—to meet a sales target of bio-based petrol starting at three per cent of the total sale of regular unleaded and regular petrol blends. There is already a requirement. This bill is not about targeting small retail operators. This is about those that operate more than 10 service stations or that sell more than 500,000 litres of petrol within one quarter. Opposing the bill for that particular reason is just playing politics and the fact that because it is not our idea it is not a great idea.

It is ironic that at the start of the 20th century in 1908 when Henry Ford introduced the Model T Ford he planned to fuel it entirely with ethanol, yet here we are 115 years later and we still have not enforced a minimum of four per cent ethanol on our retail fuel despite skyrocketing fuel prices which are sending transport businesses to the wall and cutting deep into the family budget all in the name of bowing to the major international fuel and oil companies. Queensland has a massive sugar industry similar to Brazil. However, Brazil has used this natural product to implement an ethanol mandate which today stands at 27 per cent and increasing to over 70 per cent by 2030. It now stands that the price per litre in Brazil is A\$1.12 per litre. In America more than 98 per cent of US gasoline contains up to 10 per cent ethanol to boost octane, meet air quality requirements or satisfy the Renewable Fuel Standard. In Queensland we have the same opportunity through this bill to enforce the current mandate.

When the liquid fuel supply mandate was passed in 2017, retail fuel was at an average cost of \$1.31 per litre in Queensland. In just five years in 2022, the average is conservatively estimated at \$1.84 and often hovers over \$2 per litre. A fully enforced and increasing ethanol mandate would not only be good for the environment but also have an impact on the price of fuel and reduce our reliance on importing 90 per cent of our fuel. This bill is good for the average Queenslander, good for business and good for the environment. I commend the member for Hinchinbrook and I challenge every MP to support this bill in this House.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (5.58 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022, the private member's bill from the Katter party. The Transport and Resources Committee has inquired into this bill and has recommended that it not be passed.

As the chair of that committee, it is therefore not surprising that I am speaking against the bill today. While I am not opposed to some of the sentiment underpinning this bill such as good outcomes for consumers and better outcomes for the environment, it was clear to the committee that this bill was unlikely to achieve all of those goals. We found the legislation proposed to be unworkable, unnecessary and potentially unconstitutional in that it appears to seek to interfere with Commonwealth legislation that already mandates and monitors the amount of ethanol in petrol. Instead, the committee recommended that the minister consider promoting strategies to improve consumer confidence in fuels manufactured using renewable energy sources.

As the bill's explanatory notes acknowledge, the existence of the mandate has resulted in almost doubling in sales of E10 petrol. The increase is also due to an increase in the number of retail sites selling E10, with well over 800 service stations across the state on board, including most in my own electorate of Kurwongbah. Interestingly, data from January to March this year shows around 80 per cent of petrol sold in Queensland was bought from a service station where E10 was available. With the numbers suggesting that around three out of 10 motorists are choosing E10 over regular unleaded petrol, there are obviously reasons that other drivers are not choosing it. As a motoring enthusiast I have a lot of discussions with other enthusiasts, including mechanics, and unfortunately I know there is a community of people out there who will never use E10. A belief exists, whether it is right or wrong, that E10 can damage an engine over time. The belief extends to old classic vehicles with steel fuel tanks, as well as marine and small engine fuel tanks that could become rusty due to ethanol fuels attracting moisture and, depending on the price difference with regular unleaded petrol, E10 might not get you as far. This type of anecdotal evidence is touted regularly and was also ventilated when the

committee I chaired in the 55th parliament introduced the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015. I am not here to argue the science, and one cannot argue the fact that customer demand is an essential factor in retailers meeting the mandate targets on ethanol blended fuels.


In an environment where overall retail petrol sales declined by around 10 per cent between 2017 and 2022, the overall sale of ethanol blended fuels increased by 12 per cent, which is an achievement we can all be really proud of. It is not hard to imagine that penalising retailers for not meeting targets dependent on consumer demand could backfire resulting in higher costs for and potentially deterring those consumers who do want to use E10. In addition, penalising retailers exempt under the condition that the costs of E10 enabling infrastructure are prohibitive, would disproportionately affect smaller independent businesses in regional and remote areas, something I am amazed that the member for Hinchinbrook would want to see happen.

Mr Dametto: They are exempt by the bill.

Mr KING: As has been explained, in our understanding this bill would remove those exemptions. Instead of the big stick approach taken by the Katter party in this bill, our government has committed to a range of proactive approaches under our target for 50 per cent renewable energy sources by 2030 and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. As part of the Energy and Jobs Plan we are developing a new, sustainable liquid fuel strategy for next year. An options and opportunities paper was released in May to inform the strategy and consultation on the paper closes very soon. I hope the member for Hinchinbrook has made a submission because it will be welcome.

As I said, retail petrol sales are declining thanks partly to incentives for motorists to go with greener options, coupled with the desire of commuters to save money and be more environmentally friendly. We must look elsewhere to find new markets for ethanol. There are growing opportunities for sustainable liquid fuels in Queensland industry and agriculture. As we move towards longer term decarbonisation and emissions reduction goals, where electrification and hydrogen will be heroes, we still need sustainable liquid fuels throughout the transition as well as long-term energy sources where cleaner alternatives are difficult or impossible to achieve, such as renewable diesels for heavy industries and sustainable aviation fuels, or SAF, for airlines.

Our government will continue to work collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders, including consumers, producers and suppliers, to identify and realise these opportunities. I encourage the Katter party members to join us in that process. I commend the Katter party for introducing a private member's bill. I would encourage other parties in this place to do the same. I thank our committee—we always get through these inquiries collaboratively—and our hardworking secretariat who always back us up. I thank the Katter party members for the way they dealt with this and for the way they appeared before us and answered every question. I appreciate that. Unfortunately this bill is not the way forward to advance the sugar industry or grow biofuel consumption in Queensland and I cannot support it.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.04 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022 as shadow minister for natural resources, mines and energy. In doing so I would like to recognise the Transport and Resources Committee for their work in overseeing the inquiry and, of course, in particular, the efforts of the deputy chair, the member for Gregory, the member for Callide and the member for Toowoomba North. The report offered two recommendations: firstly, to not pass the bill and, secondly, that the minister consider promoting strategies to improve consumer confidence in fuels manufactured using renewable energy sources. From the outset, I would like to say that this bill has sound intent. However, the LNP has concerns surrounding the practicality of the legislation and unintended consequences. We also have concerns that the bill is becoming more outdated by the day, given advancements in motoring and the biofuel industry and the fact that this bill was introduced in October 2022. There has been a lot that has changed since that date. Given these concerns the LNP will not be supporting the bill and I will outline my reasons for this during this contribution.

As I touched on, the detail of the legislation has unintended consequences which will be particularly felt by small and family service station operators across our state depending on the ownership structure of those businesses. If the bill is passed it would present inconsistencies for fuel standards across state jurisdictions. Queensland has three borders. I am particularly concerned for cross-border communities, such as those represented by the member for Currumbin, Laura Gerber, the member for Southern Downs, James Lister, and the member for Warrego, Ann Leahy. Border retailers would risk noncompliance through no fault of their own depending on what side of the border the fuel is being sourced from. We do not believe that is an acceptable risk. There is also the concern that

added red tape for these businesses will undoubtedly increase the sale price of fuel which motorists have to pay at the bowser. Overregulation and red tape is one of the biggest challenges that small businesses face. In the middle of Labor's cost-of-living crisis this is the last thing that Queensland small businesses need imposed upon them.

Another issue with the legislation is the disproportionate penalties the bill seeks to impose for noncompliance. The penalties as proposed in the bill seem a little out of whack, given small retailers are facing hefty fines for noncompliance when compared to major wholesalers and manufacturers. The Motor Trades Association of Queensland has warned, 'It is also difficult to understand how strengthening enforcement will achieve a material increase in bio-based petrol sales.' On the topic of enforcement, the level of regulatory work that would be required to enforce the proposed provision will be significant. As it stands, very little detail has been provided as to how the compliance and enforcement regime would work and who would wear that cost.


The proposed provision is also potentially inconsistent with Commonwealth legislation that does not mandate a floor value for E10 fuel which we believe could have significant implications for fuel sellers. The Motor Trades Association of Queensland said in its submission, 'The challenge in the proposed amendments, however, is that it seeks to change labelling requirements for one state (i.e. Queensland) contrary to Federal laws.' The Motor Trades Association goes on to warn of 'market confusion for motorists buying E10 in Border regions.' After all that our small businesses in border communities have been put through in the last few years, this would add insult to injury and cause unnecessary angst and heartache.

It would be remiss of me not to point out that there would be no need for this bill had the uptake of E10 been stronger. That is a failure that lies squarely at the feet of this Palaszczuk government. In the current climate, all government investment seems to be in batteries, storage and hydrogen. You barely hear E10 get a mention at all from the government or the Minister for Energy. It is no secret that investment in ethanol has completely stalled. This is a huge issue and should not be discounted. In saying that, retailers must not be left with the burden of paying for any public campaigns aimed at improving the uptake of E10. During its inquiry the committee was also able to identify that the Queensland government had discontinued its E10 OK application. It is up to the minister to explain why this has been abandoned.

When I speak about the outdated nature of this legislation, it is clear that the biofuels industry has evolved substantially over the past few years. I note a recent announcement from the Deputy Premier's department that states that there are strong advancements in biofuel blends for aviation fuel. The aviation industry has few options to reduce its carbon footprint and biofuel is one of those few. This is a huge opportunity, particularly for the sugar industry. As technology advances so should policy. It is important that we look at other uses moving forward.

In speaking about the ethanol blend itself, it is also important to consider agriculture, which can and does face grain shortages particularly for the intensive livestock industry. That is common knowledge. We are probably looking at one of those situations right now out on the downs where crops are failing as we speak. The grain harvest is going to be significantly reduced. The area that I represent has the largest intensive livestock of any electorate in Australia, whether that be beef, pork, chicken or dairy. It is a huge user of grain. We cannot risk running short of grain to keep that industry going. There are concerns that grain used for ethanol production is at an opportunity cost for grain used by livestock feed and that needs to be considered.

As I stated earlier in my contribution, the LNP acknowledge that there is sound intent in the formulation of this bill. However, there are flaws with the detail and unintended consequences. The bill as presented is becoming more outdated with advancements in the biofuels industry, particularly for the aviation industry as is happening at the moment. We are looking at introducing legislation that would need to be amended given the fast-moving nature of the fuel industry. In opposing the bill, the opposition notes that it may be more appropriate to consider alternative strategies to improve consumer confidence in E10 and other future fuels manufactured using biofuels.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (6.12 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022. I thank Katter's Australian Party for what they have proposed in relation to ethanol fuel blends, although the bill has raised more questions than answers.

The Queensland bio-based petrol mandate or ethanol mandate has been in place since 2017, following the introduction of the legislation in 2015, and it has driven consumer interest in ethanol blended fuel. While the law allows E10 that is between one and 10 per cent ethanol to be sold, in practice what has happened is that fuel suppliers use on average about nine percent ethanol, noting

that going over 10 percent would be an offence. This is backed up by compliance data published by the Australian government that shows the average is about nine percent ethanol. Therefore, the bill seeks to introduce into Queensland more regulation, red tape and costs for a problem that the data states does not exist.

All the Katter party is proposing is a bigger stick on private fuel station owners who do not provide E10. In fact, the bill seeks to double penalties up to a maximum of \$2.875 million. This ignores the fact that ultimately it is up to motorists to choose whether or not they buy E10. It is freedom of choice. It is also the government's view that the amendment would be unconstitutional as it is inconsistent with the Commonwealth laws that already regulate fuel standards.

The consumer has moved on with the latest in technology. I know it is hard to believe that the consumer and the community have moved on with the latest and the greatest when it comes to buying fuel efficient cars. Not only that: the consumer wants things to be clean and green. They are buying what meets their expectations and what is most cost efficient. The new car market has moved on with the latest in hybrid diesel, hybrid unleaded, hydrogen and electric vehicles. I know that many of those on the other side of the House do not want to hear about electric vehicles. They will tell you that they cannot make it into the bush, that they cannot tow a boat and that you cannot have a weekend ute. I say you can have all of the above and more. Since 2015, cars and trucks have become very efficient in many different ways. There are even models that must use only fuel with a 95 or 98 RON or research octane number. Anything lower than what is recommended by the carmaker can damage the engine by causing early ignition or pinging.

Over the past five years in Queensland there has been an 83 per cent increase in registered hybrid electric cars, that is, petrol-electric or diesel-electric vehicles. The number of electric vehicles registered in Queensland has also increased, most notably for cars and light commercial vehicles, up 850 per cent and 111 per cent respectively since 2014. This tells me that Queenslanders love a clean, green hybrid vehicle that uses far less liquid fuel. What we need and what we are doing is installing the electric superhighway across the state.

Recently, whilst doing Transport and Resources Committee work in Birdsville, I saw two electric vehicles being tested—of all places, in Birdsville. They were Porsche Taycan 4S Cross Turismo electric vehicles, valued at about \$240,000 each. I spoke with Mr Toby Hagon, a motoring journalist from aXelerate Media, who was putting the vehicles through their paces. He informed me that we will see more electric vehicles such as these in the very near future in the outback as the technology improves and more charging facilities are installed.

I know that the intention of the Katter party is to try to do their bit for the canefarmer by introducing the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum bio-based Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022. However, the true future—the bright and clean future—for canefarmers is in biofuels. That is what the Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan 2016-2026 is achieving by unlocking Queensland's potential to commercially produce sustainable fuels, energy and products. The production pathway includes the recovery of energy or fuels or the manufacture of products from carbon-rich waste from agriculture, food processing, construction and industrial processes. In Queensland, the different sugarcane-growing representative groups are already racing ahead to make sure they participate in the production of biofuels for the aviation and transport industries so that their canegrowers get a better return on their cane and waste products, as we announced in this place recently.

The people of Queensland should be very proud that the Palaszczuk state government is already investing in clean, green and sustainable biofuels that will help the transport and aviation sectors meet their emission targets for the future. I will not support punishing the fuel supply outlets with bigger fines and more red tape. What I will do is support the smart clean and green fuels of the future. That is what Queenslanders want and that is what Queenslanders deserve.



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this bill, which proposes amendments to the regulation of ethanol fuels in Queensland. As deputy chair of the Transport and Resources Committee, I was an active and interested participant in the committee's review of the proposed legislation. I can say that the bill is clearly founded on the best of intentions, namely, to further strengthen the use of E10 fuels in Queensland. However, in my considered opinion, I cannot support the bill because it needs more work. To me this bill looks at more regulation on small- and medium-sized retailers in rural and regional Queensland. The people who supply the fuel are the wholesalers yet there is more regulation on the retailers.

I take the point of the member for Hinchinbrook's analogy about going to the pub and buying a can of VB that is supposed to contain 4.2 or 4.5 per cent alcohol but which contains only one per cent. It is not the publican's fault; it is in the can that came from the wholesaler, so he should be at fault.

In 2015 this parliament passed the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill with the relatively modest goal of increasing the use of biofuels to four per cent of other liquid fuels used across Queensland. As this bill's sponsor, the member for Hinchinbrook said in his introductory speech—


Using E10 in your vehicle can reduce ... tailpipe emissions by ... 28 per cent.

In the US, 98 per cent of all unleaded fuel contains at least 10 per cent ethanol. The government's target of four per cent of Queensland liquid fuel sales containing ethanol was a very modest target which should have been achievable, yet this bill is being presented because that mandate is clearly failing. Despite the mandate being in operation since 2017, we have lifted E10 fuel from only 1.5 per cent to 2.9 per cent of fuel sales. Pre mandate, we also had two biofuel plants running in Queensland, one in Dalby and one in Sarina. Since the mandate was put in place, the Dalby plant has ceased its operation. I acknowledge the member for Condamine, who knows that plant very well. I absolutely understand what he said about the Darling Downs crop this year and going into next year being very small, with obviously the fear of a La Nina coming on. There is a lot of pressure on grain supply to feedlots and also grain being supplied into ethanol.

Fuel supply in regional Queensland is dominated by small and medium service station operators who often supply other vital mechanical services, spare parts and tyres to their communities and to their travellers. They are the foundational part of a viable community in a state as big as Queensland. Our regional service stations across Queensland tend to be owned by owner-operators or family businesses. As I said at the start, the last thing I would want to see is more regulatory paperwork and onus put on these people, given that the wholesaler is the one who supplies the fuel—not the retailer. The retailer sells the fuel. I know that a lot of those service station owners have a lot on their plate, not only fuelling up cars but also with mechanical work and windscreen repair. They employ local regional people. They are big employers. Putting more onus on these people is sometimes a little unnecessary. I think the penalties contained in this bill are quite high for these retailers. It could play a significant role in them going forward. I think that is unfair on those retailers.

I will talk to another issue that bugs me. I have seen this happen in legislation when it comes to agriculture. The bill as it stands seems to require a reversal of the onus of proof. That is something that really does concern me. If the department charges your business, you would have to prove your innocence rather than the department having to show proof that you have committed an offence. That is something that does not work in legislation I have seen in this place—namely, vegetation management legislation, where the farmer has to prove his innocence. It is the same thing here. The regional fuel retailer—small or medium—would have to prove that they were innocent, and the department does not have to gather evidence prior to prosecute the person. I have no confidence when it comes to the reversal of the onus of proof in the bill. There is the issue with the retailer.

The other issue simply is: why are we introducing more regulation? I am for less regulation of business and less government interference. We also have not been able to work out how this would operate. Who is going to police it? What will be required by the department? Does that impact on the fuel retailers? Who is going to pay for it? Someone has to pay for it. As I said at the start, I congratulate the Katter party on bringing this to us—the intent is there—but I think it needs more work.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak on the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022, introduced by Katter's Australian Party. This private member's bill proposes to double penalties for noncompliance for fuel retailers who do not sell the prescribed minimum amount of four per cent bio-based petrol such as E10. The bill also proposes to prescribe a minimum of nine per cent bio-based petrol content for all blended petrol sold by fuel retailers in Queensland, with a new offence and new penalties for all those who do not take reasonable care to ensure compliance with that requirement. Ultimately, the proposals in the bill really take a hammer to consumers and a hammer to small and medium retailers. In my opinion, neither of the proposals is likely to have the desired effect, which, as stated by the KAP, is to try to increase E10 sales. The proposals are not necessary. They are not workable. As such, the government will not be supporting the bill.

In April, the Transport and Resources Committee tabled its report in response to the bill. The committee took submissions and held public hearings to inform its findings and recommendations in the report. The committee recommended that the bill not be passed for a multitude of reasons. Firstly,

the double penalties are excessive and fall well outside the range that currently exists in similar legislation. Secondly, the value proposition for applying these fines does not address all of the factors contributing to consumer uptake of E10 petrol. Basically, fining retailers is not a particularly good way of increasing demand for E10. It is important to remember that motorists still need to have choice between regular unleaded petrol and E10 when they fill up at the bowser. Thirdly, the minimum content provisions would be unconstitutional if enacted as they are inconsistent with Australian government laws that already regulate fuel quality and labelling standards.

Furthermore, the proposals would add an onerous level of record keeping on individual fuel sellers. Whilst many servos such as BP, Caltex or Ampol might display big-brand fuel prices, often they are owned and operated by small businesses with an exclusive supply and branding agreement. Just because you see a petrol station that says 'Ampol' does mean it is owned by big oil; it is owned by a local Queenslander. Many owners may have one, two or a small number of petrol stations. The majority of Queensland servos are actually owned and operated by Australian companies or small to medium enterprises. In fact, only 13 per cent of servos are operated by big oil companies.

Queensland motorists consume on average about 60 million litres of pure ethanol a year. This is equivalent to the production capacity of Wilmar's biorefinery at Sarina in North Queensland. Since 2017, the number of retailers selling E10 has doubled. There are of course some remote towns where E10 is not available from the fuel supplier; however, almost all new sites that have been opened since 2022 have installed E10.

An experiment similar to this bill was introduced in New South Wales about 15 years ago—removing the purchasing choice in fuel for motorists by trying to phase out regular unleaded petrol without ethanol. The result was that motorists switched towards more expensive premium fuels without ethanol. Premium petrol, as we all know, can cost about 20 cents more per litre than regular unleaded petrol. This puts significantly more pressure on household budgets. Moreover, a report from the ACCC found that it ended up costing New South Wales motorists \$85 million in higher fuel prices over just two years.

Instead of supporting this bill, the government will be taking a positive approach by promoting strategies to improve consumer confidence in fuels manufactured using renewable energy and sources. Our sustainable liquid fuels strategy will build on the existing government support for sustainable liquid fuels, demonstrated in the Queensland Biofuels 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

It is vital that we remain future focused and recognise that electrification of transport and hydrogen is expected to play a significant role in the transition away from petroleum fuels, which currently make up about half of Australia's energy consumption. This transition is supported by our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. There is no doubt that internal combustion engine vehicles will be on the road for many years to come, for the foreseeable future; however, the petrol market is declining. Whilst E10 is a valuable transition fuel that provides motorists with a lower carbon fuel option, as the electric vehicle take-up increases other emerging liquid fuels, including sustainable aviation fuel and renewable diesel, are also expected to play an important role in supporting decarbonisation in hard-to-abate sectors.

In order to meet our goals and commitments, we will need to adopt a wide range of lower carbon energy sources. As part of our sustainable fuel strategy, we will be seeking further input from industry, fuel users and supply chain stakeholders to unlock opportunities and develop industries. This is already happening in Queensland. The sustainable fuels industry will be supported by local feed stocks that will provide further opportunities for our agricultural industry and also help protect Queensland from international oil price shocks.


For example, emerging technologies such as alcohol to jet can provide new opportunities for the sugar industry to supply fuels where there is expected to be long-term growth as petrol declines. Renewable diesel is another one that is expected to be an essential contributor to decarbonise heavy industry. It is an advanced drop-in replacement for mineral diesel which means it can be substituted without any expense or modification to diesel engines and fuel systems. I look forward to our upcoming fuel strategy to increase the uptake of sustainable liquid fuels. It will be a collaborative and consumer focused approach, which is important because it is the willingness of customers that drives the uptake of sustainable liquid fuels. That is one key thing that I think that this bill misses.

I note that the LNP did not support sustainable liquid fuels when they were in government. They also did not support fuel efficiency standards. It is this government that has a strategy and it will be backing the development of our industries. I know that other members in this place, like the member for Bundaberg and the member for Mackay, are huge supporters of the sugarcane industry and will be

keen to see opportunities provided to this industry to supply new fuels as new technologies emerge. In fact, the Transport and Resources Committee only a few months ago visited a pilot biorefinery plant in Mackay. It is a massive investment by US company Mercurius, partnering with QUT. It is using sugarcane waste to create renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel. It certainly looks very promising.

To conclude, in response to the Transport and Resources Committee inquiry the Motor Trades Association of Queensland stressed that there was no wilful lack of compliance by retailers and that no cost-benefit analysis was provided to support the proposed amendments. They also stated that the proposed penalties would put most small retailers out of business and that regional communities could be the ones that end up suffering.

It is evident from the drop in bio-based petrol sales in New South Wales that we cannot force motorists to buy E10 and impose higher fines for seller. That will not translate into more sales. That is why the government does not support this bill.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.32 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in the debate on the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022. The member for Hinchinbrook introduced this bill and the Transport and Resources Committee considered it. I would like to thank the chair and deputy chair of that committee. We went through this bill and looked at it from several different perspectives, gaining a fair amount of evidence as to some problems that might result from this bill. I do not think that has to do with the intent of the member for Hinchinbrook. It is just that some of the mechanics in the bill are problematic.

In my local area, as was mentioned by the member for Condamine, we have a biofuel refinery at Dalby. We have a massive grain industry that uses that product in feedlots. There is a real pricepoint pressure on the product that is required to make the ethanol in our region. We obviously do not have sugarcane fields on the Darling Downs. I would be greatly concerned that we would start artificially impacting the price of our various feedlots and the meat and food that they provide both for export and for us in Australia by increasing their input cost by making a feed stock compete directly with a liquid fuel. That is certainly one area that would concern me.

On a broader scale, fundamentally I am not a fan of supply side controls and fines to try to drive up consumer adoption of a particular product. One of the things that this relies on is people who own their individual vehicles making their own individual choices about what they want to do. Some people might go to an electric car and some people might be looking for a hydrogen-based car. There are lots of different fuel options and energy options becoming available to people as this technology develops. Placing massive fines on small retailers to try to force the supply side up is not the approach that I would like to see taken.

The government seems to have withdrawn some of its financial backing in terms of promoting E10 to the community as an alternate fuel. Maybe the government could have a look at that. If we are going to promote it, that cost should not be thrown back on the consumer. As people would be well aware, in this cost-of-living crisis fuel is already expensive enough. Putting massive compliance penalties on will increase compliance costs and that might get passed back to the consumer. If the government moves to an advertising program I would not want to see that come back on the consumer either.

We support the fact that we should be looking for alternate fuel supplies, both from a national security perspective and an environmental perspective. I am not sure that this bill practically solves some of those issues. It would result in some unintended consequences.

As a small business owner and operator previously myself, I know that compliance costs are always difficult to meet in a smaller business, particularly if one is dependent on fuel being delivered by massive wholesalers. This could be coming from either side of the border in our region or potentially coming a long distance if we are relying on sugarcane ethanol. There are several potential cost inputs and some practicalities around managing supply for some of these smaller retailers. They potentially face a massive fine if that does not meet the standards.

I have some concerns about that at a practical level. I have concerns about what that might do for fuel costs as people try to meet those various compliance costs. I note that the Motor Trades Association of Queensland said—

It is also difficult to understand how strengthening enforcement will achieve a material increase in biobased petrol sales.

That is really my comment around the supply side of the equation. If we want to people to use biofuels then we need to try to get the demand up. We need to try to get the consumers to desire this particular source of fuel. There are some things that can be done in that space. Energy for motor

vehicles is evolving so quickly that we should not be locking ourselves in to back any particular horse. We should be looking at what is happening internationally, looking at the options for the energy supply to the vehicle and making sure that in Queensland we are delivering the cheapest transportation costs to the general public so they can get around, particularly in regional and remote areas where fuel cost is a massive component of someone's cost of living.

Many people who live in regional Queensland live a few hours drive from where they get their groceries or do their shopping or drive their kids around to play sport on the weekend. We do not want a situation where compliance costs and supply side issues drive up the cost of fuel for those people who already face massive fuel costs as they try to live their lives.

Others have spoken about this, but there are potentially some inconsistencies with Commonwealth legislation. If we are going to look at anything like this going forward, that needs to be addressed in a thorough way. The Motor Trades Association said in their submission—


The challenge in the proposed amendments, however, is that it seeks to change labelling requirements for one state (i.e. Queensland) contrary to Federal laws.

We know that our border communities have faced a lot of pressure in recent times. Fuel is a key component to living in cross-border areas, particularly as you travel further west. Again, there are problems around anything that might increase the cost of fuel. If we look at what the Labor government has done to increase E10 uptake, to encourage the demand side of it, I think there is certainly room to move. I think that there have been some failures from the government's perspective.

In wrapping up, for any producer of an input—whether it be sugar or grain—there is an opportunity cost when it comes to what other things they might be able to do with that input. In my region, I would not want to see that driving up food costs and the cost of production for what is a big employer, a big industry, that generates a lot of money on the Darling Downs, and that is our feedlot industry supplying both domestic and international markets. There are many thousands of mouths that are dependent on that industry. I would not want to see costs getting more expensive for them. There is real opportunity cost there that I think needs to be considered when we are looking at this area.

On a recent committee trip to Mackay, we visited a research project that QUT are involved in. There are definitely some opportunities around the by-product from sugar cane to be used in the aviation industry. Focusing on that research and trying to encourage alternatives on the supply side rather than having mandates on the supply side is probably a better way forward particularly to support our sugar industry, which is very important to us, but also hopefully to find some solutions for our aviation industry. We need a good aviation industry with a cheap fuel supply to help get us around Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.42 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022. I would like to start my contribution by acknowledging the very genuine and passionate interest from Katter's Australian Party when it comes to this topic.

The Queensland ethanol mandate has been in place since 2017, so it has been around for eight years. It requires liable petrol retailers to sell a target of at least four per cent ethanol compared to their sales of regular unleaded petrol. There is no doubt that since the introduction of the mandate there have been increasing numbers of motorists who are choosing E10 over regular unleaded petrol. Ethanol sales are now averaging almost three per cent, at 2.9 per cent, which is almost double the 1.5 per cent sales that were being achieved in 2016 prior to the operation of the mandate.

What this has meant in practice is that almost three out of 10 motorists are choosing to buy E10 over regular unleaded petrol. Over that time we have also seen a huge increase in the number of petrol stations across Queensland that are offering E10. We now have over 800 sites that are selling E10. That is more than double the 343 sites that were selling E10 in 2016. That is an extraordinary increase. That is more evidence of the fact that our mandate has delivered more availability of ethanol and more motorists are taking it up.

I am one of those motorists. I drive a hybrid vehicle. I choose to use E10 exclusively. I am very lucky because in the Bundamba community 15 out of 15 retail fuel stations have E10 available. When we say that it is motorists who ultimately choose at the bowser whether or not they want to buy E10, regular unleaded petrol or premium petrol, I can contribute to this debate from personal experience because in my community that E10 is widely available and I choose to use it.

In turning to the provisions of this bill, this private member's bill seeks to make changes to Queensland's ethanol mandate. As we have heard from other speakers, the bill seeks to double the penalties up to a maximum of \$2.875 million. It is worth noting that the Transport and Resources Committee inquiry report into this bill found that this element of the bill was manifestly excessive and the committee did not support it.

The Palaszczuk government remains committed to motorists having choice at the bowser. There is a very good reason for that. When New South Wales experimented with phasing out regular unleaded petrol without ethanol, what happened was that those motorists who could not or did not want to use E10 were forced to buy more expensive premium petrol, which is more profitable for the fuel companies. This is particularly salient when we are seeing national cost-of-living pressures impacting the hip pockets of families right across Queensland. When you consider that premium petrol can be 10 cents to 20 cents per litre more expensive than regular unleaded petrol, it would put significant extra pressure on household budgets. The ACCC found that the New South Wales policy cost Sydney motorists alone up to \$85 million in 2014-15 by paying for higher priced fuels. Simply doubling maximum penalties will not achieve the effect that the mechanism is designed to. It is just going to result in less choice for motorists and increased use of more expensive petrol.


The bill also seeks to regulate E10 petrol so that it must not be less than nine per cent ethanol. The Australian government regulates fuel standards and labelling, and that includes for ethanol blends like E10. I am advised that this particular amendment in the bill would be unconstitutional as it is inconsistent with existing Commonwealth laws. Our existing mandate does not regulate ethanol content in E10. It instead mandates the total amount of ethanol required to be sold to be four per cent of the total volume sold of regular unleaded blends.

Federal law allows E10 to be sold that is between one per cent and 10 per cent ethanol. In practice, fuel supplies average about nine per cent ethanol, noting that if they went over 10 per cent that would be an offence under the federal law. This is backed up by compliance data published by the Australian government which shows that the average is about nine per cent. In this respect, unfortunately the bill seems to introduce more regulations and costs in Queensland for a problem that does not exist in reality.

Our existing ethanol mandate has had significant success. The data shows that Queensland motorists consume about 60 million litres of pure ethanol per year; however, the ethanol fuel market for cars is changing and it is facing challenges. E10 competes in the petrol market for light vehicles and the petrol market overall is declining. That decline will accelerate with the increased uptake of zero emissions and electric vehicles. In its submission to the committee inquiry into this bill the Motor Trades Association of Queensland stated that legislating for consumer behaviour has a low chance of success in the face of increasing and substantial competition from EVs and other sources of renewable fuels.

The Queensland government has supported the biofuels industry since 2015 when we committed to the biofutures road map. There are other emerging opportunities for ethanol and other sustainable liquid fuels. In May this year we released an options and opportunities paper seeking input for this strategy from a broad range of stakeholders ranging from fuel users, fuel producers and sellers across many sectors. I would encourage Katter's Australian Party and any other organisation that might be interested in the future of fuels, sustainable fuels and the uptake of ethanol to participate in that consultation process.

That being said, while I cannot support this bill I do congratulate Katter's Australian Party for bringing this bill forward for debate, for doing the work and putting forward new ideas, because it is more than the LNP has done. Katter's Australian Party has only three members and the LNP, the official opposition, has 34 members. At least the LNP mustered enough enthusiasm for this debate to rustle up four speakers which, incidentally, is the number of paragraphs in their committee report's statement of reservation. In conclusion, I would like to thank the committee for their work into this bill. I would like to thank all of the submitters who made submissions. I would like to note the recommendation from the committee that the bill not be passed. Based on all of that evidence and advice I cannot support the bill.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (6.52 pm): I do thank Katter's Australian Party for bringing the bill to the House because it does highlight the failures of the current government and the lack of enforcement of their own rules with regard to the existing biofuels mandate. Because of their lack of enforcement, the committee heard that a consumer may go to a service station to purchase E10 and there may not be any ethanol in their E10 fuel blend because the current government refuses to enforce their own rules

and the current existing mandate. I do note that in a hearing the member for Hinchinbrook acknowledged that, if the government enforced the existing mandate, it would go a long way to achieving what the KAP did set out to achieve in the first place with this bill. If the government enforced the existing mandate that would certainly be a very good thing because biofuels are important to Queensland, they are important to the future of energy and they are an important fuel source. We certainly here at the LNP support a biofuel industry in Queensland. If the mandate is met, then it is absolutely a good thing for Queensland. Biofuels are a good thing for Queensland because the agricultural industry is a good thing for Queensland and it is a critical industry that we here in the LNP support every day of the week. We see continuous failures from the government when it comes to the agriculture sector, and their failure to enforce the current biofuels mandate is just another example of them failing the ag sector in Queensland.

As a member of the Transport and Resources Committee, this bill did come before us and it was great to participate in the hearing process, read the submissions and hear evidence in the public hearings. One of the key recommendations made by the committee was that the minister consider promoting strategies to improve consumer confidence in fuels manufactured using renewable energy sources. This is something that we think needs to be done more here in Queensland, and that is why once again the LNP supports a biofuels industry in Queensland. We do have concerns that this bill is becoming more outdated by the day given advancements in the motoring and biofuels industries. We know there is investment in biofuels for aviation, and of course we all know that the future of the energy market in Queensland has a long way to play out. There are concerns that this bill will add red tape for businesses and increase the sale price of fuel. That is a concern that was raised and that we do hold. We also have concerns about inconsistencies in fuel standards across state jurisdictions because of this bill being a thing in Queensland and not elsewhere as well which, in a country that has relatively small petroleum use compared to other parts of the world, has its own consequences. Retailers in border communities could be open to risk of noncompliance through no fault of their own depending on what side of the border their fuel is being sourced from.

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland did raise the concern that it is difficult to understand how strengthening enforcement will achieve a material increase in bio-based petrol sales. You can increase user supply of anything as much as you want but that does not mean that you increase demand. It was interesting recently when the committee went to see the biofuels plant at Mackay. It is run by QUT. They convert bagasse from sugar cane into a biofuel product. It is a great plant and there is a lot of research being done there in relation to the future of energy use in Queensland.


I grew up north of Brigalow on the Darling Downs and the ethanol plant at Dalby is not very far from my family farm. When the ethanol plant at Dalby opened, it was something that I know my father was very excited about at the time because it did provide more markets where our family could sell our grain. However, since then across the Western Downs we have had a significant increase in investment in feedlots. As a result, the Western Downs Regional Council area is a net importer of grain. This means that they cannot get local grain anymore in order to run that ethanol plant. They have to ship it in from the Central Highlands or other parts of New South Wales. It might have to come up from Narrabri or other parts of the state. This incurs significant transport costs, which then further changes the whole economics of an ethanol plant. After a couple of drought years in Australia followed by a couple of good years, because of global markets grain prices have been incredibly high, which does of course impact the final price of the biofuel product at the bowser. One of our concerns is that adding increased mandates to supply will have a detrimental effect and add to the cost-of-living crisis that is currently facing Queenslanders. We do not want to see a forced increase in supply on a product that may be very expensive because of current markets and those issues I was talking about with a lot of local feedlots.

Biofuels will form a big part of the energy mix into the future, and the opposition is certainly open to what that future brings. One problem is that you need a strong grain industry for a good biofuel industry, but unfortunately in Queensland we have a government that is not very focused on biosecurity. We have the fall armyworm which is an invasive pest that eats corn, sorghum and crops that form an important part of the biofuels industry. If we actually invested properly in biosecurity, that may significantly help a future biofuels industry. In the current climate, all government investment seems to be in battery storage and hydrogen, and investment in ethanol has stalled.

Debate, on motion of Mr Head, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Southport Electorate


 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise tonight to speak about a few things that have been happening in the electorate of Southport. It was a great honour to join Di Macleod and a group of other supporters at the Red Rose Rally in Norm Rix Park last week. At the rally, we remembered a number of people who have sadly lost their lives to domestic violence: Gypsy Satterly, a 25-year-old from the Sunshine Coast; Tayla Cox, a 30-year-old, and her baby, Murphy, just 11 weeks old, from Rockhampton; and an unnamed woman aged 74 from Rockhampton. We also remembered Jessica Townsley, 38, and Terry Bishop, 65, who lost their lives as a result of domestic violence in their communities.

It was a pleasure to be with them at Norm Rix Park because about 20 years ago a group from the community came and saw me when I was the then councillor about the establishment of a garden of reflection. That garden is now located in Norm Rix Park and we were able to acquire a sculpture at the time which symbolises how precious and important women are in our community. It stands there as a memorial to the many who have lost their lives to domestic violence.

It was also my pleasure to attend a morning tea at Ashmore Men's Shed. I want to thank treasurer Bill Vanderstaay who invited me to be their guest speaker. I also had the pleasure of attending Bellevue Park State School's breakfast club last Friday at the invitation of Em Collard, the school chappy, and principal Robyn Hutchins. It just happened to be Say No to Bullying Day, and it was such a pleasure to see so many young people volunteering, buttering toast and serving fresh fruit behind the counter at the tuckshop, and also wishing everyone as they left a 'happy no bullying day'.

During the month, I joined the team at Hope Starts Here, a homelessness service in Southport that provides food, clothing, food parcels and a range of other services each week. I especially want to acknowledge Donna Cooper and Lyn Mansfield, two of the volunteers from that team, and the great work they do. What a great pleasure it was to be a part of this year's Vinnies CEO Sleepout. The Gold Coast knocked another record out of the park, raising \$592,000. It was great to have the housing minister via live link to announce the 60 apartments in Nerang on the land that Vinnies had purchased with the funds raised over the last five years.

Woodridge Electorate, Budget


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (7.03 pm): The Woodridge electorate represents the best of Queensland—a community with a diverse heritage which shares the exciting possibilities of our state's bright future. I also know that cost-of-living pressures mean many families in Woodridge are doing it tough. That is why this year's budget supports the aspirations of our community, as well as supporting families in need. Our record electricity rebate program will provide up to \$1,072 in rebates to help families in need. These rebates are part of the record \$8.2 billion in concession funding that we have allocated in the budget to help tackle the national cost-of-living challenge. We will fully fund 15 hours of free kindy each week for all four-year-olds at a cost of \$645 million over four years. More than 50,000 children across Queensland will receive free kindy from 1 January next year, including in Woodridge, and it will save families an estimated \$4,600 in annual fees.

As I have said many times before, education is the engine of opportunity. This year's budget invests \$128 million to help improve schools across the Logan region. Woodridge State High School can celebrate its 51st anniversary with a new school hall, as can the great school community at Browns Plains State High School. Berrinba East State School will receive \$600,000 as part of the school infrastructure enhancement program, and \$1.3 million will be spent on planned maintenance for schools across the electorate.

Along with education, one of the measures of a great society is the health care it provides to all of its citizens. That is why I am proud that this year's budget delivers record funding for Queensland Health. The Metro South Hospital and Health Service will receive a record budget allocation of \$3.4 billion so it can get on with its important work of caring for Logan. There is continuing funding for the \$1 billion upgrade to Logan Hospital, and we are delivering for great community groups like the Amputees and Families Support Group Queensland based in Logan Central. They will receive a funding boost of \$2.3 million to provide waterproof artificial limbs and prostheses to Queenslanders in need. I am also really pleased that the Crestmead PCYC will receive a \$1 million funding boost to support their important community work.

This year's budget will also deliver support to our critically important housing sector, including \$50 million for social housing in Logan and \$6.4 million for homelessness services. The budget also includes \$1.4 billion for Logan's big infrastructure build, supporting 4,100 jobs this financial year. This includes investments in improving digital coverage and associated infrastructure in Logan, as well as funding towards the Logan Gardens Shared Ring Road. Once again, the 2023 state budget delivers for the Woodridge electorate.


Latter, Mr K; Denman Family

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.06 pm): It was with deep sadness that I attended the funeral of the late CEO of Canegrowers Mackay, Kerry Latter. A man of many hats across his working life, Kerry was a Queen's Scout, a Royal Australian Air Force serviceman, a leader in financial institutions, a CEO in employment agencies and CHR—and he was my CEO for a period—an active and generous community member, a son and a brother, but his most prized hat was that of dad to his two beloved daughters, Daria and Liana, who I had the pleasure of meeting at his service. Kerry was an absolute advocate for the sugar industry but also for agriculture as a whole across our state. I had the pleasure of working alongside him for many years as a canegrower myself in the Rural Affairs Committee of Mackay Regional Council, as well as the skills formation strategy of agriculture across our community.

I also had the great privilege to serve with him as an LNP member and a National Party member when we went to several National Party congresses in Canberra. Kerry ran for the seat of Mirani in the state election and he also ran on the LNP Senate ticket for the federal election. Kerry was known to many as somebody who saw the future in biofutures and the link the sugar industry plays as well as the important role that agriculture plays across our great state. He will be missed. He is survived by his two daughters, his mother Ivy, who is an incredible woman, and his brothers Reg and Harry and his sisters Jenny and Sharon and their families. We send our condolences.

I would also like to say that it was an absolute privilege to be a guest at Etowri, celebrating 150 years of the Denman family earlier this month. Etowri was originally settled by British born Edward Denman in 1873. Edward was the son of a miller who arrived in Australia in 1872 aged 28, having spent time in the British West Indies on a sugar plantation gaining experience in cane cultivation and milling. He spent his first few years clearing 242 hectares—which I know is nearly 600 acres—of hill land on the north side of the Pioneer River. His first crop was maize and cane was to follow. The Denman family has contributed significantly to our sugar and beef industries and, more recently, our broader community, with Robert Denman receiving our Australian of the Year award at Mackay Regional Council. I am privileged to call him and his wife friends. It is one of the only properties in the area to have remained in the same family for 150 years, and we congratulate them.

Ipswich Girl Guides, Anniversary


 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.09 pm): Last month I was honoured to join the first Ipswich Girl Guides in celebrating their 100th anniversary. What an incredible milestone and a testament to the commitment of generations of dedicated Girl Guides, Girl Guides volunteers, leaders and supporters in Ipswich. Over the past 100 years, the lives of girls have dramatically changed, but one thing that has stayed the same is the Girl Guides' mission of providing a safe space for girls to be themselves and to grow into exceptional young women who can take on the world. In 1923, women were already starting to see some changes that allowed them a little bit more freedom, rights and autonomy, but there was still a long way to go. The gains we have made over the past 100 years have been made in part because of organisations like Girl Guides. They have mentored scores of girls, empowering them to do anything that boys and men can do and then some.

The 100th celebration welcomed the Girl Guides Queensland State Commissioner, Kathryn Pearson, and was well attended by Ipswich Girl Guides volunteers and supporters both past and present. It was a remarkable trip down memory lane with really interesting displays of memorabilia, uniforms, trophies and other mementos documenting the last century of Guiding in Ipswich. It was such a great joy to meet former Ipswich Girl Guides such as Dell Pears, a remarkable 93-year-old woman who no doubt has many fond memories of her days spent with the Ipswich Girl Guides. I also want to acknowledge Nola Fairhurst, Ipswich's first Queen's Guide recipient and former Brownie, Guide, Ranger, Guide Leader and District Manager. Nola was the recipient of the Ipswich Guides' Queen's Guide Shield at the anniversary celebrations. What an incredibly well deserved honour it is for Nola's lifelong commitment to the Ipswich Girl Guides. Congratulations and thank you for your work, Nola. It was also a pleasure to meet current Girl Guides who are carrying on the Guiding tradition in Ipswich.

Being a Girl Guide is not only about learning patrol skills, camping and outdoor adventures but also the Girl Guides impart valuable skills in leadership, communication and problem-solving. The Girl Guides have also embraced new technology and they have expanded their programs to stay innovative and remain relevant in a changing world. I want to acknowledge the work of our great leaders locally in Ipswich. I want to make particular mention of District Manager Dee Scheltinga. The Guides continue to be such terrific role models for our young women and girls, and their mentorship and guidance has been instrumental in empowering local girls to become confident young women who will be a force for positive change in the community.

At the 100th anniversary celebrations, I learned that over the past century Ipswich Girl Guides volunteers dedicated 16,000 hours to supporting Guides, and that does not include all the additional hours of volunteering. This generosity of time and effort is only made possible by leaders and volunteers who are passionate about making a difference in girls' lives through Guiding. Congratulations again to our local Ipswich Girl Guides for reaching this incredibly impressive milestone and for putting on a really wonderful day of celebration.

Romavilla Winery


 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (7.12 pm): On 22 June 2023, Queensland lost its oldest winery, Romavilla, to fire. Romavilla vineyards was established by Samuel Bassett in 1863. The first wines were sold in 1866 and the last vintage was in 2011. Romavilla did not miss a vintage in 145 years. Interestingly, Billy Hughes worked in the vineyards in 1890. He revisited in 1950.

Samuel Bassett sent his son, William, to work for Leo Burning in South Australia for two years in 1898 to learn winemaking. On his return, William took over the winemaking. In 1967, William sold part of the vineyard land to the Roma Town Council for the establishment of the Bassett Park complex. William Bassett died in 1972, and in 1975 the winery was sold to the Wall and Sproule families. David and Joy Wall became the owners of Romavilla in 1980. The winery won many prizes in Australia, England and Europe. The Wall and Sproule families worked at Romavilla, as did many other great young people during their school and university holidays, picking, pruning and crushing grapes and in the cellar. When the Wall family took over, they installed new equipment and new grape varieties were planted allowing state-of-the-art wines to be made. Richard Wall took over the vineyard management and winemaking in the early 2000s and the winery continued to prosper.

In 2010 the first of three major floods occurred in Roma and many items of equipment were replaced or repaired after the 2010 and 2011 floods. Against the wishes of the Wall family, Romavilla Winery was heritage listed in 2008, and I recall fighting with the Walls against the heritage listing and they gave me a tour inside at the time. Richard Wall started a new career in 2011, and David and Joy decided to retire because of ill health. This heritage listing made it very difficult to sell the winery. It sold in early 2013, but remained vacant. The vineyard has become heavily timbered with black wattle. Had the winery not been heritage listed, the building could have been used for another purpose. A very limiting factor with grape growing in the region, indeed all horticulture in Roma, is the lack of availability of good water.

I would like to thank David and Joy Wall for their help in compiling this very brief history of Romavilla. The Roma community and the descendants of the Bassett family all share in their sadness at the loss of Queensland's oldest winery, Romavilla.

Exercise Talisman Sabre, Deaths; Slade, Ms K


 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.15 pm): In the months that have passed since we last gathered, our service personnel across Queensland have faced some tragedy. The conduct of the biennial Talisman Sabre, the premiere combined joint exercise in Australia, was marred by the death of four Army personnel in a tragic air crash. This highlights the risk that is faced by our personnel even on home soil. 'Train hard, fight easy,' is what they say in the Army. Investigators will sift through the wreckage to find the cause of this incident, but my thoughts are with the families, the unit members and the wider defence family.

The last Talisman Sabre I did was in 2015, and although it has been many years since I was deployed to the happiest training area in the world, Shoalwater Bay, I cannot state enough how much time in the field in preparation for deployment is and can be just as risky as actual deployments.

Closer to home, our police community is hurting. The loss of a serving officer whilst on duty has far-reaching impacts for the Logan Police District. It puts the mental health and wellbeing of our officers under the spotlight for it is a difficult job and not one that people take lightly. Senior Constable Kym Slade had spent 15 years in the job, just having reached the 15-year mark. It was 15 years of dedicated service to the people of Logan.

I first met Kym in 2007 when she commenced at the Queensland Police Academy at Oxley. Walking through those gates, it was clear that getting to the academy was a career goal realised. She was a single mum who had worked her tail off to get there, and she was clearly nervous about how she would fare academically, but the effort she put in over those six months that I was instructor was clear. She would achieve her goal and she would graduate. I commend the service that she provided across a number of stations in Logan—Crestmead station, Beenleigh station, Beenleigh comms, Beenleigh watch house, and finally Loganholme police station. I think what it does is it puts a very clear focus for those of us who sit in here and who expect service of our uniformed personnel, whether it be blue or green. We ask them to make a great sacrifice. For many of them, they will miss many opportunities and they will miss time with their families in order to serve the people of Queensland in an extremely dangerous environment. It is incumbent upon us to make sure that they are looked after both whilst in service and when they retire.

Youth Crime, Relocation Sentencing; Stephens, Ms B


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (7.18 pm): I rise and I am immensely proud of this week's efforts from the KAP releasing the KAP relocation sentencing policy. It is a policy to address youth crime here in Queensland. I note that every shadow minister and minister in this House has been sent a copy of that policy in paper form, and I hope that everyone on each side of the House takes an opportunity to peruse that copy of our policy and give it the due consideration that it deserves—consideration of the fact that so many hours of consultation and time with policy advisers have gone into developing what we see is a policy that is here to address youth crime in Queensland.

The key points of the policy are to address youth crime through: remote location sentencing, mandatory sentencing, fixed terms and intensive rehabilitation. The rationale behind this is clear. The current sentencing and detention models do not act as a deterrent for would-be youth offenders and they do very little to rehabilitate those offenders. We want to see donga-style accommodation in Western Queensland where there can be detention centres of no more than 30 detainees with one-to-four ratios. In that way we can have intensive programs in place to ensure that within the six-to-12-months sentencing option these young offenders turn their lives around. We can make sure they are educated, trained and rehabilitated before integrating back into society.

While I am on my feet I would also like to talk about a problem that has been unfolding for nearly four years in the Cardwell area where GPs have failed to identify Cardwell as a place where they want to work. The Cardwell Family Medical Practice has informed the community that they will be closing their doors on 1 September. That will be a massive loss to that community with people ageing in place, people with higher needs and over 400 patients in limbo wondering what happens next for them when seeking specialist medical help. I have been in consultation with the NQPHN, Queensland Health, the Townsville University Hospital and Health Workforce Queensland. I understand that work is being done right now and a solution is being worked on. I want to acknowledge the minister for her input on that.

While I am on my feet I also want to acknowledge the passing of Bev Stephens, an absolute legend of a volunteer, a person who was as much of Cardwell as the ocean is. Bev passed away nearly two weeks ago. She used to run the information centre in Cardwell. She would be absolutely horrified that I am mentioning her and her service to the community in parliament right now. However, I do not care if Bev strikes me down; I get the last laugh on this one. I want to acknowledge the hard work and her family. On behalf of the Hinchinbrook electorate, I want to pass on our condolences.

Caboolture Satellite Hospital

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (7.21 pm): This government has a very strong record when it comes to delivering services and new infrastructure, particularly in the Caboolture region, a very fast-growing region in Queensland. It was a great honour to attend the official opening of Australia's very first satellite hospital, which was held on 31 July in Caboolture. It was attended by the Premier, the health minister, the member for Pumicestone, the member for Bancroft and myself. What a significant investment that is in community health infrastructure but also obviously in health infrastructure generally. It shows this


government's strong record when it comes to delivering the services and the infrastructure that communities need. The Caboolture Satellite Hospital is certainly a significant additional service for the people of the Caboolture region.

I am very pleased that when Queensland Health were designing the services to go into the satellite hospital they consulted the community, they spoke to stakeholders and they took on board that feedback. As a result of that very good community engagement work the Caboolture Satellite Hospital will be open from 8 am to 10 pm. It will have a minor accident and illness centre to treat things like fractures, minor infections and other minor matters. The late closing is of great benefit to working families obviously, but also to people generally who need to access those low-acuity services in the community.

I am also very pleased to see a significant expansion of oral health services in the Caboolture region as a result of the satellite hospital. The capacity of oral health services provided by Queensland Health in the Caboolture region is essentially doubling with the most amazing state-of-the-art technology. When I went in and inspected the satellite hospital oral health facilities I was blown away by the level of investment, the technology and also the capacity that will be delivered through this satellite hospital service.

It will also include mental health services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services and sleep services—sleep studies for people of the Caboolture region to help those with sleep apnoea and other sleep disorders. It is a significant investment in health infrastructure and a significant investment in health services. It is only this government that delivers that—the very first satellite hospital in Australia delivered in Caboolture. I have always said to people that Caboolture is No. 1 and we proved it once again with the satellite hospital being the first in Australia opening in Caboolture.

Andrew, Mr S; Callide Electorate, Health Services

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.24 pm): In 2008 the Gladstone and wider Central Queensland community was rocked by the brutal murder of Joelean Lee Watson and the attempted murder of her two-year-old daughter, Makayla. The perpetrator was Joelean's ex-partner Shaun Andrew, who was Makayla's father. The brutality of this event sent reverberations through the community which still have impacts today.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, I did not hear the date of that. We are checking that you are not offending any sub judice rules in relation to this?

Mr HEAD: Yes, it was 2008. The brutality of this event sent reverberations through the community which still have impacts today. The community understands that Shaun Andrew has applied for parole with the intention of living with his mother in the Boyne Valley. Joelean's parents, Linda and Glenn, have raised Makayla and are understandably haunted by the murder of their daughter. They reside in Calliope, a town with approximately 5,300 people, which is a service centre for the Boyne Valley and the access route to Gladstone. If this release occurs, there is a very high likelihood that Makayla, Linda, Glenn and family will come face to face with the perpetrator of violence against her.


Liz Cunningham, the former member for Gladstone, represented these communities for 20 years and has been supporting the family with a petition that was tabled in this House this morning. This petition has 1,815 signatures calling for truth in sentencing to ensure this violent perpetrator serves the full sentence imposed, which reflects the severity of his actions. Given the level of violence demonstrated by this offender, the community is appalled at the possibility he would be released into any community within hundreds of kilometres of Makayla and her family. On behalf of my community, I implore the government to act upon this petition.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House the fact that this Friday marks another disgraceful milestone of a government in the grips of chaos and crisis. This Friday marks one full year that the community of Biloela has been on birthing bypass. It also marks 12 months since the entire electorate of Callide has been without a maternity ward. This is an electorate larger than the state of Tasmania, or 1,427 times larger than the Premier's own electorate of Inala.

This government has started using our line that everyone deserves access to a world-class health system regardless of where they live. I say to the Premier and the health minister that it is about time they stopped talking about it and started doing something about it. The health minister flew into Gladstone for a picnic in a park and a photo opportunity and has been patting herself on the back for visiting various hospitals in Queensland, yet she has refused to front up to the hospitals and communities that are on the front line of Labor's health crisis.

(Time expired)

Stretton Electorate, Queensland Day Awards

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.27 pm): I rise to recognise some fantastic Stretton locals, winners of the annual Stretton Queensland Day Awards. Many Stretton locals, individuals and organisations have made a big impact on our community and these awards are a great way of acknowledging them.

Firstly, the major award for Stretton Queensland of the Year goes to the individual who has displayed the highest commitment to community service. It is local legend Mark Smith, president of the Runcorn Rockets junior basketball club. Mark is a great volunteer who has helped turn the Rockets into one of the biggest and best junior clubs in Queensland. His commitment to the junior players, mums and dads, volunteers and coaches makes the club second to none.

Secondly, for community service for an organisation, congratulations goes to the hardworking team at Stretton Early Years and Kindergarten for providing exceptional community service to families in Stretton. For over 15 years they have built strong community relationships and supported educational development for our local kids. In particular, I commend their Bush Kindy program, which gets children outside and into nature. It is very popular with the parents.

Next, congratulations goes to Queensland E-Watch Chinese, winner of the award for media. I am proud of our multicultural community, in particular, serving members of the Queensland Police and multicultural liaison officers who make up Queensland E-Watch Chinese, translating important community safety information into Mandarin. Next, congratulations goes to the FICQ, the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland for your service to our community over 25 years.

I know that many members of this place would know members of the FICQ including the current president, Anoop. In fact, they were outside parliament last week, on 15 August, to celebrate Indian Independence Day, with Parliament House lit up in green, white and orange.

I congratulate Peggy Wu for her service to the arts in the Stretton community. She is the president of World Arts & Multi-Culture Inc. and over the last two years she has done a fantastic job with the arts in our community. Congratulations for the sporting award goes to Bella and Lillie Mahoney, who were both selected to represent Australia in the Indigenous Oztag under-21 women's team. They have just returned from Limerick in Ireland, bringing home a bronze medal. Congratulations, girls.

Next, I give a massive congratulations to the selfless and hardworking community champion Habib Jamal. Habib is very well known in my local community. He is president of Queensland Muslims Inc. Habib is a selfless person who does not seek reward or accolades and he has a genuine commitment to our community. Finally, congratulations to Kenny Ma from the Hong Kong Australia Business Association, winner of the multicultural community award. He is very well known in our community, especially with the many young professionals and businesspeople from multicultural backgrounds and members of the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting