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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 16 November 2023

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THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2023

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Mary's Primary School Casino in New South Wales—they are seeing the light!—Aspley State High School in the electorate of Aspley and Lee Street State Special School in the electorate of Morayfield.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Barton, Hon. TA



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.31 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Honourable Thomas Alfred Barton, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the State.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

The Hon. Thomas Alfred Barton was born in Ayr, North Queensland on 11 August 1949, and I think it is fair to say that his heart never left the people and the places of regional Queensland. The son of a sign-writer, Tom's affinity with working people never left him either. In fact, with the benefit of hindsight, it is obvious that it only grew to become the driving force of his life.

At 15 he took an apprenticeship in the local sugar industry, eventually rising to the role of shop steward and then organiser for the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union. This required a move to Townsville and a great deal of travel including to Weipa and Mount Isa. It has been said of Tom that he made friends easily and, once made, they stayed a friend for life.

By the end of 1984, Tom had become assistant secretary of the Trades and Labour Council in Brisbane. These were tumultuous years. There was the SEQEB dispute and the last days of Sir Joh. Tom became secretary of the Trades and Labour Council in time to see the election of Wayne Goss. Tom was elected as the first member for Waterford and re-elected a further four times. He served in the cabinets of the Goss and Beattie governments as environment minister and minister for police and corrective services, state development, employment, training and industrial relations. In a nod to Tom's youth, when he led the local Ayr basketball team to several premierships, Tom also served as minister for sport.


Some of the projects closest to Tom's heart were those in his local electorate: the upgrade to the Pacific Motorway and the Loganlea Road interchange; successive developments of Logan Hospital which saw it grow from a small community health centre into a secondary tertiary hospital servicing one of the state's fastest growing corridors; community renewal projects which revitalised Beenleigh, Eagleby, Kingston and Loganlea; the development of the Loganlea Community Centre; important upgrades to the Pacific Motorway and Loganlea Road interchange; the Larry Storey Bridge, which connected key communities and largely flood-proofed a key transport corridor; and Griffith University's Logan campus.

Tom's service to his party and his state can never be summed up in a list of roles served. Those who knew him speak of a man who got the job done without fuss, fanfare or need for applause. For a time, Tom also served as an executive on the ACTU, was president of the Queensland Industrial Relations Society and the Australian Industrial Relations Society and was also involved in the foundation of Sunsuper and other superannuation funds.

As he said in his maiden speech in 1992, Tom strived to 'serve the interests of others, particularly those who are less fortunate, or less privileged, and to ensure that they get a fair go'. He spoke of his success as a trade union official in working with, rather than against, business owners. As I said, with the benefit of hindsight, we can all see the wisdom of working best when we work together.

Tom Barton was respected on both sides of the House. His life after politics included serving in a number of business roles as well as an interest in photography, painting and sketching. We are honoured to have his family joining with us today: his wife of 54 years, Traute; daughter, Donna; son, Darren; Darren's wife, Megan; and Tom's granddaughter, Madison.

The Hon. Thomas Alfred Barton served for 14 years in this parliament. He passed away on 24 August, aged 74. I will leave the last words to Tom himself and the description he put on his LinkedIn profile. I place on record the Queensland government's thanks for the years of service Tom gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Tom's family and friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.36 am): The death of Tom Barton, the former member for Waterford, sees the passing of a man who transferred seamlessly from trade union advocacy to parliament and to executive office. Few have the opportunity to make such a transition and even fewer do this successfully. However, Tom Barton managed to achieve this at the same time as never losing his optimistic outlook on life, his dedication to his task and, most importantly, his commitment to the labour movement.

Tom Barton was born in Ayr and, despite living in the state's south-east and working across the entire state, always regarded himself as a North Queenslander. Like many sharing his background, he left school at 15 and commenced an apprenticeship as an instrument fitter in 1964. His involvement in the Metal Workers Union led to his taking on leadership roles in the Trades and Labor Council, culminating in his appointment as its general secretary.

It is instructive in helping to understand the role Tom Barton believed a contemporary trade union should play in society to read the budget speech of 1992-93. He spoke of the interaction between industry and unions. I quote—

As a trade union leader, I developed good relationships with business in this State. I was privileged to participate in a great deal of direct business involvement as diverse as financial investments of billions of dollars, the management of large superannuation funds, the management of an international hotel, an aged and disabled persons' hostel, and a consulting business which has given me a great deal of knowledge about business needs, problems and strengths.

These skills were significant factors in propelling Tom Barton through his political career. In his interview with the Queensland Speaks website in 2011 he paid tribute to his grandfather for inspiring his interest in politics, including encouraging him to read *Hansard* as a child. He described his grandfather as 'a very strong influence' and as being responsible for 'a big injection of labour politics'.


The redistribution after the 1989 election provided an opportunity for Mr Barton to enter state parliament through the new seat of Waterford. As Waterford's first member, he saw his role as furthering the interests of those he described as 'the backbone of society, the ordinary working class people who go to work every day'. Tom Barton acknowledged the positive role that parliament can play and in his first speech recorded his opinion on this. I quote—

The institution of Parliament is very important ... our responsibilities as members of Parliament are a necessary mixture of our broad responsibilities ... to our ... electorates. Those values do not always mix perfectly, but they can be mixed effectively with hard work and, more importantly, goodwill. I am sure that all members of Parliament, from whatever party, genuinely believe that they are taking action in the best interests of their electorates and all Queenslanders.

After a relatively short period in parliament, he was elevated to the position of minister for environment and heritage in the final months of the Goss government, and the election of the Beattie government in 1998 saw him extend his ministerial career through a range of portfolios including police and corrective services, state development and employment, training and industrial relations and sport.

In 2006 Tom Barton retired from parliament through a combination of ill health and a desire to encourage renewal. In 2011 he revealed that one of his regrets was not being able to complete a skills plan to encourage further trades and skill training. Drawing on his early career and his involvement in the union movement, he understood the role that training could play in improving opportunities for workers. This had driven much of his own career and he realised how he could help others.

Tom Barton had a wide and varied career. He will be recalled as a member with a genuine concern for others and a willingness to try to improve conditions for all. To his wife and other members of his family here today, we extend our condolences on Tom's passing. We acknowledge his contribution to this parliament and the government of Queensland and trust our words today will provide some measure of comfort for their loss.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.40 am): I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a Queensland titan of the Australian Labor Party, the Hon. Tom Barton. The first ever member for Waterford, Tom was many things to many people—an embodiment of the old Labor Party of times gone by yet forward looking in the scope and scale of his accomplishments.


Born in Ayr in 1949, he began work at 15 years of age. He completed his apprenticeship and worked as a fitter and turner in the sugar and alumina industries, eventually becoming involved with what is known today as the mighty Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union. He rose through the union movement with spirit and tenacity, never afraid to speak his mind and always prepared to fight for what he believed was right. First as a North Queensland organiser with the 'metalies' and then as their state research officer, he went on to become the assistant secretary and then general secretary of the Trades and Labor Council—what we know today as the Queensland Council of Unions.

Tom spearheaded the labour movement's fight against the Bjelke-Petersen attacks on unions and working people during the seventies and eighties. He was an integral part of securing superannuation for Queensland workers through both negotiations at the state level and working with the Hawke-Keating government in Canberra.

Eventually elected as the first ever member for Waterford in 1992, he went on to serve as minister for the environment and heritage, minister for police and corrective services, minister for state development, minister for employment, training and industrial relations and minister for sport—a formidable list made all the more formidable by what he managed to achieve in these positions, whether it was working with Noel Pearson on the 56th draft bill for the Cape York conservation zone to buy up land to hand back to First Nations communities or negotiating with then mayor Jim Soorley to secure the redevelopment of Suncorp Stadium.

Sometimes it was the carrot and sometimes it was the stick, but Tom always got the job done. That same determination meant that he was just as passionate about securing funding for organisations like the Loganlea Community Centre as he was about his annual pilgrimage with his son down to Bathurst to watch the Supercars. Even after public life was behind him, Tom never lost sight of the values and beliefs which had driven him his entire life, even working as the Edens Landing booth captain on the day that I was elected as the member for Waterford.

I want to acknowledge Tom's loving wife, Traute, an invaluable member of our local Logan community, and all of those who loved him and his family who are with us today. On behalf of the entire Waterford community, I want to pay tribute to Tom's lasting legacy and work. Farewell, Tom Barton. Rest in peace.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.43 am): I join others in speaking on this condolence motion. I was thinking about what I was going to say about Tom Barton—and his family knows that I had a long history with Tom, working with him in many different forms—and I considered all that he achieved in his life. We often stand here and talk about a person and, no matter how much time we have, it is often difficult to talk about everything that person has achieved in their life. Can I say to the family that I feel that Tom is one of those people.

Tom had a very distinguished union career. He became the North Queensland state organiser for the mighty metal workers union and he was always proud of that. That union started a long way back, in 1975, and he became their first research officer in 1981. Subsequently, he became the assistant general secretary and general secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, now known as the QCU. He did incredible work as a member of the ACTU wages committee, from 1984 to 1992, which saw many wage classifications and pay structures for workers transformed through the common rule

awards of the metal trades award. He was a member of the ACTU executive and he was involved in some iconic industrial relations issues such as the era of the accord process nationally—Tom would often speak about those times—and, of course, during the 1985 SEQEB dispute, which many of us will never forget as a defining moment in Queensland's industrial relations history.

Tom was a founding director of Sunsuper. He had a very strong belief that workers should have a well-funded retirement and was a big supporter of superannuation. In fact, we worked together when we had the common rule awards test case about implementing the superannuation levy here in Queensland. We had a cunning plan of ensuring that our common rule awards had Sunsuper as a default fund if there was not a fund that employees' superannuation was paid into. That one particular essence that we managed to get in our common rule industrial awards ensured Sunsuper's growth. I know that he would have been so proud when we amalgamated Sunsuper with QSuper very recently to forge the mighty Australian Retirement Trust, which has funds under their management of over \$260 billion and looks after the funds of over 2.3 million workers. Who would have thought years ago that, as a foundation member and a foundation director of Sunsuper, we would be in this position now? I have no doubt that Tom knew where superannuation would go once that had occurred.

As the member for Waterford Tom served his community extremely well, as we heard from the current member for Waterford and minister. He was always proud to represent those people. As minister for state development—I was on the South Bank board at the time—he oversaw the construction of the Goodwill Bridge. We worked together on that—and what a great project that was. Because he loved his Rugby League, I know that he was very proud in the development of Lang Park to Suncorp Stadium. He would often talk very fondly of that as well.

Having said that, Tom and I share a lot of similarities—his birthday is one day before mine, on 11 August, and we are both Leos. Tom and I in fact both became assistant secretary of the QCU and then secretary of the QCU, or the TLC in his case. I am currently, as he was, the Minister for Employment and Minister for Industrial Relations. We share similar career paths, but the similarity does not end there. We were assistant secretaries and state secretaries at a time when there was a lot of change. He knew how proud I was when he employed me as the first female industrial officer when he became secretary of the QCU and the work that we did together.

There is a funny story which I did not know whether I would tell or not, but I know Traute would really appreciate this. I remember a time as industrial officer when we were going to have a meeting with Wayne Goss. We were going through some industrial issues in this state that we wanted to raise with the government. I was tasked with putting together a booklet of all of those issues—to precis all of the issues and put them in a booklet—and we would go a meeting with the premier and go through it. Somehow everybody else's booklet was perfect. There were about 15 issues and they were all lined up perfectly. Tom Barton's unfortunately for some reason got muddled up. It was not just that one section was put in front of another; when I say 'muddled up' I mean that these items were scattered everywhere in the booklet.

Tom was known to be a very calm person, but when things did not go quite his way in a meeting he had a way of letting you know that he was not very happy! Traute would appreciate that that day he was not very happy with me at all! I was very quick to point out that I did not do the administrative functions at the QCU and that it was not my fault at all, and I quickly handed him my booklet.

Tom was also very proud of the fact that he was born in Ayr. Although he moved to Brisbane in 1981, Tom was never a Brisbane person; he was always a North Queenslander. He was very proud of his apprenticeship and his work in the sugar and alumina industries as an instrument fitter. He loved his supercar racing and Rugby League.

When I was the very newly minted first female industrial officer at the QCU, I borrowed Tom's car to attend a meeting or something. Wouldn't you know it, despite never having had any accident in a vehicle I happened to have a minor prang and scratched Tom's much adored and loved work vehicle. Although he was calm when I returned and told him that unfortunately his pride and joy had a big scratch down the passenger side, his face told the story that he was not very happy with me at all. Thank goodness I did good work for Tom, and that overrode all of those minor infringements.

Tom also spoke fondly of his ability to work across the political spectrum, and he was really proud of his work with employer organisations. Let me tell you, he was a tough negotiator. If you ever wanted to pick an industrial advocate to be on your team, my first pick would be Tom Barton, because when he came in to support you on an issue he did it with such passion, knowledge and gusto that you would want him on your team every time. At the same time, he often spoke fondly about his relationship with employer organisations. There was mutual respect there.

I remember one time having discussions with him about negotiating with the late Russ Hinze, the late Mike Ahern and Rob Borbidge. It was not that they did not have some ding-dong battles, but there was an ability to negotiate and work together. I think that demonstrates the strength of Tom's character. I remember on more than one occasion the late Sir Llew Edwards observing Tom's ability to put politics aside when it really mattered, and he commended him for ensuring we had industrial harmony during World Expo 88. Tom was often instrumental in ensuring that our volunteers and those who worked there got a good deal and putting it aside so we had a successful World Expo 88. I remember Sir Llew telling me about his dealings with Tom in relation to that.

I also loved that Tom had a softer side. There is no doubt that he had a tough side, but he also had a softer side. He was a keen watercolour artist. He knew where I lived in the New Farm area. I remember him painting the Brunswick Hotel in my electorate of McConnell, and it was absolutely gorgeous. You would not think he had that skill, but he was a very fine watercolour artist. That was one of the many talents he had. I want to quickly quote from Tom's maiden speech. He said—

Employees in this State have a right to a job which is secure, a job where their safety at work is protected, a job which provides them and their family with a decent standard of living, and—possibly more importantly—a job which provides them with satisfaction while they are at work.

He loved people enjoying their job. He went on to say—

As a member of Parliament, I will be making my first priority the achievement and maintenance of those reasonable aspirations of working people.

...

Being elected as a member of Parliament has given me a new set of better tools to do an even more important job. To date, I am not finding it a lot different from my role as a trade union official. It allows me to serve the interests of others, particularly those who are less fortunate, or less privileged, and to ensure that they get a fair go and can achieve what they are entitled to achieve.

Those are the words of Tom Barton from his maiden speech, and I think they encapsulate his values, his beliefs and his tireless efforts to help working people in this state. May he rest in peace. Vale, Tom Barton. My sincere condolences go to Traute, his children, Donna and Darren, and his family and loved ones.



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (9.54 am): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion for the Hon. Tom Barton. From the outset I acknowledge family in the gallery today, for, while all of Tom's achievements in his career and this House have been acknowledged by the speakers before me, I know that his family represents his greatest achievement. Everyone here in this House would no doubt acknowledge that career highlights can only often be attained when they have the unwavering support of those closest to them. This is a demanding job and the portfolios that Tom held necessitated a great deal of travel.

In making my contribution I acknowledge that I did not know Tom nearly as well as many of the speakers before me, with his time finishing in this parliament in 2006—well before I had even contemplated joining the Labor Party or becoming involved in politics—but I did have occasion to meet Tom a number of times not only as a long-time Logan resident but also as a Logan police officer. Tom was the minister for police and corrective services from June 1998 to February 2001 and on several occasions had the opportunity to visit police stations that I worked at, in Slacks Creek and Logan Central. Tom's visits and discussions with constables would be largely informal, and he had the ability to set officers at ease with his disarming approach. I sat on a number of constable consultative committees at my stations, and Tom was always very keen to hear what first-responding officers had as priorities. I guess that was in keeping with not only his role as police minister but also his background in the union movement—listening to workers and advocating for them.

It would be almost another 15 years until I would meet Tom again—this time in a political capacity. Over the years Tom's seat of Waterford included what would become key parts of the new seat of Macalister. His first office was just a few metres up the road from where my office was in Main Street, Beenleigh, before it was relocated to where it is now in Waterford. In fact, his legacy can be seen throughout my electorate in Beenleigh and parts of Loganholme, including major upgrades to Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road between the M1 and Bryants Road. The plinth at the corner of Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road and California Creek Road has Tom's name on it. It would be the starting point for my runs over the past few years.

I remember the old Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road, particularly at the old Trading Post site near Atlantic Drive, because it would go under a few feet of water every time there was a summer storm deluge, and as police we were often dispatched to retrieve foolhardy drivers from their vehicles. The


upgraded four lanes of Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road were open just over 20 years ago, according to the plaque, and what better way to celebrate this legacy than the work of this government to continue that upgrade of Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road towards the Redlands.

He was responsible for securing upgrades and the support of the Beenleigh PCYC and the former Beenleigh senior citizens centre. Tom also saw a major upgrade of the Beenleigh Police Station in his time, and he was very pleased to see that one of my 2020 election commitments was to not only a further upgrade of the Beenleigh Police Station but also a new purpose-built facility to cater for growing numbers at the station.

By the time I was elected to the seat of Macalister, Tom's health was in a state that prohibited him from being able to participate in most election campaigns; however, I did catch up with him prior to the 2020 election where he gave the usual Tom Barton straight-shooting advice. Looking at Tom's results in his seat of Waterford, I was always more than happy to take that advice. Over his five elections in the seat of Waterford he achieved primary votes of 54 per cent, 59 per cent, 46 per cent, 56 per cent and 57 per cent. As I said, I was very happy to listen to Tom on points of campaigning.

He was pleased to see a former police officer, particularly one who worked in his area, in parliament, and even more so one who is as avid a Rugby League fan as he was. While ill health did step in and convince Tom that it was time to leave this House, it did not stop him from his involvement in community and volunteering. He remained a larrikin right to the end. One only need look at his last recorded role on LinkedIn, which reads: 'Tom Barton, raconteur and master of mischief'.

On behalf of the people of Macalister, and particularly Beenleigh, I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family here today and those far and wide and his friends and former colleagues. Vale, Tom Barton.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.58 am): I rise to make a brief contribution as I knew Tom Barton and his lovely wife, Traute, through his role representing Beenleigh. I dealt regularly with them because the Beenleigh area was part of the magnificent Albert shire and we worked closely together. He was a different colour politically, obviously, than the Albert shire basically was, even though we were all independent.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I think that might be why the Albert shire doesn't exist anymore!

Tom was a wonderful member to work with. He was only ever positive in the many efforts we made to bring Beenleigh up to the standard that it deserved—in terms of the roundabouts in the area as well as the new art centre that burned down and then we put up a brand new one. Tom was always very supportive. He was a great member of parliament and a very supportive person for that community. I would meet Tom and Traute at many functions out there. The other people who were at those functions were Wayne Goss and Roisin. I was in the era of having some very important people in that Beenleigh area, and they were always very supportive of the growth of Beenleigh.

I believe that a mate of mine, Peter Lawlor, was in the same faction that Tom was in. I could not believe that Tom was the leader of the Left faction, as I understand it. Margaret Keech was in it. Tom's nickname was 'Elvis' and he had this magnificent crop of hair swept back just like Elvis. The only other one who competed for that title of Elvis was Billy Baumann, who had the same sweptback hair. Tom had a love of cars, as we have heard already. I think he had a big Cadillac, or whatever it was, that he drove around from time to time.

It was a pleasure to do our government work together with him. He was always very positive. He was well received within the community and the business community. It was a pleasure to work with him, and that is how people and governments should work together, for the betterment of our communities. I have very fond memories of Tom Barton. My deepest sympathies and condolences go out to Traute, a lovely lady who supported him magnificently—as all our partners do in this difficult job. To Traute and your family, my deepest sympathies. To Tom, rest in peace. You were a good bloke.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will start at approximately 10.48 am.

PETITION

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


Couran Cove, Infrastructure

907 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Gold Coast City Council creates sustainable water and sewer infrastructure at Couran Cove, South Stradbroke Island [\[1900\]](#).

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.03 am): The funding cuts announced by the federal government to Queensland infrastructure projects are outrageous. The federal government collects 80 per cent of taxes. It is only fair to ask that Queenslanders' taxes be reinvested in the infrastructure needed for a growing state. I made our position clear back in May this year that Queensland would not accept cuts to existing projects. Since that time our officials have been engaging to make that position clear over and over again.

On Tuesday I again wrote to the Prime Minister making it clear that we would not accept cuts to existing projects and a move away from the 80-20 funding on the Bruce Highway. That followed a final position being provided by the federal government on the infrastructure review to Minister Bailey's office. I want to make it very clear again for Minister King that this infrastructure review does not have our cooperation. We do not agree with this plan.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: To say otherwise is dishonest. We do not accept funding cuts on the Bruce Highway, including the Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road upgrade, upgrades at Mackay or upgrades near Cairns. We expect the federal government to honour their commitments on the Rockhampton Ring Road. I know how important regional road projects are in Queensland. Queensland has the longest road network in the nation. We are the most decentralised state in the nation. We are the fastest growing state. Just last night I was talking about this with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, who will be joining the 'Team Queensland' delegation to Canberra. The Queensland Trucking Association have also advised us that they will be joining 'Team Queensland'.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Grow up.

Mr SPEAKER: That is unhelpful, Premier. Members to my left, this is a ministerial statement. I do not believe there is any antagonising going on in the statement. I would ask you to listen to the statement, as I am.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We understand that the cost of freight is critical to inflation and the cost of living. We will continue to fight for funding for the inland freight route, the Cairns Western Arterial Road and the direct Sunshine Coast rail line—just to name a few examples. I will always fight for Queensland's fair share, I will always fight for Queensland jobs and I will never stop fighting for Queensland regions.

Fee-Free TAFE

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.06 am): No other state offers the cost-of-living measures offered in Queensland—cheaper power bills, cheaper energy-efficient appliances, free swimming lessons and, starting soon, free kindy. These are just some of the measures we have introduced. Today I want to talk about one more.

Queensland's TAFE qualifications are world renowned, and our government believes Queenslanders should have access to in-demand skills without the cost. That is why we partnered with the federal government to deliver more Fee-Free TAFE, building on the success of this initiative started under our government. More than 58,000 students have benefited this year, and an additional 43,400

Fee-Free TAFE places will be available in Queensland over three years from 2024. This is backed in by a \$170 million investment. This drives enrolments in high-demand skill areas including early childhood education and health care.

On top of this commitment, our government will also invest \$87.5 million to give up to 3,500 students access to the Diploma of Nursing for free in 2024. For those year 12s considering what to study next year, nursing is one of the most fulfilling careers you can have. There were 2,400 students who started a Diploma of Nursing through Fee-Free TAFE this year—students like Lauren, who I recently met at the Pimlico TAFE in Townsville. She is a stay-at-home mum of four who had always wanted to pursue a healthcare career, but the cost of paying for the course on a single income meant her family could not afford it. Now, with Fee-Free TAFE, Lauren is saving over \$24,000 and getting the training she needs to follow her dream.

Growing our next generation of healthcare workers is just the start as we chart a long-term blueprint on recruiting, retaining and building Queensland's health workforce. Vocational education has a big role to play in that work. It is something I heard firsthand from the vice-chancellors of major universities who joined me on a trade mission to China. TAFE, backed by our fee-free program, is creating a pipeline of highly skilled workers in the targeted areas of need and training Queenslanders for the jobs of the future.

DestinationQ Forum



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.08 am): Queensland is the best place to live, work and play. Thanks to our world-class tourism operators from the cape to the Granite Belt, international and domestic travel to Queensland has bounced back. In the year to June 2023, international and domestic overnight visitor expenditure reached a record \$33.2 billion. That is money straight into Queensland businesses and ultimately Queensland households.

Every year, Queensland's tourism industry comes together to celebrate their collective success and unlock future opportunities. Next week, officially dubbed Tourism Week, the DestinationQ and Destination Indigenous Q forums will be held in beautiful Far North Queensland at the newly completed Cairns Convention Centre. Our \$176 million investment in the Far North, with views up to the Kuranda Range and out to Trinity Inlet, the Convention Centre is the perfect place to recognise our tourism industry's achievements and showcase the magnificent region.

On my recent trade mission to China, tourism in Queensland, and particularly in Cairns, was a huge focus. I am pleased to advise the House that some businesses that joined me on that delegation last week will be at next week's forum to share their insights.

Our government is committed to making Queensland accessible to everyone. That is why we declared 2023 Queensland's Year of Accessible Tourism, backed by a \$12 million investment to help businesses cater to visitors of all abilities. A key focus at the DestinationQ and IQ forums will be better tourism accessibility, and I can advise the House Paralympian and inclusion advocate Dylan Alcott AO will be giving a keynote speech.

Wrapping up Tourism Week, the Queensland Tourism Awards will showcase some of the best of the best the Sunshine State has to offer and acknowledge our world-class—let me say that again: our world-class—tourism operators. I am very much looking forward to getting out and meeting as many operators while we celebrate the sector next week.


Year 12 Students



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.10 am): Tomorrow is the last day for our year 12s. I want to congratulate our graduating cohort on all their hard work and tireless study. These students have demonstrated great resilience over the last couple of years—a testament to their character and capability. This year's graduates can celebrate their success knowing a bright future lies ahead of them. I want to also acknowledge the teachers, principals, school staff, families and carers who have worked so hard to support our graduating class on their learning journey. To all our graduates, best of luck in your next steps and stay safe this weekend.

Mr SPEAKER: I join the Premier in wishing those students well tomorrow. Also tomorrow we have someone at the far end of the spectrum who is turning 60—the member for Rockhampton, Barry O'Rourke. Happy birthday, mate.

Infrastructure

 **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) (10.11 am): Queensland is booming. Our unemployment is low and our economy is strong. We are experiencing significant population growth. People are moving here in droves to experience our great Queensland lifestyle and to work in the jobs of the future here, all while the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are set to put the Sunshine State onto the global stage. That is why the Palaszczuk government has committed to Queensland's Big Build—the biggest infrastructure investment in our state's history. We need to build more and better infrastructure to keep up with this growth. The Australian government's strategic infrastructure review and the Queensland LNP's plans for infrastructure cuts could put all of this at risk. Queensland already—

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Kawana, cease holding those documents up.

Dr MILES: Queensland already experiences extraordinary population growth which is projected to continue. Infrastructure investment is vital to accommodate this growth and to support Queensland's new and emerging industries. Every single infrastructure project in our infrastructure pipeline is needed. The roads, rail, hospitals, schools, community and sporting infrastructure are all part of our plan to ensure Queenslanders have the infrastructure they need. This is critical funding for the infrastructure that Queensland needs to ensure Queensland's ongoing prosperity, improved productivity and enhanced livability.

Queensland's rapid growth and decentralised population makes road infrastructure projects like the Bruce Highway upgrades vital. The Bruce Highway is the single most important national highway in the country. It is a crucial transport route, serving as the major north-south freight and commuter corridor, connecting our coastal population centres from Brisbane to Cairns over a total length of 1,673 kilometres. It plays a vital role in the National Land Transport Network, linking west-east freight networks, connecting the resource sector, inland agriculture production areas and coastal ports while also serving as a major tourism route. Cutting funding for upgrades to vital infrastructure like the Bruce Highway would impact our national productivity, our local economic prosperity and road safety.

As the Premier said yesterday, I will be taking a delegation of Queensland mayors to Canberra to meet with Catherine King to ensure Queensland is not worse off. Last night, the Queensland Farmers' Federation asked the Premier if they could join the delegation. That is how critical road funding is to the Queensland economy. I am pleased that the Premier has agreed to expand the delegation to include important industries such as agriculture and road freight.

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.15 am): The infrastructure cuts announced this morning by the federal infrastructure minister are a body blow to Queensland. The federal infrastructure minister is proposing cuts to projects across the state.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr DICK: These cuts will mean Queenslanders will be forced to wait longer in traffic, drive on more dangerous roads and suffer from a higher cost of living. Overnight the minister was reported as saying that these cuts were being made with the 'cooperation of the states and territories'. This is false. Queensland has not and will not cooperate with the federal infrastructure minister's cuts. Despite the federal minister's request, we have steadfastly refused to recommend, suggest or agree to any project being cancelled. My message to the federal minister is simple: do not try to rope us into your bad decisions.

Earlier this week, the federal infrastructure minister said that a \$10 billion federal spend, currently matched by \$2 billion in state funding, would somehow become \$20 billion under a 50-50 funding split. Under this logic, somehow the state government would magic up \$8 billion in new expenditure. This is absurd. We already put every spare dollar that we can into the Bruce Highway.

The federal government cuts mean exactly that—cuts to spending that will hurt Queenslanders. When costs go up and you do not increase expenditure to match those increased costs, then you are making cuts. The states and the territories are not going to save the federal minister from her bad decision to cut. We simply cannot afford to do so.

Queenslanders are reasonable, practical people. We understand that undeliverable Morrison government election boondoggles have to be removed. We have already paid a heavy price in Queensland when the federal government cut \$5.7 billion and cancelled the Hells Gate Dam and the Emu Swamp Dam. Our population is growing, with more interstate migrants than all the other states.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Let me repeat that again for people in this House who do not want to listen. Our population is growing with more interstate migrants than all the states combined. That means Queensland needs more infrastructure funding, not less.

In conclusion, I will make this concession to the federal minister: it is possible that she could get agreement on those cuts, but that will only happen if the LNP wins the next state election.

Bruce Highway Upgrade Program



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.18 am): The safety of Queenslanders on our roads is paramount. That is why we have our \$13 billion, 15-year program to deliver upgrades right across the length and breadth of the Bruce at 80-20. These projects improve reliability, flood resilience, deliver upgraded intersections, lane separations and add overtaking lanes to make driving safer and to save lives.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered 466 projects under the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, with 80 currently in delivery, broken down to 31 in construction, 28 in design, 21 in planning—a pipeline. Some 120 of these projects have been completed since January 2019, including 110 construction projects and 10 in the planning and design phase. The Palaszczuk government commitment to safety is underpinned by our \$1.6 billion investment in road safety and our commitment to work with the federal government to develop a national road safety data collection and reporting framework.

The answer to the need to continue upgrading the Bruce Highway is obvious: do not cut funding. As advised yesterday, over the past decade there has been a 24½ per cent decrease in crashes on the Bruce Highway and a 26 per cent decrease in fatalities per vehicle kilometres travelled.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: This can be attributed to ongoing programmed investment by this government.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Direct your comments through the chair. That goes for other members today.

Mr BAILEY: For the federal government—for any government or opposition—to consider cutting funding to the Bruce Highway is totally unacceptable. Queensland has the largest road network of any state. We are the most decentralised state in the nation, with more regional towns and cities than any other state in Australia. The Palaszczuk government has proven its ability to deliver a sustained rolling program of improvements along the Bruce Highway—466.

Investment in the Bruce Highway now saves money in the medium and the long term through improved flood resilience that allows freight to get through to regional communities during extreme weather events and through reducing the cost and impact of road crashes. There is no more important investment in this state. We know that our work to improve safety on the Bruce Highway has saved lives. We will fight every single day to ensure we get the funding our state needs to keep upgrading the Bruce Highway and to continue the upgrades that we have been delivering.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr BAILEY: I will not hear it from those opposite, who neglected the Bruce Highway for the three years they were in power. They have announced billions of cuts in infrastructure. That is what they have said. Believe them. We will always fight for the Bruce Highway—not dump it, like the pretenders on the other side of the House.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, that is fantastic advice. Direct your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders, as is the member for Toowoomba South.

Education Infrastructure; Year 12 Students

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.21 am): We are delivering world-class learning environments right across Queensland through our \$2.1 billion education infrastructure program for 2023-24. This is part of Queensland's Big Build—an \$89 billion investment over the next four years, with more than half of this in regional Queensland. Our \$2.1 billion funding will see the Palaszczuk government's investment in education infrastructure across Queensland since 2015 at more than \$12 billion. It is a significant figure and one which we are all truly proud of. I get to see this investment at work every day when I visit schools. Regardless of students' background, circumstances or postcode, we are delivering new schools, classrooms, halls and playgrounds—the list goes on, including air conditioning in every school—for Queensland students.


Since 2015 we have delivered 25 new schools, with two more to open in 2024 at Redland Bay. We are investing around \$145 million for the construction of two schools, Scenic Shores State School and Bellbird Park State School. This supports an average of 85 local construction jobs over the life of the projects. Our ever-popular school halls program will see a further \$259 million to be invested in 18 schools for new or improved halls, indoor sporting facilities and performing arts centres, taking our total investment in halls in Queensland since 2015 to over \$970 million. Our new halls investment in the current budget will roll out over the next three years, with over half of these halls to be located in regional Queensland. Halls will be delivered at Dalby State High School in Warrego, Eidsvold State School in Callide, Freshwater State School in Barron River, Kilkivan State School in Nanango and Yandina State School in Nicklin—to mention but a few. We are continuing to deliver the halls which were part of our 2020 Great Schools, Great Future policy, with halls to be completed in the first half of next year at The Hall State School in Rockhampton, Oakey State High School in Condamine, Seven Hills State School in Bulimba and Kilcoy State High School in Nanango. You are welcome, member for Nanango.

Our \$78 million Local Schools, Local Jobs program is unashamedly aimed at schools in regional Queensland to help our youngest Queenslanders get the skills they need for the jobs they want in their own geographical areas by enhancing training facilities at regional schools.

We are also playing our part in the housing space, with over \$76 million allocated for the acquisition, renewal, maintenance and improvement of housing in rural and remote areas. Let's not forget our record \$405 million in this budget for ongoing maintenance projects at our 1,262 schools and early childhood education centres. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring schools are places where children can learn and teachers can deliver a world-class education in accessible and inclusive learning environments.

I wish our graduating year 12s all the very best for a bright future. Many thanks to the teachers, parents and carers and school communities that have supported them on their 13-year schooling journey. Take care and stay safe, especially at schoolies.

Fee-Free TAFE

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.25 am): Our health workers are everything. No community can do without them. As Queensland continues to thrive and our population continues to grow, we will need even more of them. This is why training is so important and why the Palaszczuk government places such a priority on our training investment. Our investment in Fee-Free TAFE is a flagship of that \$1.2 billion annual investment.

First introduced in 2019, by the end of last year we had supported over 66,000 students in Fee-Free TAFE. In 2023, in a \$200 million partnership with the federal government, we have supported an additional 58,000 people. I am so pleased to announce that next year—again, as a result of an excellent partnership with the federal government, which values skills and training just as much as the Palaszczuk government does—we will generate an additional 44,000 Fee-Free TAFE places over three years. On top of this, our government will invest more than \$40 million to fund 3,500 places specifically for the Diploma of Nursing, to be offered at TAFE Queensland, Central Queensland University and Mater Education. This is a total investment of \$87.5 million for the Diploma of Nursing, saving students up to \$24,000 each.

This government has employed almost 12,000 nurses and midwives since 2015. With Queensland's growing population, you do not need to see the statistics to know that we need even more nurses. I will share some statistics anyway. Jobs Queensland's recently released Anticipating

Future Skills data shows that the healthcare and social assistance industry will be the fastest growing industry in Queensland over the next two years, expected to grow by 16.4 per cent. That means Queensland will need an extra almost 69,000 people by 2025-26 including nurses, nursing support and aged and disabled carers. With our investment in the fee-free Diploma of Nursing, we are doing exactly what needs to be done to make sure we address those needs.

We know that employers absolutely love our TAFE nurses, because when they graduate they are able to hit the ground running. One of the reasons for this is that they train in our excellent facilities that simulate the real-life environment. The Premier and I were able to see this in action in Pimlico recently. I have had the great privilege of visiting students at our outstanding nursing training facilities in Southport, Alexandra Hills, Bundaberg, Ipswich, Loganlea, Cairns, Hervey Bay, Pimlico and South Bank, and there are even more new and upgraded nursing training facilities that form part of our \$280 million TAFE infrastructure investment.

At every one of those facilities, I speak to people who simply would not be able to do the course if it were not for Fee-Free TAFE—people who are the first in their family to do a post-school qualification; people who have been long-term unemployed or in low-income jobs who never thought they would break the cycle; parents who have not been able to afford the training while they have been bringing up their kids. In times like this, when the cost of living is such a challenge, this program is life-changing for the individual and a game changer for Queensland.

On a personal note, my nanna was a nurse, my mum was a nurse, two of my aunties were nurses, two of my cousins were nurses and my sister was a nurse. When I was growing up I thought nursing was the most important job anyone would ever want to do. Clearly, I was an outcast. On this side of the House we all value our nurses, we know how important they are and we are training Queenslanders to take up those critical roles.

Dangerous Dogs



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.29 am): Today I will introduce into the House a number of changes to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008. We are doing this because we want to keep our communities safe. We want to keep our communities as safe as possible from dog attacks. Today I will be introducing a bill that, amongst other things, outlines tougher penalties for irresponsible dog owners after thousands of Queenslanders backed proposed changes to dangerous dog laws. Penalties will include fines of up to \$108,000 or up to three years jail for the owner of a dog that causes the death or seriously injures a person.


I thank the Premier for her leadership and her commitment to progressing these amendments. I would also like to put on the record my thanks to the Local Government Association of Queensland, the RSPCA and my department that made up the animal management taskforce. From the outset they were 100 per cent committed to the task of reviewing the act and to progressing reforms that will better protect our communities.

I would also like to thank all the people who took the time to make a submission to the *Strong dog laws: safer communities* consultation paper. Thank you. People from across Queensland gave their voice to these amendments. From the cape to the west of Queensland, people let their voices be heard. Close to 4,000 people took the time to send a submission or complete an online survey. In fact, in the first couple of days of the dangerous dog consultation site going live, the department received 2,100 submissions. That is without a doubt a great response. What will this mean to Queenslanders? It means they are committed to reducing attacks and reducing the number of people who present to emergency departments. In 2021-22, Queensland recorded almost a third of the 9,500 hospitalisations from dog attacks.

It is heartbreaking to know that children and the elderly are the most vulnerable when it comes to dog attacks. We also know that without strong laws anyone is vulnerable to attacks. I have seen the photographs of young children who have been attacked. I remember seeing a photo of the cheek of a toddler who was viciously attacked by a dog; the size of a hole in her cheek was so big you could put a finger through it. That image will stay with me forever. I hope that memory fades for her and her family. In fact, 81 per cent of dog attacks on children in Queensland occur in the child's own home. We all remember the heartbreak when we heard of the fatal attack in Greenbank this year. No-one wants to see these attacks happen ever again.

I say thank you again to the Premier for her leadership and for her commitment to getting these amendments right for Queensland communities. I say thank you again to the taskforce and to all the people who made a submission. Their voices have been heard. I look forward to giving the House more details in the first reading of the bill.

Victims of Crime

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.32 am): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely focused on putting the needs of victims of crime front and centre. That is why we have appointed former Queensland Australian of the Year Mr Jon Rouse APM as Queensland's Interim Victims' Commissioner. Just yesterday I had the privilege of joining Mr Rouse in speaking at the National Victims of Crime Day afternoon tea at Parliament House. We were fortunate to hear from a panel of courageous victim-survivors who spoke from the heart and shared their stories.


The theme for the event was hope. Those glimmers of hope were apparent in the accounts of the victim-survivors who spoke of the vital assistance and support they have received along their long and difficult paths to recovery. The event was also a chance to recognise the important reform work underway within the sector. In his role, Mr Rouse will be engaging with victims of crime, victim support services and criminal justice agencies to hear about victims' experiences of the criminal justice system.

Today I can advise the House that the Interim Victims' Commissioner will be holding a series of workshops across the state with victim support and criminal justice sector agencies between now and the end of the year. The workshops start today in Brisbane and sessions in Toowoomba, Mount Isa, Townsville, Cairns, Logan, the Gold Coast and Redlands will follow. Consultation with agencies that work closely with victims is just the first step and will help identify issues faced by some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Broader consultation will begin early next year.

We know that in the immediate aftermath of a crime many people do not know what support is available to them or sometimes they do not even know what support they need. Our Interim Victims' Commissioner is bridging that gap, doing the work now to ensure that we can provide the best support possible into the future.

We must ensure that our justice system puts victims of crime front and centre in every element of our response. Once again I want to thank the courageous victim-survivors for having a voice and sharing their lived experiences which will help us build a stronger system to respond and support. I also want to acknowledge all of the agencies and service providers who also support victims. Many of them were represented yesterday including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Queensland Police Service and, of course, along with a lot of other agencies and service providers. I want to acknowledge their tremendous work, the trauma that they see each and every day and the effect that has on their jobs. I thank them for what they do.

Youth Remand Centre

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.35 am): The government's record investment in policing hits a new milestone today. I am advised that this morning early site works have started at the Wacol police precinct on the new youth remand centre. Today marks the start of what is the rapid build construction approach to be delivered next year. It was only a matter of weeks ago that the Premier announced onsite that this project would be proceeding and, as promised, it is progressing swiftly. Using rapid build technology with a modular design will enable faster delivery of this project.

The Queensland Police Service have engaged consultants with extensive experience in the design and construction of large-scale modular correctional facilities. This new facility will boost detention capacity and is being built on a site adjacent to the existing Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. A big advantage associated with the location is that it will provide good access to support services provided at the existing centre.

The Queensland Police Service is working closely with the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training to ensure the facility is fit for purpose for the people who will be held in custody. The facility will ultimately have the capacity to accommodate at least 50 detainees and will have common exercise areas and access to educational, medical and therapeutic capabilities at the adjacent detention complex. The facility will be operated by the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training and will house detainees in detention exclusively until the new detention centres open at Woodford and Cairns.

I can also announce today that tenders have been awarded for new police facilities in the electorate of Ipswich West at Rosewood and in the electorate of Pine Rivers at Dayboro. In addition, construction is underway to deliver new police facilities in the electorate of Nicklin at Cooroy and in the electorate of Caloundra at Caloundra South. In exciting news, the tender—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr RYAN: Yes, there you go; it is exciting. I even prefaced it with 'exciting'. In exciting news, the tender has been released today for a new police facility at Clermont in the member for Burdekin's electorate. The government will always back police with the facilities and infrastructure they need to keep the community safe.


DestinationQ Forum

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.38 am): Mr Speaker, as you know, Tropical North Queensland is one of the glittering gems in our state's tourism crown, attracting a record \$2.54 million visitors in the last year and generating more than \$4.2 billion for our visitor economy. Next week for Tourism Week during the Year of Accessible Tourism, Cairns and the tropical north become the epicentre of Queensland's visitor industry. More than a thousand tourism leaders are booked for Cairns and a big program of events including Destination IQ, DestinationQ and the gala Queensland Tourism Awards. We know more domestic and international visitors are seeking out genuine and unique Queensland Indigenous cultural experiences. That is what makes Destination IQ one of Australia's premier First Nations tourism forums for learning about new opportunities and emerging visitor trends.

The Palaszczuk government's DestinationQ is presented in partnership with TEQ and QTIC, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, bringing together a sample of the state's 64,000 tourism related businesses with government and regional tourism organisations to shape priorities for continuing the record growth of Queensland's \$33.2 billion visitor economy and building toward an \$11 billion a year international visitor economy with more good jobs for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In the year to June, 25.3 million visitors enjoyed Queensland's great lifestyle, supporting the jobs of one in 15 Queenslanders.

As mentioned by the Premier, we have a compelling line-up for DestinationQ, including past Australian of the Year and disability and accessibility advocate Dylan Alcott AO as well as experts on driving short- and long-term visitor growth and the global shift to tourism sustainability. Another important highlight of Tourism Week for the visitor economy is the 38th annual Queensland Tourism Awards. The awards recognise excellence across 31 categories, from visitor experiences to accommodation, culture and tourism marketing, with winners going into the Australian Tourism Awards. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate in anticipation this year's award nominees and winners and look forward to seeing many more travellers enjoying Queensland's award-winning tourism experiences on our green and gold runway to the 2032 games and beyond.

Schoolies Week

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.41 am): Tomorrow, year 12s from right across the state will have their final day of school. Many will be ready to celebrate their hard work and enjoy a well-deserved break with friends at schoolies week. For many decades the Gold Coast has been the destination of choice for many school leavers including, I can imagine, many in this chamber.

Government members interjected.


Ms ENOCH: Gosh, all the stories! This year we are expecting up to 20,000 school leavers to arrive on the Gold Coast from Saturday to begin a fun-filled week. Equally, Airlie Beach—another popular place for schoolies week celebrations—is expected to attract 1,600 year 12 school leavers. During schoolies week, the safety of young people and the local community remains the Palaszczuk government's highest priority, which is why we have committed \$2 million through the Safer Schoolies initiative in the 2023-24 budget to this important statewide initiative. Introduced in 2003, the Safer Schoolies initiative provides important identification, diversionary activities and vital safety and support services on the ground at the Gold Coast and at Airlie Beach.

The Safer Schoolies team has also been visiting schools throughout the year delivering educational resources and safety sessions to year 12s on topics such as drugs and alcohol, mental health and wellbeing as well as sexual consent. To date, a total of 58 schoolies themed education sessions have been delivered to over 8,000 year 12 school leavers. These sessions are in addition to the education sessions also delivered by Red Frogs and the Queensland Police Service. The Safer Schoolies response is delivered by nine Queensland government agencies in partnership with the City of Gold Coast and community partners including Rosies, Drug ARM, Gold Coast Youth Service, Red Frogs and Lives Lived Well.

The success of Safer Schoolies also relies on the more than 1,000 volunteers who give up their time to help, including dedicated volunteer Rita. Rita, who is 91, has been volunteering with the Safer Schoolies response for a number of years and will be working in her usual spot in the kitchen making sure all of our hardworking volunteers and workers are fed well. Volunteers just like Rita will be performing a wide range of roles including assigning wristbands, doing street patrols and helping teens find their way around. For some school leavers it will be the first time they have been away from home by themselves, so to have volunteers around is a huge support and, importantly, helps reassure parents like the member for Stafford. There will also be an increased police presence, a health and wellbeing space, chill-out and recharge zones and free nightly entertainment in the schoolies beach hub so school leavers can celebrate with their peers in a safe alcohol- and drug-free zone.

Our message to year 12 school leavers for schoolies week is: be safe and watch your mates. Ask volunteers to walk you home or for support. They are there to help. Look out for one another, stick together, talk to each other, seek help when you need it and respect each other's individuality. Everyone wants year 12 school leavers to have a great time this schoolies week and to come home with wonderful memories of their end-of-year celebrations.

Housing and Homelessness


 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (10.44 am): While we get on with our big housing build, we are also taking action to help those in need with immediate support and accommodation. Thirteen interest rate rises by the RBA and record interstate migration have put pressure on Queensland households. That is why we are providing financial support for renters to stay in their home; buying hotels, motels and former retirement villages; and providing critical funding for homelessness services right across our state.

In inner-city Brisbane we have stood up a dedicated team led by the Department of Housing and working with groups like Micah Projects, Mission Australia and Brisbane Youth Service to help those most in need. Since the team was formed, 290 people who were rough sleepers in Brisbane now have a safe place to stay. We have been able to help people find their own home or provide emergency accommodation at places like Roma House. We have purchased a 23-room hotel that is helping families experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic and family violence, with many more on the way. I want to acknowledge the work of the Department of Housing team and organisations right across the city that are out there every night helping people who are doing it tough.

I recently visited Roma House to see the work that goes on behind the scenes to help vulnerable Queenslanders—Queenslanders like Glen, who, after experiencing homelessness, is now the proud tenant of a social home and working hard to become employed once again; or Rory, who was living in a tent in Musgrave Park. The Department of Housing and Micah Projects worked together to quickly find Rory a one-bedroom unit and he is now in Greenslopes. Micah Projects provided Rory with a range of essential items like a kettle, microwave and sheets, and I hear he is very happy living in his new unit.

As we build new homes, so, too, are we providing immediate support for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Tackling the impacts of national pressures on homelessness and housing stress is no easy task. It is one that, as we have seen with our inner-city Brisbane response, requires all levels of government and organisations to work together. We will continue to take action to help people like Glen and Rory—the names and faces behind the statistics.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.46 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 28 November 2023.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report


 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (10.47 am): I table the following report of the Ethics Committee: report No. 218 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Acting Speaker on 24 August 2023 relating to an allegation of deliberately misleading of the House by the member for Nanango*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 218, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Acting Speaker on 24 August 2023 relating to an allegation of deliberately misleading of the House by the member for Nanango [[1901](#)].

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.47 am.

Satellite Hospitals

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.47 am): My question is to the Premier. Leaked recordings reveal that Queensland Health experts lobbied the Palaszczuk government not to call satellite hospitals 'hospitals'. Today it has been revealed that hundreds of Queenslanders with life-threatening emergencies have mistakenly presented to these facilities because the government told them they were hospitals. Will the Premier explain why she ignored these warnings and put lives at risk?

Government members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are quite serious allegations and statements made in that question, and I ask that the member authenticate those issues that are in there.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: You made a statement—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. This is not an opportunity to prosecute an argument, Leader of the House. Leader of the Opposition, there was a component of the question in which you have referenced recordings and the Leader of the House has asked that you authenticate those.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I can, Mr Speaker. Those recordings have been reported extensively in the media—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI:—extensively in the media—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, members. I will hear the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The leaked recordings have been reported extensively in the media. In my next question I will be quoting from them, and the Leader of the House was health minister when the recordings were reported.

Mr SPEAKER: Being reported in the media is certainly something which it may be attributed to. However, the Leader of the House has asked that you authenticate those by some other means.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will happily provide those extracts that came via RTI and were reported in the media. Those reports are current.

Ms PALASZCZUK: On this side of the House we are absolutely proud of our world-class satellite hospitals. Obviously what the Leader of the Opposition is meaning today is that he does not support them. He does not want them and he is going to axe them.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you are being drowned out by members to my right. The member for Pine Rivers and the member for Lytton will cease their interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know that the LNP would sell them to the highest bidder.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. At no point in that question was there any reference to the LNP's policies around these satellite hospitals.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the level of interjections is too high. I will start naming members without warning if this continues. Manager of Opposition Business, I have heard your point of order. The Premier is barely 30-plus seconds into the response. She has time to speak to other matters. It is relevant to the health issue at hand.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously they do have a secret plan, because if they will not stand up and support the satellite hospitals they have a secret plan. I am advised by the Queensland Ambulance Service that 7,500 code 1 transfers happen from GPs each year. Health conditions can happen anywhere at any time. It is better to present at a satellite hospital than stay at home. At least there you have the health care and the support and you can be transported. Let alone the number of instances that happen in aged-care facilities, which is why we are fighting, after years of neglect from the LNP—

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition has egg on his face because we know their secret plan is to sell off the satellite hospitals.

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: He protests too much!

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, resume your seat.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I realise there are a great deal of interjections and you may not have heard, but I have asked you to resume your seat. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: It relates to relevance, 118(b). The facilities are not in question. The LNP support them. The question was about the name of them.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I have this well in hand. Premier, the point that the Manager of Opposition Business makes is valid. I would ask that you address the direct component of the question as it was asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Some 19,000 people have so far presented to our satellite hospitals. Let me say that again—19,000. They are working and people are getting the health care they need closer to home. Less than 0.1 per cent of patients have been category 1 patients. Let us get the facts on the table.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And ambulance bays—

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—for transfers.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am asking you to resume your seat. Deputy Premier, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Currumbin, you are warned under the standing orders, as is the member for Mudgeeraba. The interjections will cease or I will start asking that responses are heard in silence as questions are.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Anything can happen to anyone at any time. Isn't it good that they have a satellite hospital close to their community. These are such a success that I am absolutely determined that the health minister and I work very closely to see where we can expand them to in the future.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: As per the previous question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, I will ask that members asking questions today will have their authentication material ready to present if challenged. It is an expectation of the House that that is always the case, but I am reminding members of that today.

Satellite Hospitals

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. Leaked recordings reported in the media also show senior Queensland Health staff said calling the facilities hospitals was a political direction and intent driven by the state government. Can the minister outline why the government will not swallow its political pride, listen to the warnings and change the name of satellite hospitals to avoid putting more lives at risk?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, I will hear the questions in full and in silence.

Mrs D'ATH: That question has inferences in relation to the risks associated with this that the member should have ruled out. It is an appalling inference to make without being able to authenticate those claims.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I will be allowing the question.

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. We know the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow health spokesperson, the member for Mudgeeraba, have never once supported these satellite hospitals that are treating 19,000 Queenslanders. I want to be very clear about this: these are a satellite facility of the hospital. That is why they are called satellite hospitals. Nurses and doctors are absolutely loving these facilities because they can see the difference it is making for patients in some of our most rapidly growing areas.

I want to also be very clear about the figures that the Leader of the Opposition has bandied about today. Let us put this in context: 19,000 Queenslanders have walked through the doors and received absolutely wonderful, first-class care from our first-class frontline workers. Let me tell members something else: a lot of patients do present at a GP, at an urgent care clinic or at a satellite hospital and they do not realise how sick they are. The director of nursing at the Caboolture Satellite Hospital told me when they opened in August that a lot of people presented with respiratory conditions. We were coming out of flu season. These individuals did not realise just how critically ill they were. They have advance care nurses at the satellite hospital who have worked in emergency departments, they have a doctor and they have a resus room. They stabilised these patients.

Do members know what else our satellite hospitals have? They have an ambulance bay because they are designed for people to then be taken by an ambulance to the emergency department. Let me tell members something else about the numbers: category 4 and 5 patients overwhelmingly make up the numbers of people at our satellite hospitals.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

Ms FENTIMAN: That means our campaign to tell Queenslanders where to go for help is working. They are going to the right place. The number of category 4 and category 5 patients that are now presenting at our EDs is dramatically lower and tier 3 escalations are down at the same time from the previous year. These satellite hospitals are game changers for families and it is about time the opposition got on board and supported our satellite hospitals. What is their plan? That is the question today. Are they going to sell them? Are they going to close them? Are they going to sack the doctors and the nurses that staff these satellite hospitals? I want the Leader of the Opposition to look families in the eye and say he does not support these facilities that they now rely on for their children. When their children break an arm or need stitches or have an earache or have a fever it means they do not have to go to the emergency department.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

Ms FENTIMAN: Patients love it. Staff love it. We love it. Get on board!

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next question, Leader of the Opposition, I was trying to give you guidance during that response from the minister. The minister was being responsive to the question asked. It was on point in terms of the actual content. I will ask you to heed those warnings in future or you will be warned formally under the standing orders.

Mr POWELL: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The LNP is on the record supporting these facilities.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member for Glass House. There is no point of order and it is not one that can be raised at this time. It is not suddenly arising if there is a particular position by a party in the parliament. That is a matter that you can seek to write to me about at a later stage, but it is not a matter of privilege suddenly arising, and I suggest in future you do not use that opportunity.

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. As Queensland is the fastest growing state in Australia, what is the Premier's response to the federal government's plans to curb infrastructure investment in our state?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bundaberg for the question. Of course, the member for Bundaberg is a very strong supporter of upgrades to the Bruce Highway and the second inland freight route, which is so vital for freight transfers across Queensland.

We are outraged at the infrastructure cuts that have been handed down by the federal government. It is unbelievable. Members on this side of the House know how important the Bruce Highway is for commuters. As Queensland is a very decentralised state, the Bruce Highway is used by many to commute as well as for the transfer of freight. There is no way that this government will accept a 50-50 share of funding when the 80-20 split has been there for decades. I make that absolutely clear. Obviously the Victorian minister does not understand Queensland, so Queensland will make the Victorian minister understand Queensland.

Last night I had a wonderful dinner with members of the Queensland Farmers' Federation. I thank them very much for coming in and meeting with Minister Linard and me. They asked me if they could come on board and support the convoy that will be going to Canberra. I said, 'Of course. We would love to have representatives of the QFF join the Deputy Premier to make our message very clear.' Today, the Queensland Trucking Association has also come on board to support that.

I urge other interested businesses, as well as the mayors, to also show their support for the Bruce Highway, because those funding cuts to Queensland are not acceptable. They are not acceptable because Queensland is the fastest growing state in the nation, and what the Victorian minister does not understand is that Queensland is the most decentralised state in the nation. Right across the length and breadth of our state we have large communities and cities that rely on funding for infrastructure so that they can stay connected.

Does the opposition support our position? We know that under the opposition there would be even further cuts because they have their secret cuts list and we know what they love doing. On this side of the House we will always stand up for Queensland. The Victorian federal minister needs to be aware of our position.

(Time expired)

Satellite Hospitals

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister explain why Queenslanders were not told about the hundreds of people mistakenly turning up to satellite hospitals with life-threatening conditions?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, there are inferences in that question around individuals mistakenly turning up to a place that they have voluntarily chosen to attend.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I will hear the point of order.

Mrs D'ATH: Again I say that, because of the inference in that question, it should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House, we have covered this previously. It is not a matter of imputations or inferences; it is actually a matter of authentication. At this stage I am satisfied at the level of authentication. I ask the health minister to answer the question.

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for the question. I can tell the House what I am not going to do: I am not going to judge any Queenslander for turning up to get free, accessible care when they feel sick. I am not going to do it. Every day, Queenslanders might go to their GP, they might go to their pharmacy, I am so glad that they are coming to our satellite hospitals or they might go to a hospital. Their condition might deteriorate very rapidly and then they might need to go to an

emergency department. Any Queenslander can present at our satellite hospitals and, if their condition deteriorates, we have the advanced care nurses, the doctors, the resuscitation bays and the equipment to stabilise them and care for them. That is what those facilities are designed to do.

I take this opportunity to invite the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba, who have never supported the satellite hospitals, to visit one of them and to meet with the nurses and doctors who have been clamouring to work at those facilities. The member for Mudgeeraba can wear her scrubs.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have always supported the satellite hospitals.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, I need to hear the member.

Ms BATES: The minister is misleading the House. I have already visited the Caboolture Satellite Hospital.

Mr SPEAKER: I make it clear, member for Mudgeeraba and other members, that this is not an opportunity to state a case or rebut a response that has been provided in the parliament. You should well know, member, having been here for a long time, that that is not the appropriate use of the parliament's time.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I take personal offence at the comments of the minister and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Health, will you withdraw?

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw. If the member for Mudgeeraba has been to the Caboolture Satellite Hospital, she would have spoken with the nurses and the doctors there. This morning I spoke with the Director of Nursing and he said to me, 'These facilities are a game changer.' They are so excited about the future of health care in Caboolture. Let us think about the families in Caboolture. They are some of the most vulnerable in our state. They are getting free accessible wonderful health care from our wonderful frontline workers.

I am not going to criticise the wonderful work that happens at those satellite hospitals by our doctors and nurses. The families, the children and the adults who are turning up are getting world-class care in their neighbourhoods. They can go to the Caboolture Satellite Hospital and get a dental appointment. They can see a mental health clinician. They can attend the minor injury and illness clinic. Thousands of Queenslanders are getting world-class care.

Again, I extend an invitation to the Leader of the Opposition to come and visit our satellite hospitals. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: come and visit any one of the satellite hospitals you want. Talk to the staff at those facilities and they will tell you they absolutely love them. Queenslanders love them because they are turning up in droves. Again, I ask the Leader of the Opposition: are you going to sell them and sack the staff?

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

Ms FENTIMAN: Will the LNP sell off the satellite hospitals and will they sack the doctors and nurses who work in them? Again, I say to the member for Mudgeeraba that it is really dangerous to say that people should not go anywhere when they are ill. If a person's condition deteriorates then they will be cared for. They have resuscitation bays and an ambulance bay and they will get great care.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pumicestone, I warn you under the standing orders for interjecting, as the member for Pine Rivers will be warned.

Bribie Island, Infrastructure

Ms KING: 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. Will the Deputy Premier please advise the House on our government's plan for infrastructure on and around Bribie Island, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. I know that the electors of Pumicestone are looking forward to the opening of the Bribie Island Satellite Hospital. They are already accessing the Caboolture Satellite Hospital. I know that the member for Pumicestone will do her best to combat the misinformation from the LNP and make sure her constituents know that—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Dr MILES:—if they need health care they should go to their nearest health facility, where our fantastic health staff will take care of them. Today I can advise the House categorically that the Palaszczuk government will not build a desalination plant on Bribie Island. We have no plans to do so. It is not—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Dr MILES: It is not amongst the sites being considered and it will not be. In fact, the only party that ever proposed putting a desalinisation plant on Bribie Island was the LNP. In 2009 it announced that it would build a 125-megalitre-a-day desalinisation plant on Bribie Island. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Articles, undated, titled 'Desalination Plant back on the agenda again' and 'Labor's desal debacle' [[1902](#)].

That is what makes the material the LNP is distributing, particularly the member for Glass House, particularly misleading. I table that for the House, too.

Tabled paper: Article, undated, titled 'Desalination block: Sullivan pledges to fight Bribie plant' [[1903](#)].

It is shameful to see the member for Glass House misleading residents of Bribie Island when there is no plan to build a desalinisation plant there. The only party that has ever planned to put one there is the member's own side, the LNP. We also know that the LNP has a plan to put a nuclear reactor on Bribie Island—that is right. Those opposite want nuclear power plants. We know from previous studies that, if they were to build nuclear plants, their No. 1 location would be on Bribie Island. We on this side of the House can rule out ever implementing their plan for a desalinisation plant and we can also rule out ever implementing their plan for a nuclear power plant on Bribie Island because we know that neither of those facilities are appropriate. What we will do, though, is keep building health facilities such as our satellite hospitals at Bribie and Caboolture.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

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

Satellite Hospitals

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Minister for Health. If the Labor government listened to the warnings on the name of satellite hospitals, would taxpayers have to pay over a million dollars to educate Queenslanders that satellite hospitals are not actually hospitals?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Sorry, minister. Members to my right, I cannot hear the minister. You will cease your interjections.

Ms FENTIMAN: We make no apologies for a campaign to educate Queenslanders about a brand new facility offering free, accessible health care. As I said earlier, it is a satellite hospital because it is a satellite facility of the hospital. That is why they are called satellite hospitals. I know it might be a bit difficult for the member for Glass House to wrap his head around.

I return to the point that the Premier made earlier. Approximately 7,500 code 1 patients are transported from GPs to EDs every year. Queenslanders may present not knowing how sick they are or they may deteriorate rapidly. That is why the QAS has fantastic protocols in place to transfer patients to the right place where they can get emergency care. Queenslanders are turning up in droves to get free, accessible health care in their communities. That is why we love them. We are so proud of them. We are so proud of the doctors and nurses putting their hands up to work in these facilities. It is not just doctors and nurses at these satellite hospitals, there are allied health workers, mental health professionals and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers there too. People are getting fantastic care in their community. We absolutely make no apology for that.

The Bribie Island Satellite Hospital—thanks to the work of the local member—will have chemotherapy chairs, something which her community absolutely advocated for. We know that the Tugun Satellite Hospital will provide excellent care to those members of the southern Gold Coast. Talking about the Gold Coast, we know that during the election campaign when we promised a satellite hospital for the Gold Coast the LNP did not match it. They say that they might support these satellite

hospitals but they did not want to fund them and now all they are doing is criticising these wonderful healthcare facilities. Again, the question is: will they rule out selling them off? Will they rule out cutting them as part of their infrastructure hit list of \$10 billion?

The reality is that these facilities are working. When we look at the category 4 and 5 presentations at the nearby emergency departments, they are radically down—something that those opposite still have not commented on. There are now huge numbers of people not going to the emergency departments who are getting free care in their community. That is how you take pressure off our hospitals and that is how you improve ambulance ramping. Again, I thank the staff at these facilities. I thank the Queenslanders who are turning up for free, accessible health care. We are so proud of them. It is about time those opposite stopped whingeing and complaining about these great healthcare facilities.

Cost of Living, Relief

Mr TANTARI: My question is directed to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's electricity rebates are helping Queenslanders, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approach?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. He knows how important cost-of-living relief is to government, but, very importantly, to the people of the electorate he represents. It is why we put in the biggest cost-of-living package in the country. It is why every Queensland household—2.2 million households, including all of those households in Hervey Bay—will get \$550 off their electricity bill this year. All of that is at risk because the Leader of the Opposition adamantly refuses to guarantee delivering that cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. The only thing the Leader of the Opposition will do is talk about structural cost-of-living relief. When the autobabble is on 11 and the weasel words come out of the Leader of the Opposition, we know what structural cost-of-living relief is. It means no cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. We have heard a lot today about cuts to federal infrastructure from Catherine King, but there is one person Catherine King would love to be on the other side of the table negotiating with, and that is the Leader of the Opposition. They are absolutely on a unity ticket when it comes to cost overruns and cutting infrastructure.

If the cost of infrastructure goes up and you do not fund it then that is a cut. That is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition talks. We know about his \$10 billion in cuts. We know about the Chatsworth plan to prune. Every single day the Leader of the Opposition talks about how terrible it is that there are cost overruns. That means cuts. That is exactly what he will do, that is exactly why he talks about it and that is exactly what he would do if he were in government. That is what he talks about endlessly. We know there is more to come. When they cut the \$7 billion that comes from progressive coal royalties then that is a massive hole in their capital program. Of course, that is the deal that the Leader of the Opposition has done with Ian Macfarlane.

The Leader of the Opposition went down a coalmine with Ian Macfarlane. He will not talk about what he agreed to then. He will not talk about what he agreed to with Ian Macfarlane when he was tucking into lunch with the leader of the coal lobby in Queensland, Ian Macfarlane. He will not reveal any of that to Queenslanders. He lectures our government endlessly about transparency, accountability and openness, yet reveals nothing about his revenue plan or about cutting the progressive coal royalties that have delivered so much for Queensland. We can forget satellite hospitals. We can forget the biggest hospital building program in the country. We can forget a new hospital for the miners at Moranbah. All of that is going to go. We can forget about public housing. What was the first thing they did in government? They did not build houses; they privatised them. That is exactly what they did with public housing. They are obsessed with cutting public infrastructure. They are obsessed with cutting public expenditure. That is his whole reason for being in government. They did it when the Newman government was in office. He was proud of it, he boasted about it and he will do it again.

Satellite Hospitals

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Minister for Health. When did the health minister first find out Queenslanders with life-threatening conditions were wrongly presenting to satellite hospitals? What assurances can the minister give that a Queenslanders will not die because of misnaming these hospitals?

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. That question has so many inferences that are totally incorrect, and I believe it should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: No, I will not be ruling the question out of order. I have made my ruling clear on this today. The Minister for Health has managed to argue quite successfully, as I hear her, in terms of what she is trying to put forward. I will ask the Minister for Health to reply.

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. Queenslanders are not wrong. Queenslanders are presenting to world-class healthcare clinics, just like Queenslanders are not wrong when they go to the GP and then they need to go to the ED. The LNP are arguing that Queenslanders get it wrong when they go to their GP and then they need to go to hospital. They are arguing that Queenslanders are wrong when they turn up to a satellite hospital. They are not. They are getting wonderful care. They are not wrong when they go to the Tugun Satellite Hospital and then are sicker than they think they are and need to go to hospital. They are not wrong, member for Currumbin.

Whilst the overwhelming majority of Queenslanders can work out what these facilities are for, because they are turning up in their thousands, it seems really difficult for the LNP to wrap their head around these satellite hospitals, so I thought I would have a look at the definition of a hospital. The *Cambridge Dictionary*—do those opposite want to hear it?—defines it as ‘a place where people who are ill or injured are treated and taken care of by doctors and nurses’. What do you think happens at a satellite hospital, Mr Speaker? People are treated by doctors and nurses. They are stabilised in a resus room if they are a category 1 and then they are transferred by ambulance to an emergency department.

I think the point is that these satellite hospitals have been so successful that those opposite cannot bring themselves to acknowledge that the Labor government has had another great idea when it comes to health care. They cannot bring themselves to acknowledge that thousands of Queenslanders have got it right. Thousands of Queenslanders are presenting to get world-class free, accessible health care where they are treated by nurses and doctors—the very definition of a hospital.

Dr Miles: For free.

Ms FENTIMAN: For free. These facilities are working. As I said, they are taking pressure off our very busy hospitals. That is exactly what they were designed to do. The locations of these satellite hospitals were very clearly in the busiest and fastest growing suburbs, because we knew that our hospitals would need that extra support. That is what we are seeing—Caboolture Hospital, Redland Hospital and I know that we will see it at Robina Hospital and the Gold Coast University Hospital.

Again, I say to the member for Currumbin: anytime you want a tour to meet with the staff who love these facilities and meet the patients who are getting world-class care, I would love you to come.

Ms Grace: But don't tell them they're wrong!

Ms FENTIMAN: But please do not tell them they are wrong to be there, because they absolutely deserve to get wonderful, accessible, free health care.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, member for Burleigh and member for Warrego, your interjections were designed to interrupt the minister. You are warned under the standing orders.

Kindergarten

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is investing in early education to give Queensland kids the best possible start in life, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that, as a former primary school teacher, the member understands the importance of early education and how vital it is to give kids a great start in life. Like our free satellite hospitals, we are going to have free kindy in 2024. We will not be telling any family that they are wrong because they are going to access free kindy in our kindergarten centres.

We are investing \$645 million to ensure our families can get free kindy. Free kindy will deliver not only a great early education for those children but also significant cost-of-living relief for families—up to \$4,600, just like the cost-of-living relief they are getting attending our satellite hospitals for free. Free kindy will help every child to get a good start, just like they get great health care if they visit one of our free satellite hospitals. We will not tell any families that they are wrong in going there, that is for sure. We want to support parents, particularly women, to return to work.

We have a statewide campaign. Our kindy ads with those kindy kids are absolutely fantastic. We want to encourage every Queensland family to enrol as soon as they can. Today, as an unofficial member of The Wiggles—the ‘Pink Wiggle’—I am so proud to announce that we have engaged The Wiggles to help us share the free kindy message. The Wiggles are heading out on tour next month and will help spread the great news of free kindy to over 33,000 families.

The Wiggly Big Day Out! tour will visit Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Brisbane in December, letting families know about the great news of free kindy. At their big shows they will be ensuring families know about free kindy. The Blue Wiggle—who can forget Anthony Field?—said, ‘We’re proud to partner with the Queensland government to promote the important message that kindy is free for all families in 2024.’

When it comes to alternatives, let’s hope those opposite do not pour cold spaghetti on our free kindy. Let’s hope that their policies do not drop it like a hot potato. Let’s hope that as Captain Feathersword they do not slash and cut free kindy when they come in. We know that, when it comes to new policies and ideas, those opposite have nothing at all, because even Dorothy the Dinosaur has more policies and ideas than those opposite.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I will wait for the House to come to order. Member for Kawana, we do not want that kind of gesticulation occurring in the parliament.

Prince Charles Hospital, Staffing

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. During a deadly fungal cluster amongst heart transplant patients, can the minister confirm there is currently no permanent director of cardiac surgery at the Prince Charles Hospital?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. I am happy to get him the details on that.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the minister has given an undertaking to provide a response.

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services. Can the minister advise the House how the federal government’s infrastructure review will impact upon the delivery of the Palaszczuk government’s record Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Kurwongbah, who is a strong advocate for infrastructure in his area and right across the state. Queensland has the largest road network in the country. We are the most decentralised state. We are the only state with the majority of people living outside the capital city. This is not the time to be cutting infrastructure to the growth state in this nation. The current federal government has not taken into account those factors when it comes to its federal review. We have to consider that our growth state will have six million people in less than 25 years in South-East Queensland alone, let alone across regional Queensland, which has also grown strongly post pandemic.

Information provided by the Commonwealth shows that they are cutting when it comes to infrastructure investment, with funding dropping off in the lead-up to Queensland’s 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, leading to a \$5.7 billion funding decrease at a time when Queenslanders need a cooperative federal government working to deliver infrastructure for our growth and for the games. Of greatest concern to us is the introduction of corridor caps. Queensland, like all jurisdictions, is experiencing substantial pressure on the cost of delivering infrastructure, and we need a federal government that honours its commitments to projects and funding splits and also to address nationwide cost escalations which we are subject to.

The federal government has divided the Bruce Highway into four separate programs and capped the funding on each. For example, the Bruce Highway south corridor has 20 projects, and funding for these projects is capped at the current published value. These projects are not immune, of course, to current nationwide market pressures which are well known due to the economic incompetence inherited from the Morrison government. Costs have increased. Gravel is up 62 per cent, bitumen is up 31 per cent, asphalt is up 15 per cent, concrete is up 36 per cent, fuel is up by 67 per cent and steel reinforcing is up 76 per cent. The federal government is forcing decisions on project cuts onto Queensland, and that is not fair.

Unlike those opposite, we do not stand for cuts. We stand for fighting for Queensland and fighting for the Bruce Highway. As the only state with so many people in regional areas we are much more prone to cuts on the Bruce Highway from 80-20 to 50-50 than any other state or jurisdiction. There is very little in regional Victoria compared to Queensland; the same with South Australia; the same with Western Australia. Queensland deserves its fair share and we will keep fighting for it.

(Time expired)

Community Safety

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. It has been one year since the government was handed the 'A Call for Change' report. The Queensland police website still states that the government's response is yet to be finalised, while no update has been provided on the 38 recommendations due at the 12-month mark. Is this another example of this government prioritising announcements over the safety of Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We said that we were implementing the recommendations. I am happy to get an update and ask the minister to provide an update to the member.

Corrective Services

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's investment in Queensland Corrective Services, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I know this is repetitious because I have said it before, but the member is the greatest member for Caloundra this House has ever seen. It is great to have a question from this great member, who is also a great advocate for the outstanding work of the custodial officers, public servants and frontline first responders who keep our community safe every single day.

One of my proudest achievements as minister in this portfolio is the decision this government took to end prison privatisation in Queensland. Queensland is one of the first jurisdictions in the world to transition all private prisons to public operations. That is an outstanding decision of this government and one that is being replicated around the world and around Australia with the recent decision of the New South Wales government to convert some of its private prisons to public operations. It was a good decision of that Labor government in New South Wales in the interests of community safety as well as recognition of the outstanding work public servants do in respect of community safety. I am advised that the New South Wales government has made the decision to reverse the privatisation of the Junee Correctional Centre and the Parklea Correctional Centre in Western Sydney and convert them to public operation.

They often say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and of course Queensland is leading the way when it comes to ensuring that the public operation of prisons is a core part of operating correctional services. Unfortunately, there is no unity ticket on this. At the last election those opposite went to the election with a policy to keep private prisons. In fact, members opposite said that the money that was used to fund the public operation of prisons was wasteful spending. That is code for cutting, because we know that if they had their way they would have kept private prisons, which would have led to the sacking of public servants and correctional facilities operating with fewer staff. We are very proud of our record. It is a strong record. It means a safer community. It also means good jobs for correctional officers here in Queensland. It builds on our record of significant investment in correctional services. We are investing in more staff, investing in more training and investing in greater recognition through higher salaries for custodial officers. I am informed that correctional officers in Queensland are amongst the best paid, best trained and most professional in all of Australasia. That is the record of this government, and that is what happens when you value public servants rather than sack them like those opposite.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. On Monday a senior Queensland fisheries representative addressed the Queensland Seafood Industry Association's AGM in Townsville, describing them as 'lacking sophistication and professionalism'. These comments have been described as 'acid to open wounds' on the sector. Will the minister condemn these words? If not, will the minister ensure this person is stood down after apologising to the QSIA and the broader commercial fishing industry?

Mr FURNER: Despite the fact that I have had some minor investigations done with regard to this matter, I am yet to come to a conclusion that the facts identified in allegations were made by the staff member of Queensland fisheries. I look forward to continuing discussions with the department around that.

Mr Katter: They should be stood down.

Mr FURNER: It is not my role to stand down a public servant. My role is to make sure that the public servants of this great Palaszczuk government represent this government well, and I believe our public servants represent this government extremely well. We will not put ourselves in a position where we sack 14,000 public servants like those opposite. I will take on the advice—

Mr Katter interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Traeger, you have asked the question. The minister is responding. If you keep interjecting you are going to be warned under the standing orders.

Mr FURNER: I take on the frank and fearless advice of our public servants. They do an amazing job in difficult times. This is just another example of the difficult times our public servants are facing, dealing with a difficult issue with regard to the removal of gillnets from the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr Katter: It is not in the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr FURNER: I will make sure that I continue listening to the public servants in my department, regardless of whether it is fisheries—

Mr Katter interjected.

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

Mr FURNER:—or agriculture, and their frank and fearless advice. Sometimes I challenge that advice. Sometimes I ask them to go back and seek further opinions.

Mr Katter interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Traeger, you were under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour. Unfortunately, you will not get to hear the remaining one minute and 17 seconds of the minister's response.

Whereupon the honourable member for Traeger withdrew from the chamber at 11.36 am.

Mr FURNER: I encourage the member or any member in this House to keep on top of this matter. In fact, at one o'clock today myself, the Minister for the Environment and the chair of the Future Fisheries Taskforce will be making an important announcement in this place. This is a difficult issue. The Palaszczuk government has taken on board not only the views of our commercial fishers but also the views of recreational fishers and the views of environmental—

Mr Dametto interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook—and I am going to warn the member for Hill as well—you have been interjecting. This is not an opportunity for grandstanding and I will not reward you by having you thrown out as well. I will look at other serious consequences.

Mr FURNER: As I indicated, I will take further communications from my department with regard to these allegations, and I will wind that matter up and get back to the member with regard to those findings.

Fee-Free TAFE

Mr KELLY: 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 success of Fee-Free TAFE, and are there any alternative approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for the question. He talks to me so often about the great stories he hears of people in his electorate who have benefited from Fee-Free TAFE. Of course, being a nurse himself—I think he still considers himself a nurse and an MP—I know he is absolutely delighted by our announcement of the fee-free Diploma of Nursing. We know that over 120,000 Queenslanders have already benefited from our Fee-Free TAFE initiative before we partnered with the federal government last year. Thank goodness we finally have a federal government that thinks skills and training are important.

I know that every single day members on this side of the House hear stories from people who literally would not have been able to afford that training and who would not have been able to get a good job without Fee-Free TAFE, including: people who have been long-term unemployed; people who are the first in their family to do post-school education; and people who are in low-income jobs. Parents who have been bringing up their kids and have not been able to afford training can finally look at some other opportunities in their lives. We are hearing these stories day after day. With the cost of living being what it is, it is even more important.

That is why it is absolutely terrifying to think what would happen if the LNP came into government because they hate TAFE. It is in the LNP's DNA. When we were negotiating with the former federal LNP government over the National Skills Agreement, if they had got into power, the cost of absolutely critical courses for early childhood workers—who would have been carrying out the free kindy—would have jumped by 950 per cent. The individual support course for people who look after our grandmas and grandpas and people with disabilities would have jumped by 870 per cent. That is what could have happened.

I remember during those appalling years when they were in government being contacted by a man called David whose disabled son had finally found a TAFE course he could afford at \$600 a semester. He scraped the money together for that, but the very next semester under them it was \$1,060, with foundation skills courses going up 1,000 or 2,000 per cent. These are the very things that allow entry into the workforce. These are the things that the people of Queensland deserve. They deserve the right to train into skills to get a good job. Those opposite need to say right now if they are going to continue that Fee-Free TAFE.

(Time expired)

Gas Royalties

Dr MacMAHON: My question is for the Treasurer. The Treasurer has been detailing the benefits of higher coal royalties, a Greens policy, as a way to give Queenslanders a fairer share of resource revenue. Does the Treasurer agree that gas royalties should also be raised, or is he content for the gas corporations to not pay their fair share?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for South Brisbane for her question. Like most propositions put forward by the Greens, the contention is false and incorrect. There is only one party in this House that will take on big coal and that is the Australian Labor Party. It was not Greens policy, the party that will never be able to implement anything. It was a deliberate decision of our government to ensure that Queenslanders got their fair share—not talking about Queenslanders getting their fair share, but respecting the processes of the parliament, being in the House, remaining in the House at all times to ensure that the legislative measures that we design, that we develop, that we implement—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Logan—we do that deliberately to deliver for the people of Queensland.

There are two great threats to our revenue position in this state. One is the LNP's avowed position to cut progressive coal royalties to give \$7 billion back to big coal companies. We know that Chris Wallin has received half a billion dollars in dividends, there are multiple billions of dollars in BHP and the family who are the predominant shareholders in Jellinbah are getting almost a billion dollars in dividends.

The other threat is the Greens political party that wants to eliminate payroll tax and blow a \$5 billion hole in the budget each year. That is a \$20 billion hole in our budget over the forward estimates. I call on the Queensland Greens to articulate clearly how that hole will be filled. A \$20 billion budget deficit would be a very significant hole in the budget. That is the policy position.

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr DICK: You only have to look at your website to know what your policy position is.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr DICK: You are proud to put a \$20 billion hole in the budget but then you want everything for free, and I do not understand how that can be reconciled. Parties of government are not parties of protest. Parties of government have to put a financial plan forward. We have to be responsible economic managers.

Dr MacMAHON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under relevance. My question was about gas companies.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, components of the question also related to coal, which the Treasurer is addressing. Treasurer, I would ask that you do respond to that other component of the question as asked.

Mr DICK: Thank you for your direction, Mr Speaker. I will. Parties of government need to be responsible economic managers. We have demonstrated that consistently as a government.

We have settled royalty arrangements with the gas industry and we got a very good deal for Queensland. That is what we did. We will continue to ensure that the resources that belong to the people of Queensland, the royalties which are a payment to the people of Queensland for their resources, continue to be fair—fair to the industry so they can continue to prosper and grow and fair for Queensland so we can deliver the essential infrastructure, jobs and services that the people of our state deserve.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Services

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is working with the domestic, family and sexual violence sector, and is the Attorney aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Lytton for her question. She understands the importance of investing in programs and initiatives across the domestic, family and sexual violence sectors. It is great to be part of a government that has invested over \$1.5 billion since coming into government in domestic, family and sexual violence reforms. Since becoming the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I have had the privilege of meeting with specialist services, victim-survivors, advocates and volunteers across the state, as well as the great public servants who work in this area each and every day. I have met with Queensland government employees and service providers in Ipswich who are working together to ensure high-risk domestic violence victim-survivors receive wraparound services and support. I have met with the Red Rose Foundation which is supporting non-fatal strangulation victim-survivors across the state. The Women's Centre in Townsville, through additional investment from the Palaszczuk government, is employing extra sexual assault response team staff to support victim-survivors.

We have also enhanced the high-risk teams in other areas, including Townsville. They are bringing all of those services together—government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, First Nations providers—to solve the awful problem of domestic and be ready to respond to an emergent situation. They need to get in there and quickly remove the individual and their families from a situation that is extremely high risk. We have also announced further money in the budget to help those people transition from emergency shelter to longer term accommodation.

As I said in my ministerial statement yesterday, we announced an extra \$3 million—which is almost a 15 per cent uplift—to the core funding of sexual assault services and women's health and wellbeing services. I am so proud of that. That money is going right across the regions, right across this great state, with 32 organisations benefitting from that.

I was also asked what the alternative is. We have heard from the opposition that they have already identified billions of dollars of savings. What they have not done is release the full list of what those savings are. When they were last in government \$259 million was cut from community sector organisations, including domestic, family and sexual violence services: \$40,000 from DVConnect, \$140,000 from the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre, \$69,000 from Sunshine Cooloola Service Against Sexual Violence, \$50,000 from the Ipswich Women's Centre Against Domestic Violence, and \$13,000 from the state's only service providing sexual assault support for women with disability.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Prince Charles Hospital, Staffing



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (11.47 am): I want to make a quick ministerial statement in response to the question asked by the member for Kawana. I am advised that Dr Trevor Fayers is currently the


acting director of the cardiac surgery unit. The Prince Charles Hospital has been engaged in a recruitment process for a permanent director. Dr Fayers has been successful in a new position and will cease this acting role at the end of the month. Dr Morgan Windsor will be taking on the role of acting until the role is permanently filled.

EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 November (see p. 3572), on motion of Mr Hinchliffe—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.48 am), continuing: In part 2 of my speech on this bill, I would like to emphasise the tour that the Economics and Governance Committee did to North-West Queensland to further investigate matters in relation to the appropriate dinosaur emblem for Queensland. Being a Richmond boy, I embarked on that tour as a passionate supporter of the *Kronosaurus queenslandicus*. We toured Winton, Longreach, Muttaborra and those areas.

We arrived to Winton to see a fantastic Age of Dinosaurs tourism facility that is doing a lot of great work in that area, in conjunction with the Queensland Museum, run by David Elliott, inspired by David Elliott, and the idea of an emblem was inspired by David Elliott. In fact, he told me that he nominated a particular dinosaur on the basis that it had to be a Queensland-only dinosaur, except we know that the muttaburrasaurus is not a Queensland-only dinosaur. However, we also know that the koala is not exclusive to Queensland and that happens to be our emblem as well.

We were well-served in terms of our hearings out there. We had great support from the local mayors who are involved in this tourism aspect which is growing rapidly out there. We had Councillor Sean Dillon from the Barcaldine shire. We had Councillor Gavin Baskett from the Winton shire and, wonderfully as well, Councillor Jane McNamara drove down from Hughenden to Winton to specifically support the hearings as Hughenden is an important part of the Dinosaur Trail up in North-West Queensland. Unfortunately, we were not able to get to Richmond. I spoke to the excellent mayor up there who has done a great job for tourism and palaeo tourism, Mayor John Wharton, and I have assured him, as the committee has agreed, we will do further tours into palaeo tourism early next year.

The highlight, from my point of view, of the investigation by the committee was our trip on the final day out to Muttaborra where we saw a magnificent facility in a small country town. They have done a wonderful job in promoting and protecting the dinosaur tourism aspect of North-West Queensland. Probably the highlight of all of that was the speech that Mrs Pearl Langdon gave about the discovery of a muttaburrasaurus by her husband, Doug—I think in 1963—

Mr Power: 1962.

Mr STEVENS: I will take on board the chair's interjection. He said it was 1962; I thought it was 1963, but it could have been over the Christmas period when the big wet set in. It was a wonderful achievement, as Mrs Langdon said, and this turned my opinion around completely in relation to this being the appropriate emblem for Queensland—the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni* named after the original discovery by Doug Langdon. Mrs Langdon gave a very emotive address to the committee that certainly inspired my support for the muttaburrasaurus to be the dinosaur emblem of Queensland. There is one rider on that: she insisted that when the emblem finally gets designed—and I take it somebody from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will be designing it—it must be a proper dinosaur emblem and not some caricature from Barney Rubble days or something like that. She wants a proper dinosaur emblem so that we can grow palaeo tourism. We certainly will be doing that as a committee next year—I gave that promise to Mayor Wharton—and I look forward to further investigation of palaeo tourism in Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, even though it sounds like we might be in furious agreement on this bill towards lunch, I never underestimate the capacity of this House to erupt into robust debate, so I will remind those members who are on a warning. We have the members for Everton, Bonney, Kawana, Chatsworth, Toowoomba South, Toowoomba North, Murrumba, Mudgeeraba, Currumbin, Pumicestone, Pine Rivers, Nanango, Buderim, Surfers Paradise, Burleigh, Warrego, Oodgeroo, Traeger, Hill and Hinchinbrook on warnings.



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (11.54 am): I am very pleased to not be on the naughty list. I rise to make my contribution to the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I get to the headline act of this bill, the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*, or Mutt for short, I will quickly go over some of the other aspects of the bill which we considered as part of the inquiry process.

There are a number of minor and technical changes to the Crime and Corruption Commission Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act with respect to the holding of parliamentary committee meetings. Certainly, as long as I have been participating in committees, whether portfolio or the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, members have been able to participate in meetings via telephone or videoconference. During the COVID period, it was the primary means of participating in meetings. Whilst the validity of members participating via this means has not been challenged, in a review it was found that the legislation did not expressly permit this type of participation. This amendment will provide the clarification and retrospectivity dating back to 23 April 1998. Other amendments will include providing clarification to definitions of the parliamentary precinct and the Speaker's role in preparing documentation for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker under the Parliament of Queensland Act.

Now onto yours and my favourite dinosaur, the muttaburrasaurus. I would like to acknowledge the town of Muttaburra advised that they would be eagerly tuning in to the broadcast during the debate, so hello to everyone in Muttaburra crammed around and live streaming this particular debate. It is time to channel my inner eight-year-old and speak with a level of enthusiasm about dinosaurs that only a primary schooler or palaeontologist can match. I will resist the temptation to use dinosaur puns or refer to the age of other committee members.

Firstly, just a bit about how Mutt came to be chosen as the Queensland state fossil emblem. The idea originated from Winton's Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum where they noted that, unlike other states, Queensland did not have a fossil emblem. It was certainly the home and source of a large percentage of fossils found in Australia, but we did not have one of our own. A petition was submitted, calling for the establishment of a state fossil, and Winton's own *Diamantinasaurus matildae* was suggested. In 2021, nominations were open for individuals and organisations to suggest candidates for the Queensland fossil emblem and 12 finalists were short-listed.

The public voting period ran from April 2022 to July 2022 with almost 9,000 votes recorded. The clear winner was the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* with almost 2,500 of the 9,000 votes, at just over 27 per cent. *Australotitan cooperensis* was second and *Diamantinasaurus matildae* was third with 13 and 11 per cent respectively. Mutt is the people's dinosaur.

The committee travelled to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum in Winton and spoke to many stakeholders out that way. Despite the fact that the Age of Dinosaurs team originally nominated the diamantinasaurus, they were very welcoming of Mutt being crowned the winner. They stated—

... Muttaburrasaurus is probably the most famous dinosaur in Australia. It has been around since 1963. It is very well known and had a lot of publicity when it was first discovered and we as an organisation are very supportive of the fact that it is unique to Queensland. It represents our state on behalf of Australia probably better than any other dinosaur ...

I remember as a child we certainly learned about the big dinosaurs—the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the stegosaurus, the triceratops and even, in the age of *Jurassic Park*, we learned about velociraptors and other cool dinosaurs, but none of those are Australian.


I certainly remember muttaburrasaurus as the first dinosaur fossil that I ever saw. In 1986 the Queensland Museum opened at its present site on the other side of the river, and the skeleton representation of muttaburrasaurus and part of the Dinosaur Stampede were the primary focus when you walked in. I remember as a grade 6 student in primary school on my first ever excursion into the city that that was probably the biggest thing that I had ever seen. It became a challenge for us primary schoolers to pronounce the name muttaburrasaurus. Certainly when I heard the Premier nominate muttaburrasaurus, I was able to proudly go to my kids and offer them the challenge as well.

The residents of the Queensland town of Muttaburra were obviously supportive and fiercely proud of their Mutt. Other speakers have outlined the story of the finding of the fossil and the impact it has had on the town since then. I can highly recommend that all members and Queenslanders attend the Muttaburrasaurus Interpretation Centre if they happen to find themselves in the centre of Queensland.

It is time to drop some muttaburrasaurus facts for all the kids. Mutt lived in the Cretaceous period, approximately 100 million years ago, and was about seven to eight metres in length. It was an ornithomimid dinosaur and had a powerful bite with specialised shearing teeth for eating ferns and conifers. I understand that it may be hard to reconcile the importance of naming a state fossil emblem

in these current times; however, there is nothing like a bit of state-based competition and rivalry to get Queenslanders' blood pumping. I remind members that one of the other legislated state emblems is the colour maroon. It is enshrined in legislation and, let's face it, maroon is a colour the entire state can get behind. Along with the colour maroon, we have the koala, the Cooktown orchid, the Barrier Reef anemone fish, the brolga and the sapphire. Now we get to add Mutt to the list.

In recognising *Muttaburrasaurus* as an emblem Queensland joins other states in naming a state fossil, leaving only Tasmania without a state fossil. Let's see how Mutt stacks up against the other states. The ACT has the batocara, a trilobite generally considered to be one to two centimetres in length. South Australia has the *Spriggina floundersi*, a worm-like creature approximately three to five centimetres long. Western Australia has the gogonasmus and New South Wales the *Mandageria fairfaxi*—both lobe-finned fish coming in at 40 centimetres long and 1.6 metres long respectively. Victoria has a koolasuchus—great name—an aquatic amphibian approximately three metres long. In comparison, Queensland's *Muttaburrasaurus* stands taller than all the rest and is a worthy representative of Queensland, a place where we do everything bigger and better. With that in mind—Speaker, members, and the people of Muttaborra tuning in—I commend *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* to the House and I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I recommend that members of the House look at the report presented to the House by the committee. The secretariat has done a wonderful job. It contains colour photos of all sorts of things. It really is outstanding. It is report No. 52 of the Economics and Governance Committee. It is online. Members should access that and, of course, share it with all of their community.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr CRANDON: We are happy to autograph some of the copies, of course. The Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill proposes to amend the Emblem of Queensland Act 2005 to officially recognise the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* dinosaur as the state's fossil emblem. It also amends the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 for particular purposes. To be honest, the interest is, of course, in the *Muttaburrasaurus*.

The trip the committee did out west was an absolutely outstanding trip that we all thoroughly enjoyed, and the people in Western Queensland thoroughly enjoyed our attendance. They really are beside themselves when it comes to these sorts of things. I have with me some brochures that I picked up while I was in Western Queensland. They are all to do with the Barcaldine region, the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum and the Winton area. I also have the *Australian Age of Dinosaurs Journal*. I have some other wonderful brochures here. I am going to be using these. The committee is going back out to Western Queensland to have a further look at the tourism opportunities in that area, and I will use these in my research in that regard.

I come back to the matter at hand, the *Muttaburrasaurus*. I note that the Barcaldine Regional Council has referred to the value the emblem would add to Outback Queensland tourism offerings. They said—

Each of our communities, whether it is the existing dinosaur triangle or the very smallest of central-western communities in Muttaborra ... has a unique and distinctly impressive attraction piece.

That is absolutely true. We are going to have a look at all of that and report back to the House sometime in the middle of next year.

As other members have mentioned, the day Pearl Langdon was there with us was a very proud day for Pearl. Indeed, I was standing in the interpretation centre in Muttaborra, and Pearl was relating to me what it all meant. She was giving me the background, the history and the rundown, if you like. I remember at the time wishing that I had started a recording of Pearl telling me what happened, because she was going into such detail. Fortunately for us, Pearl was able to retell that story in the hearing. I would like to read into the record Pearl Langdon's recollection, as shared with the committee on our visit to Muttaborra, about the discovery by her dearly departed husband, Doug Langdon, of the *Muttaburrasaurus*. It is an absolute cracker of an account and worth hearing. She said—

When he first saw the formation on the ground he was just riding off so he went on a bit further and it got the better of him and he said, 'No, I'm going back to have a look.' He got off his pony this time, had a look and brought home this piece. He said it definitely was not a stone to him. He said it was definitely a bone. He came home and he said, 'I've found a dinosaur,' and he showed me this piece of what looked like a rock to me or stone but he said, 'Don't drop it.' That is when he said, 'We'll send it down to the museum in Brisbane.'

At the time we had been having some good rain. Alan Bartholomai was the director of the museum then. He passed away a year after Doug. He said, 'Can you get photos of it?', and Doug said, 'I don't know because of the floods.' Anyhow, Doug got out there. He has had to swim the pony a couple of small channels, got the photos and then by the time we got home, sent them to Longreach to develop them and back, just communication between our mail service, and by the time Alan got the photos he said, 'You've got something.' This is back in late October, early November, December.


This was back in early November, December 1962, to clarify for the two members who spoke a short while ago. She went on to say—

Alan said, 'We're coming up.' Doug said, 'You can't come up', because the wet season had started. They came up in April—1963—

and that is when they found the bones. Doug did not find the head. It was when Alan and the others were moving some of the sandstone around that they found this big head. It looked like a big piece of stone to them at the start, but it turned out to be the head. Doug was so proud they found the head. ... Then they had to use a dentist drill—many dentist's drills—to try to clean it up. It took a long time then to find out a name for it.

I forget, I think someone said about 1983 they named it *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*. Doug put his hand in the air, 'Muttaburra, you're on the map!'

Thank you, Pearl, and thank you, Doug Langdon. Muttaburra is definitely on the map now. I most passionately commend the bill to the House. I think it is a wonderful outcome for Western Queensland and, indeed, for Queensland as a whole. I look forward to going out with the committee in the new year to do some more research on opportunities for tourism in Western Queensland.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.09 pm): I rise to speak on the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. This bill enshrines the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* as the state fossil emblem of Queensland. What a fine beast he or she was. Standing at around seven metres, Mutt was a magnificent specimen of the dinosaur era, muscular and powerful. With its distinct inflated bulbous snout, it is not the biggest of the dinosaurs but he or she looks as if it was built for speed—

An honourable member: They.

Mr TANTARI:—they, whatever it may be—and power. With that build, I have no doubt the Mutt would have definitely been chosen in the first 13 in the 'country of origin Gondwana' series alongside the diamantinasaurus, the australotitan and the rhoetosaurus to take on all comers. I reckon the Mutt probably would have played at five-eighths or halfback, taking out its prey with precision not unlike the great JT. Unfortunately, history knows that they did not win their battle in the end as they were knocked over by a comet. It was a sad ending, but they lived well and did their best.

Our state fossil emblem is a symbol of immense historical and cultural significance to the state of Queensland. This emblem is not just a representation of a geological past; it connects us to the enduring spirit of discovery and understanding that defines Queensland. Queensland is a land renowned for its vibrant biodiversity and rich natural history. It has in its possession a treasure trove of ancient wonders preserved in stone. Our fossil emblem, the *muttaburrasaurus*, is a testament to this legacy and symbolises a journey through time offering a glimpse into a world millions of years old.

Fossils are nature's time capsules. They tell stories of ancient ecosystems, extinct creatures and the transformative process of our earth. In Queensland these remnants of the past are particularly poignant. They speak to a time when vast prehistoric seas teemed with life and gargantuan creatures roamed our lands. Our state fossil emblem, the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*, was chosen from these relics in a process that included a public nomination which short-listed 12 fossil candidates from around Queensland and a subsequent public voting process in 2022 from which the *muttaburrasaurus* ultimately emerged as the people's choice. It is a chapter that Queensland proudly owns, a part of our identity etched in the annals of geological time.

Beyond its historical value, our state fossil emblem serves as a powerful educational tool. It inspires curiosity and learning, particularly among our younger generations, but it has also instilled a sense of pride in a whole town. We on the Economics and Governance Committee saw that pride firsthand at the home of the state emblem in Muttaburra. For that community it is a symbol of their shared heritage, a point of pride that fosters a deep appreciation for their environment and a role in preserving it.

The Economics and Governance Committee of which I am a member travelled to Winton and Muttaburra to hold public hearings as part of our examination of this bill and the committee's ongoing further inquiry into palaeo tourism in Outback Queensland. What we heard at the hearings we held in both locations was very clear in its acknowledgement of the proposal to have the *Muttaburrasaurus*

langdoni instilled as the state fossil emblem. During the hearings we heard from the Mayor of the Barcaldine Regional Council, Mr Sean Dillon. I will quote directly from *Hansard* because it is important the parliament goes to the people. He said—

It is truly special for any community to play host to the Queensland parliament, either in its entirety or through the extension of its committees. We very much thank each of the committee members, secretariat and *Hansard* for taking time out of their very busy schedules to ensure that this community's voice is heard directly from within the community. It is important, especially in relation to issues that deal with emblems and symbols. This is not just a symbolic gesture; it is a real gesture. Rather than just a flying visit to visit and formally record the submissions from within the community, the committee's visit is extremely valuable and shows the respect that you individually and collectively as a committee—and as the government and members of the opposition—have for the process.

With reference to the inquiry undertaken as part of a greater look into palaeo tourism, Mayor Dillon reflected on the nomination as the official Queensland emblem. He said—

Yesterday's inquiry was revealing.

That was the one we held in Winton the previous day. He went on—

It underlined the holistic support that rural and Outback Queensland and its tourism operators have for the establishment of a fossil emblem in Queensland.

Mayor Dillon further stated—

... I think I detected and received clear support for the proposition that the *Muttaborrasaurus* become the emblem in the fullness of time as the legislative process is completed. It is very important for this community.

In Muttaborra the Economics and Governance Committee was privileged to hold our hearing at the Muttaborra Memorial Hall, itself full of history, alongside the stunning and magnificent Muttaborra Interpretation Centre, home of the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*. I highly recommend to members in this House and the community at large that, if the opportunity arises to go and view the exhibit and the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni* in all its glory, they will not be disappointed.

During the Muttaborra hearing the Economics and Governance Committee also had the pleasure of speaking with Pearl Langdon, whose late husband, Doug Langdon, while mustering on his property, discovered the 100 million-year-old bones of the plant-eating muttaborrasaurus near the Thomson River. Mrs Langdon told how her late husband knew he had come across something that was unique and would say to her that it was the best thing he had ever done for Muttaborra. Doug's actions on the discovery of the fossil were to want the find to be cleaned up and displayed for everyone to see. Unfortunately, Doug passed before seeing the completion of the interpretation centre. Mrs Langdon also acknowledged the impact the find had on Muttaborra and Doug's efforts in getting the discovery known around the world, saying that people all around the world now recognise the uniqueness of the muttaborrasaurus. In her own words she said, 'It is just amazing how the muttaborrasaurus has gone around the world.'

I want to thank Pearl for keeping Doug's legacy going and working to ensure that this unique fossil that is known worldwide will now be, under legislation, our state fossil emblem. It is a tangible connection to the science of palaeontology, encouraging exploration and the understanding of our natural world. Queensland's state fossil emblem is a symbol of the rich diversity of life. Just as our state is home to a multitude of ecosystems and species, the emblem reflects the variety and adaptability of life over eons. It highlights the evolutionary journey that has led to the present day and reminds us of the delicate balance and interconnectivity of all living things. It reminds us that the wonders of the past can only be preserved through efforts in the present. It brings to light the critical importance of protecting our natural habitats and species. In understanding the past, we gain insights into the future, recognising the impact of our actions on the environment and the need for sustainable practices.

In conclusion, Queensland's state fossil emblem is more than just a symbol. It is a bridge connecting us to the ancient past, a reminder of our responsibility to the future. As we embrace legislative recognition of the muttaborrasaurus we will see it join the state's nine other unique official emblems including the Cooktown orchid, the koala, the Great Barrier Reef anemone fish, the brolga and the sapphire.

As the chair and the deputy chair mentioned in their speeches earlier in the debate, the recognition of the Mutt as our state fossil highlights the interest in our state in the growing palaeo tourism industry. As a member of the committee, I look forward to working with my committee colleagues to advance this industry in our great state. I would like to table a map that shows the level of discovery that has and is taking place across Queensland.


Tabled paper: Map of Queensland depicting key locations of fossil discoveries and potential regions for palaeo tourism [\[1904\]](#).

Looking at the map highlights how big the potential for this growing tourism industry is for rural and regional Queensland. It is just huge and we are in the box seat to reap the rewards for all Queenslanders.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work done by the Economics and Governance Committee, particularly the chair, the member for Logan, and the deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach. I want to acknowledge that the deputy chair copped a fair bit of banter around dinosaurs generally from the committee but did so in good humour and spirit during our deliberations. You could not take the boy away from the outback; he was chuffed to be out there.

I would also like to commend the committee secretariat for their tireless work in organising for the committee to see the excellent exhibit of the state fossil emblem at its home in Muttaborra. I support the Mutt and the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): It sounds like the Economics and Governance Committee had a lot more fun than usual on that trip.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.19 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, it sounds like it was a very fun bill. I rise to make my contribution to the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and start by reflecting on some of the observations made by the committee chair, the member for Logan. He told, in great and beautiful and graphic detail, the story of Doug and Pearl—others have also told that story—and it is a fantastic story. It is a piece of Queensland history that stretches back hundreds of millions of years. One of the things that stayed with me from the member for Logan's story was the fact that, while Doug and Pearl chose to take that fossil from their kitchen table and give it to Queensland, that was not the only option that they had. They could have chosen to sell that fossil for quite a significant sum of money, but they did not do that. They chose to keep it here as part of Queensland's history and in so doing they quite literally and figuratively put the town of Muttaborra on the map for tourism reasons and great historical reasons. They kept it for Queensland. I wonder if the fact that they kept it here in Queensland and chose to forgo that is part of the reason that Queenslanders have such a strong attachment to the Mutt, as other members of the parliament have called it and members of the committee have referred to it.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Ms PUGH: It is his name. I feel weird: I feel like he has a formal title, member for Pine Rivers, and I feel like I am being disrespectful. I am not on the committee, so that is just my vibe; I am a formal person.

Government members interjected.

Ms PUGH: I know. I am not a close personal friend of the Mutt, but I respect those friends—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Ms PUGH: No, he is the Mutt to me now, member for Pine Rivers. You started it; I am going to finish it. I want to reflect on the role of emblems more generally. In one of his earlier statements the minister talked about the role they play in engendering civic pride and state pride. The member for Macalister talked about the colour maroon. You cannot get more quintessentially Queensland than the colour maroon. Now with our new fossil emblem, I do not think you can get more quintessentially Queensland than the muttaburrasaurus. It is part of our history, it is our fossil emblem and it is something to be proud of. Member for Mermaid Beach, I certainly hope that when they were ribbing you on the committee they were not suggesting that you should have nominated as the fossil emblem for Queensland! I certainly hope that that is not what that is about.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PUGH: The member for Ninderry has that covered, so I look forward to that contribution. When I was reading about increasing the role of 'paleo tourism', I wondered for a moment if that might be about increasing tourism for people who like to avoid dairy and grain, but I was very relieved to hear that in fact we are talking about dino tourism, which is of much more interest to my 11-year-old, my two-year-old and my 14-year-old than avoiding dairy and grain, which is also a valid form of tourism as well, I am sure. With the fantastic Queensland eateries that we have around, that is something that we have well covered.

As members would be aware, we have well covered the fantastic story of how almost 60 years ago Doug Langdon was mustering when he found those enormous bones of the plant-eating beast near the Thomson River and we now know it as the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*. Obviously it was a big

surprise, and on that day I am sure that neither Doug nor Pearl could have imagined that one day that 100-million-year-old fossil would be named after them and become part of Queensland's identity forever.

As we know, there was a vote. Over 9,000 Queenslanders cast their votes between the 12 eligible Queensland fossils. I understand that the runner-up was the *Australotitan cooperensis*. I practised saying that, seriously.


Ms Boyd: Cooper!

Ms PUGH: Thank you, member for Pine Rivers. Don't I just feel embarrassed about not being on first-name terms with all of these different dinosaurs? The town of Muttaborra was able to get its very own dinosaur museum built in 2021 and it has changed the town. It has the interpretation centre, which is contributing heavily to that palaeo tourism that we are now growing in the state of Queensland. As they said, it has put them on the map after many years of trying to become a tourist town and they are very excited about that. I note that the Barcaldine regional mayor at the time commented that the population of Muttaborra was very proud of the work lobbying for that museum and the roads that connect it, because we know that the roads connecting these Outback towns, as we have all been talking about this week, are the lifeblood of those communities. The town built off the back of the sheep industry now has a thriving tourism market, which is really exciting, and I know that with this emblem that is only going to grow.

As a member of the PCCC—indeed, this legislation impacts on all committee members—I want to talk about the clauses of the bill that allow members to participate in committee proceedings via video and electronic means. I am sure that we have all participated in committee proceedings via electronic means. It is worth reflecting, as we have just been speaking about Outback towns, that Queensland is indeed a vast place. It is the most decentralised of all of the states. We have many members in this place who come hundreds, if not thousands, of kilometres to parliament to represent their communities, and we are all very happy to do so. Electronic devices are so handy in helping us stay connected with our communities, and that is why this part of the legislation is so important. If we did not have our handy little phones to keep us connected within our committees and with our communities while in this place, we would not be able to do our jobs and it certainly would place an unfair burden on those more regional members of this parliament if they were required to travel to Brisbane or to another location to do their job while participating in committee business.

Alternatively, if we were not able to stay connected electronically we would have to delay important and pressing issues that committees like mine, the PCCC, often have to deal with. The alternative should not be that we delay pressing issues or that members have to drop everything that is happening in their communities and travel to Brisbane. It is incredibly important that we have provisions such as quorums for previously held committee meetings granted by this legislation and, equally going forward, that we continue to allow regional members of parliament to have the same advantages as more Brisbane-based members in participating in those committee meetings and events.

This might be a bit nerdy of me, but I am very excited by the updates that we have all recently been benefiting from in the Convene system. Some of the new technology that it is bringing online is really exciting and helps to further expedite some of the committee work that we are doing. It seems that I am not the only one who loves all of these changes to Convene, and I am very proud of it. It is wonderful to see continual technology updates. I consider myself to be something of a Luddite, so I always think the sign of great success in any technological system is when even the member for Mount Ommaney can figure out how to use it. The Convene changes do exactly that, so there is a big tick of approval from me on some of those new changes that allow for votes outside of a committee and some of the other wonderful things which mean that, in some cases, we do not even need to convene a meeting; we can literally do that work outside and have it all taken care of without needing to even send an email, by just logging in to Convene. With those few words and brief comments, I will leave my contribution there. I congratulate our good friend Mutt and offer condolences to Cooper for being runner-up. It was a good fight and it was a fair fight, but Mutt rules. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.29 pm): I rise to speak to the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and the deliberations of the Economics and Governance Committee of which I am a member. The bill proposes to legislate the state's first official fossil emblem in order to recognise that the prehistoric dinosaur and palaeo tourism industry is now an important contributor to the Outback Queensland economy and employment. As a result of public and stakeholder consultation in mid-2022, as we have heard other members elaborate on, the muttaburrasaurus

dinosaur was chosen from 12 candidates to be the state's official fossil emblem, receiving 2,409 votes of the 9,000 that were cast. This dinosaur won the people's choice award, but it should be noted, on top of the previous member's contribution, that another awfully popular dinosaur originating from Richmond just missed out. This dinosaur, which is more often seen now on the Gold Coast around Mermaid Beach, is known as the 'Rayasaurus'. It was disappointing for some members of the committee that the 'Rayasaurus' was not awarded this prestigious distinction, but maybe in the future we might see a statue of the 'Rayasaurus' in Richmond where it originated. We can only hope.

Before I delve into the fascinating world of palaeo tourism, this omnibus bill also contains a range of minor amendments to improve and clarify parliamentary procedures. Acts amended include the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. The committee supports these amendments. Now back to dinosaurs.

The muttaburrasaurus, or big-nosed dinosaur, is the people's choice of fossil emblems and will join Queensland's nine other unique icons such as the Cooktown orchid, koala, Great Barrier Reef anemone fish, more commonly known as the clownfish thanks to *Finding Nemo*, the brolga and the sapphire as symbols of our great state, helping us tell and sell our Queensland story. Queensland will be the only state in Australia to have a dinosaur as its fossil emblem, fuelling the claim published in the Council of Australasian Museum Directors magazine in 2021 that museum operators believe Queensland's Outback is well on its way to becoming the dinosaur capital of the world. While this may sound like a big call, there is a growing chorus of enthusiasts and economists who are all singing from this song sheet.

In reference to the bill, the Economics and Governance Committee inquired into and reported on recent developments and initiatives to build prehistoric dinosaur and palaeo tourism in Queensland, the value of prehistoric dinosaur and palaeo tourism to the Outback Queensland economy and challenges and opportunities for the further development of the industry into the future. I would like to acknowledge my committee colleagues who travelled and conducted public hearings, forums and regional site visits in places like Winton and Muttaborra and in Brisbane where tourism organisations and palaeontologists were consulted. I would like to thank the Maranoa Regional Council, Eromanga Natural History Museum, Milynda Rogers and Dinosaur Experience Australia for their submissions to the committee's inquiry. Dino tourism, palaeo tourism, geo tourism, even ecotourism, are all different names for the same pursuit of answers to questions such as, 'Where did we come from?' and 'What came before us?' Dinosaurs are massive, mysterious creatures and for many children they are the first introduction to the world of science. Unlike dragons in monster storybooks, children can actually go and see evidence of real dinosaurs in a museum.


What do we know about our iconic dinosaur, our new fossil emblem? The story goes like this. Doug Langdon discovered a dinosaur bone in October 1963 on the banks of the Thomson River near Muttaborra in Central Western Queensland. The bones were that of an herbivore that lived 100 million years ago and was later named the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*. The muttaburrasaurus measured about seven to eight metres long—the length of two average cars. For those playing along at home and the dinosaur-mad students in my electorate of Ninderry, it was an ornithopod dinosaur, which means bird footed, but it differed from other ornithopods as it had an inflated, bulbous snout and a powerful bite with specialised shearing teeth. These teeth were used for eating plants such as seed ferns, ferns and conifers.

This was the start of many dinosaur discoveries across Western Queensland, and almost 60 years later a niche palaeo tourism industry is booming. The Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre was opened to provide a shelter for a replica statue 'Dino' which has been in the town since 1993 and tells the story of how those prehistoric fossils were discovered. Our small towns have epic sized histories and have learnt that it is worth capitalising on these finds. Several museums have been built at or near the find sites themselves, turning towns into tourism destinations. These Outback hotspots attract up to 135,000 visitors a year, according to data from Tourism and Events Queensland, and account for 17.6 per cent of the state's gross regional product. The sector has grown from nothing to 10 tourism sites in just 12 years and now accounts for 11 per cent of all Queensland Outback visitors in the state. Analysis of the dinosaur economy, as it is referred to, has shown that visitors spend more than seven times what they normally do when it comes to dinosaurs because the kids want all the souvenirs, or merch as we refer to it, which simply means greater yields for those businesses previously struggling. This is great news for local economies which were once built on the sheep's back and are now built on the dinosaur's tail.

Queensland's world renowned Australian Dinosaur Trail is a perfect example of destination marketing. It embraces a triangle of Outback towns which include Winton, Richmond and Hughenden and is just 1,350 kilometres from Brisbane. This special region preserves a history of the shallowing seaway that once covered parts of inland Australia. These towns deserve their place on any palaeontology map because they are home to 98-million-year-old dinosaur bones. They also support evidence of a dinosaur stampede. They are home to the largest Australian fossil collection, as well as ancient marine reptiles. To top it all off, Eromanga, located 660 kilometres south, is home to Australia's largest dinosaur, as declared by the Eromanga Natural History Museum last year. Cooper, as the dinosaur is known, was found by Robyn Mackenzie and Quilpie shire mayor Stuart Mackenzie on their property near Cooper Creek in the Eromanga Basin in 2006. Cooper is 6.5 metres tall, 30 metres in length and weighs about 65 tonnes. That is longer than a basketball court and taller than a two-storey house. Dinosaurs of this size had rarely only been found in South America. Eromanga first shot to fame in 2004 when then 14-year-old Sandy Mackenzie spotted an unusual rock while mustering cattle on the family property. That unusual rock led to the discovery of gigantic fossils belonging to a group of giant dinosaurs called titanosaurus that lived between 93 million and 96 million years ago. Their discovery represented a new species of dinosaur for Australia.

These are the stories that make Outback Queensland unique. The value of prehistoric dinosaur and palaeo tourism to the Outback Queensland economy, according to a Tourism and Events Queensland 2022 report, is \$105 million, accounting for \$55.7 million in GRP and employing 612 FTEs. By 2036 dinosaur tourism is projected to be worth \$235 million, including \$126.3 million in GRP and employing 1,379 FTEs. The *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* state emblem recognises the rich fossil offerings already discovered in Queensland and the contribution that dinosaur and palaeo tourism makes to our Outback communities. This is a symbolic effort to promote tourism that supports local economies and showcases one of the points of difference that make Queensland a superior tourist destination.

Moving forward, it is important that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet liaise closely with stakeholders in determining and communicating the emblem design and in relation to the use and sharing of the emblem's image to best position stakeholders to take advantage of associated promotional and marketing opportunities and ensure they are appropriately supported in those endeavours. The committee also notes the calls for further investment in palaeo tourism to build on the establishment of the emblem and it will continue to explore key challenges and opportunities in this regard as part of its ongoing inquiry into prehistoric dinosaur and palaeo tourism in Outback Queensland. In the meantime, on behalf of the committee, I encourage Queenslanders to plan a visit to our Outback dinosaur destinations to walk in the footsteps of dinosaurs and learn more about our fossil emblem. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.39 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to support the naming of the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* as the Queensland state emblem. I had the pleasure of visiting the Muttaburra Interpretation Centre as recently as this year. I met Mutt and, while I have had the pleasure of meeting many of Queensland's fossils, both here in the chamber with the LNP and across the beautiful Queensland Outback, it was wonderful to see Mutt take out the gong as one of the 12 fossil candidates in the public voting process. The voting process happened in 2022 and now the muttaburrasaurus joins nine other unique icons and emblems that represent Queensland.

In Queensland, the dinosaur triangle is a historic jewel. It is home to 98-million-year-old history, along with the iconic Outback towns and exceptional tourism experiences. I have had the privilege of experiencing firsthand the Australian Age of Dinosaurs in Winton, which showcases the Dinosaur Stampede. I have also frequented Richmond's—coronasaurus corner?

Mr Stevens: It's 'Kronosaurus'.

Ms BOYD: Thank you. I should have practised some of these names. The member for Mermaid Beach is a Richmond boy, born and bred, and he is helping me out. It is Kronosaurus Korner. I appreciate all of the support from the member for Mermaid Beach.

Kronosaurus Korner, with 1,150 unique fossil specimens, is the nation's premier marine fossil museum. The Flinders Discovery Centre in Hughenden is a real pleasure. I am counting down the days until my next visit to officially open the extension to that phenomenal facility. The redevelopment there doubles the size of the centre, which will mean an even better visitor experience on offer. I had a sneak peek during the construction process and I cannot wait to see firsthand the finished product.

While I have not met Cooper personally, our state's largest dinosaur—it is the size of a basketball court—I have heard much about him and the campaign to get him an improved home at the Eromanga Natural History Museum. I also look forward to checking out that special treasure. While I am talking about Eromanga and the Natural History Museum, I place on record my congratulations to both Stuart Mackenzie and Robyn Mackenzie for their ongoing work in this space. Recently they were awarded OAMs. Stuart does a wonderful job as the mayor of Quilpie. I place on record my congratulations to both Stuart and Robyn Mackenzie for that fantastic accolade, which acknowledges their longstanding commitment in this space.

Each year, 135,000 visitors flock to the Outback to check out those historic icons, accounting for 17.6 per cent of our state's gross regional product. We know that those tourists are cashed up. Visitors to the dinosaur economy spend seven per cent more than non-fossil tourists to the regions, making a serious and valued contribution to the local communities. Of course, the silver lining during the COVID pandemic was that people came to those destinations in droves. They came to Western Queensland, and the visitor economy saw a boost of 30 per cent in some instances. The Palaszczuk government has a strong record of investing in palaeo tourism and supporting the tourism visitor experience. I am pleased to see that the committee will be doing more work to hopefully strengthen the sector into the future.

I place on record my admiration for the 80 individuals who make up the population of Muttaborra. Not only have the mighty Muttaborrians lobbied to have an engaging and informative fossil tourism attraction; they have also secured the necessary infrastructure to go around it. Anyone who has visited the town of Muttaborra will appreciate that it is somewhat off the beaten track. When I first visited the town, I had travelled along the Flinders Highway from Prairie and then down the Hughenden Muttaborra Road. It was on this road, without any phone reception at all, while driving over one of the very many cattle grids, that the wall of my driver-side rear tyre blew out and needed to be changed on the unsealed road. Thankfully, I did not have to lie down on that unsealed road, because a B-double, driven by Wes Schultz from the Hughenden Tyre Centre, pulled up. Wes came to my rescue and changed the tyre for me. I place on the record my unwavering appreciation to Wes, who did it like an absolute pro and got me out of that tight spot. Nonetheless, by the time I got to Muttaborra I was covered from head to toe in dust and dirt. During subsequent visits, Muttaborra has felt very much like a safe place of refuge for me.

While this legislation is historic and significant in its nature, I want to draw special attention to the stakeholder and committee comments that specifically speak to the process in determining, designing and communicating about the emblem and also the way that we use, promote and market the emblem into the future. We will have one shot at the design of this emblem, and the importance of getting that right cannot be understated. Our palaeo history is truly special, and being able to promote it as a tourism opportunity is something that I have become quite passionate about as I have explored and learned about these places, the fossils and their history.

The other week I was preparing to travel to Winton. Before I left Pine Rivers, I had a conversation that really stuck with me. I was asked where I was travelling to next and I said I was going to Winton. Their remark was, 'Oh, isn't that where the dinosaurs are?' I took great delight in highlighting all of the other locations that have phenomenal palaeo history and tourism opportunities. In that moment I appreciated that I had become a bit of a promoter of the sector and, I confess, proudly so.

While these stories make up the fabric of Outback Queensland, which is absolutely and truly unique, I also place on record my appreciation for the people of the west. It is the people of the west who make your experience there truly enjoyable. They are always ready to welcome people. I encourage anyone who has not been out west to check out all of the wonders that we have in our palaeo tourism sector to definitely pack up the car and get out there, because they are guaranteed to have a good time exploring our palaeo history in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government will always support and invest in this important sector. We support each and every Queenslanders, including our state's oldest residents. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.46 pm): An ode—

Outback way out west,
Where you'll find only the best,
Of Queenslander spirit so true.

It was a mere battler,
On his horse for a muster,
Who discovered an old ancient clue.

It can't just be rock,
He thought by the clock,
So he rode back to boulder and stone.

And as it laid on the table,
He thought willing and able,
To declare he had just found a bone.

Then came the rain,
And put a halt to the train,
Of those carrying shovel and pick.

Yet then came on April,
And a new Queensland staple,
An emblem forever to stick.

Up to eight metres long,
Standing proudly and strong,
A fossil on display in museum.

And they all come with wonder,
From near, far and yonder,
To view as they do carpe-diem!

Now in the cretaceous they say,
Is where this great beast did lay,
Among the earth and the sands passing time.

Yet just like one giant,
Standing up so defiant,
It inspired this heartwarming rhyme.

For as a young boy,
Filled with wonder and joy,
This member did preach to a chorus.

Of those who would listen,
As his eyes they did glisten,
When he heard of his most favoured saurus.

Now with thanks to committee,
For travelling out bush from the city,
As they promised they never would cower.

Now the call it was answered
And put forward in Hansard
All thanks to the Chair they call Power.

Mr Speaker, I will try to speak above the round of applause. Yesterday, I spent a little bit of time writing that ode because, just as there are so many people throughout the west and especially in Muttaborra who have a fond personal connection to muttaburrasaurus, I do too—not only as a young child but even today. I wish to express my personal connection to the muttaburrasaurus. I received a text from my mum, who is watching, who said, 'You were born for this debate.' At least there is one thing that I was born to do! This speaks to the importance of making sure that we do represent, through an emblem, something that means so much to the spirit of Queensland and the connection that Queenslanders have to our Queensland icons.

I remember, much like the member for Macalister, walking through the doors of the Queensland Museum and seeing the display of that mighty fossil. As a small child it looked even greater in size than it does today, but having that fossil structure there brought my love of history, science and nature together. For those who remember, back in the day the museum had the fossilised wall of the stampede. That is so important to Queensland's history. What a sight it was. We know that Australian fossils and Australian dinosaurs can mean a lot, as the member for Ninderry noted, in terms of connecting young people to science and Queensland, and it gives people a sense of pride.

I remember as a child I had the *Australian Dinosaurs* book authored by Marilyn Pride. Only last year I found that book again. I bought it immediately—I think it cost me about \$5—and then I read it to my little boy. I thought, 'How good is that?' This is how important this all is to Queensland. On the front cover is a depiction of the stampede. That is how important and significant these fossils and emblems are to Queensland. The story of the discovery of muttaburrasaurus, as I referred to in the ode and as retold by Pearl Langdon, is such a Queensland story. That is why the muttaburrasaurus is such a fantastic emblem. It is about the Outback. It is about mustering. It is about weather and climates. We know that Doug found the original fossil at the end of 1962, but, due to the wet season, the museum workers and palaeontologists could not get out there until 1963. It was battling the weather and climate that brought about a sense of pride.


I note that other communities have pride in their fossils. I note that there was a poll where we know *Australotitan cooperensis* and *Diamantinasaurus matildae* came very close to being voted as the emblem. Some would say that is fair. To be quite honest, in my opinion they are too closely related to the sauropods. We know that the sauropods are trumped by the brachiosaurus and the diplodocus—and questionably by the brontosaurus and the apatosaurus. I will not go into the contest of ideas around those two fossils—are they the same or are they different? They would be too close to the behemoths of the sauropods that already trump them. There are also a couple of suggested marine dinosaur emblems. Even though we are girt by sea, we should not be bound by sea and marine fossils when it comes to picking Queensland's iconic emblem. We should pick an emblem that depicts the Outback, the rough and tumble of Queensland and a modern Queensland. As we know, it was the 20th century when the muttaburrasaurus was discovered.

I also note that there are some palaeo-philistines out there who will suggest that the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* is a part of the iguanodontia family. That is where we get the iguanodon. There are some similarities with the iguanodon and its cousins tenontosaurus and dryosaurus, who are of the same family, and even the camptosaurus. When we look at the iguanodon skeleton, the tenontosaurus skeleton and the dryosaurus skeleton they do not quite have the oomph that we need. If we were to depict smaller dinosaurs as the fossil emblem, they would not be as great a depiction as the muttaburrasaurus standing strong and proud—I will not use this as a prop as I see the Clerk going up to the Speaker. We need an emblem that not only stands up for Queenslanders but also stands up for Australian dinosaurs and Queensland dinosaurs. That is exactly what the muttaburrasaurus does.

I know that out west the people in Muttaborra will be feeling a sense of pride as their dinosaur becomes the official emblem. I reflect on my childhood and how as a nine-year-old I was gripped—as I am sure the rest of Australia was—with the BBC documentary or TV series *Walking with Dinosaurs*. Each week, I would watch on the ABC *Walking with Dinosaurs* episode after *Walking with Dinosaurs* episode. Then it finally happened: episode 9, *Spirits of the Ice Forest*. Who was one of the star dinosaurs of episode 9 of *Walking with Dinosaurs*? It was the muttaburrasaurus. The muttaburrasaurus made it all the way to the BBC. They were a bit late with that. Shame on the BBC, but congratulations as well for finally recognising Australia's greatest dinosaur, the muttaburrasaurus. I was very happy that for my birthday that year I got the VHS double set of *Walking with Dinosaurs*. Of course, muttaburrasaurus did not make the cover but it absolutely should have made the cover.

My sense of pride and connection when I was a young child to be able to see the muttaburrasaurus and gain a love of dinosaurs is now being passed on to my little boy. I have dinosaur toys for him everywhere—I try not to step on them. We have a muttaburrasaurus which takes pride of place. We know how important this emblem is out west. Every time the people of Muttaborra look to that fossil and that emblem, they will feel that sense of pride within themselves. That is why emblems are so important. That is why they are so significant.

I echo the sentiments of Pearl Langdon. I do not get a say, but I do not want to see a cartoon version of muttaburrasaurus. I want to see that striking image of the fossil which is there in the Queensland Museum that has captured the hearts and minds of Queensland children for so many years and which, I am sure, inspired some producer of the BBC series *Walking with Dinosaurs* to depict muttaburrasaurus in episode 9.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to speak on the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As the previous member and other members have mentioned in this House, our emblems reflect the richness and diversity of our natural history and symbolise the importance of several activities fundamental to Queensland's identity and the strength of the state's economy, including agriculture and mining. When this bill came into the House, it turned my mind to my memory of the last time we debated an emblems of Queensland bill. As one of only three members who are here from that 51st Parliament—

Mr O'Connor: The Jurassic period.

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, the Jurassic period! I got an extract of my speech from 8 March 2005. The member for Bonney told me that on this day 15 years ago he finished school. He was heading off to schoolies. Did you go to schoolies, member for Bonney?

Mr O'Connor: I did.

Mr LANGBROEK: In Surfers Paradise?

Mr O'Connor: I did—in Surfers Paradise.

Mr LANGBROEK: You did. It was amazing that I did not do a bit of dental treatment on him as I did many times over the years for people who were glassed or had their drinks stolen by people coming into their unit. Anyway, I digress. I was talking about the emblems of Queensland bill from 8 March 2005.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, it was great to be able to ring those parents and say, 'Hello, I need your Bankcard or MasterCard number. It is alright, your child is okay but I need you to get to your financial limit' because as a dentist it was important for me to maintain the lifestyle that Stacey has gotten used to. Anyway, I refer to the emblems of Queensland bill from 8 March 2005. This should be interesting for members given we are discussing the muttaburrasaurus today. The one that we added to our emblems of Queensland back then—and I think I have heard people describe it as the clown anemone fish, but was not actually—was the Barrier Reef anemone fish. I gave a great dissertation about the differences between the Barrier Reef anemone, which actually grows to 13 centimetres and is generally darker in colour than its most famous brother, the clown anemone fish. I know that the member for Bundaberg was referring to how he was interested in *Walking with Dinosaurs*. The whole reason we added that emblem at that time—and I am sure members may remember—was the movie *Finding Nemo*. Because of the significant publicity—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: I take that interjection. There was a famous movie called *Finding Nemo* and from that premier Peter Beattie decided to bring in an addition to the emblems of Queensland. There is some history. I mentioned in that speech that the emblem could not be used for commercial purposes. That is why we chose the Barrier Reef anemone fish instead. We then decided to use the fame of a character from a movie as a way of promoting the new emblem, which I think is very clever, and we are now doing that with the muttaburrasaurus.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Well, the cat is out of the bag today with respect to Labor's cuts across Queensland. We have seen in the last few days this fake outrage from the state Labor government. I wonder why that is? It has been revealed today by Catherine King, the federal infrastructure minister, who said at a national press conference only a short while ago, 'Nothing in this cuts list should come as a surprise to the state Labor government because I worked with them for months on this.' She said 'months', not the last few days.

Catherine King, the federal infrastructure minister, said, 'There must be some confusion by the Queensland government.' There must be confusion, because we know that Labor's infrastructure cuts list was prepared by the kings of cuts themselves. Queenslanders now know that Labor is the party for cuts. Leading the charge are Labor's kings of cuts—Steven Miles, Mark Bailey and Cameron Dick, the kings of the cuts!

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those remarks personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): The member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also remind you to use correct titles in the chamber.

Mr BLEIJIE: Catherine King, the infrastructure minister, said today that there must be confusion with the state Labor government. She said that nothing should have come as a surprise to the state Labor government. She said that in fact she spoke to Minister Bailey last night. She said that she also spoke to Deputy Premier Steven Miles last week, but she said that discussions have been happening for months. Labor, the kings of cuts, would have Queenslanders believe this confected outrage in the last three days. It is all for show. It was absolutely for show. This is nothing more than Labor's state infrastructure cuts list. That is what it is.

The LNP have been fighting for Queenslanders' share. We were fighting for Queensland when the Premier was sipping champagne in Paris, when the Premier was drinking Aperol in Italy and when the Premier was drinking baijiu in China last week. We were fighting for Queenslanders while the Premier was overseas. This is the Labor Party for cuts. They will forever be known as the Labor Party for cuts. They are the party for cuts. Queenslanders know that the Labor Party is the party for cuts, infrastructure cuts led by the kings of cuts themselves—Minister Bailey, Minister Miles and Treasurer Dick.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is an experienced member of this House. Once again, he is not using correct titles. I find his comments personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I only heard the member use the correct title. Member, the minister has taken personal offence and has asked that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: Just to the point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, he used surnames rather than titles.

Mr BLEIJIE: 'Minister Bailey'—I can say that. You can say 'Minister Bailey'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, you have the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Minister Bailey—incompetent Minister Bailey, budget blowout Bailey. That is what Queenslanders know him by.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Kawana—

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just advised you on using correct titles and you went straight back to doing it. If you do it again, there will be a warning.

Mr BLEIJIE: Nowhere in Queensland has been spared from Labor's savage infrastructure cuts—nowhere, not even the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast passenger rail has been kicked out to the never-never. There is just a bit of planning money, but there is no money to deliver the direct line. The Mooloolah River Interchange safety upgrades have been cut under the Labor Party. This Labor Party in Queensland will forever be known by Queenslanders as the party of cuts. Labor Party is the party of cuts.

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (2.04 pm): It is a dark day when I have to compare a federal Labor government to a previous coalition government, yet here we are. The people on the Sunshine Coast are used to being let down by the LNP. It is almost routine now—have a whinge, have a whine, collect a petition, deliver nothing, rinse and repeat.

In their last term they could have delivered a second access to the Bruce Highway like the Bells Creek Arterial Road, but they refused. They could have done something—anything—about rail duplication or a direct passenger rail link, but they refused. They could have stretched to a single set of traffic lights for Ridgewood Road, but they refused. They might have made some sort of effort on the Bruce Highway, but they refused. Of course, we are yet to hear any details from the Sunshine Coast LNP about the \$15 million of funding for Nirimba State Primary School that was on the Leader of the Opposition's now infamous tweet that lasted about three minutes before it got taken down. For my federal colleagues to so completely underestimate the needs of the Sunshine Coast and fall into the same trap is absolutely infuriating. We want that funding. We need that funding. We deserve that funding.

Funding of \$160 million for the Mooloolah River Interchange—gone. That is not fair. The MRI is a critical enabling piece of infrastructure to unlock congestion throughout the Sunshine Coast, providing north-south connectivity between Maroochydore and the southern growth areas. It is essential to take the pressure off existing road corridors, and without it there can be no dedicated north-south Sunshine Coast public transport corridor for the LNP to oppose.


Funding of \$18 million for the Nicklin Way-Third Avenue connection—gone. This was a joint commitment—federal, state and Sunshine Coast council—which would increase access into and out of the Caloundra CBD and promote active transport. It is incredibly disappointing that the federal

government is walking away from a project like this which previously enjoyed the support of all three levels of government. This transport corridor is particularly vital for the residents of Caloundra, and I will fight with every means at my disposal to make sure this project becomes a reality.

Mercifully, funding of \$1.6 billion for the direct Sunshine Coast line remains, but the funding is awaiting the detailed business case. This business case is of course the necessary next step and will take the project forward even further for site investigations, surveying, staging options et cetera. At least we have two tiers of government with skin in the game.

To the federal government I say: you must not cut the funding to the Sunshine Coast. It is not right. It is not fair. We will fight you for every single penny.

Satellite Hospitals

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.07 pm): Putting political survival before patient care is a dangerous game. It is a dangerous game because it puts lives at risk. That is exactly what has happened in the Palaszczuk government's decision to name facilities which have no emergency department, no overnight beds and no operating theatres as hospitals.


Let me be clear from the outset: we do not oppose these facilities. We take no issue with the services which are provided in these facilities—none whatsoever. Oncology, dialysis and treatment for minor injuries and accidents are, of course, important health services. That has never been in doubt. Attempts in the House today by the Palaszczuk government to claim otherwise are pathetic and juvenile. Nobody is being critical of the incredible frontline staff working at these facilities. I have seen them in action firsthand and they are amazing. Nobody is being critical of the patients seeking care at these facilities. The criticism is of a tired, desperate, chaotic and crisis-prone government.

The minister was right this morning when she said that Queenslanders are not getting it wrong when they present at these facilities. They are not wrong but someone is wrong here: it is the Premier and the minister. They wrongly named these facilities and they are wrong to continue the facade. Communities were misled in 2020 and these communities will not forgive this government for breaching their trust. These communities were promised hospitals; they got clinics. That is just a fact. What the opposition and, importantly, what others have called for is an appropriate name for these facilities. The AMAQ called these facilities 'hospitals by name, and certainly not by nature'. A senior Queensland Health figure said that they lobbied for these facilities not to be called hospitals. In a leaked recording a senior official said, 'These are satellite to the hospitals rather than hospitals in their own right.' It is not just the opposition calling this out; it is also the peak medical body in this state and staff from within Queensland Health itself.

Unlike the minister, I have worked in resus and I have been to the Caboolture Satellite Hospital. Staff might be advanced life support trained, but they cannot insert an endotracheal tube. They do not have anaesthetic equipment to ventilate a patient. They cannot insert central lines or arterial lines, nor can they administer drugs like adrenaline and amiodarone, put in a chest tube and stabilise a patient hemodynamically until an ambulance arrives. At best, they might be able to insert a laryngeal mask and hand ventilate a patient with an Air Viva bag. They also cannot do closed reductions on fractures as they are unable to administer anaesthetic agents like propofol.

Whistleblowers have told me that they are not even including the word 'hospital' in their brochures or paperwork, and patients have presented there with chest pains thinking it is an ED. Beyond that, these facilities are not what the community was promised. Nowhere is that more evident than on Bribie Island. It was shameful of the member for Pumicestone, knowing full well that these are not hospitals.

Mackay Electorate, Bruce Highway

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.10 pm): The Bruce Highway is a lifeline for transport up and down the Queensland coast. In my region it connects us to the north and south and keeps our economies moving. In the more regional areas it is not uncommon to come across newly harvested sugar cane being hauled to the mill right on the Bruce Highway. The milled sugar is then taken to the port. Our fruit and veggie growers in Bowen rely on safe and reliable roads to transport their produce to feed our population.

Connections to our wonderful tourist destinations are very important. Our drive tourism is as strong as our fly-in-and-out tourism. Connections to our mines and port commodities, especially at junctures along the Bruce Highway, are very important. The Port of Mackay just celebrated another

bumper year of commodities throughput including grain, fuel, sugar, large mining equipment—and the list goes on. The next phase, which is to complete stages 2 and 3 of the Mackay Ring Road in order to get commodities away from where people live and work, could be at risk. We need to put people's safety first. My community—mums and dads and businesses—expect the next stages to be built.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: What did you say? Something about 13-year-olds drinking—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Direct your comments through the chair, please, member.

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe I briefly heard some comments made by the member for Mackay. I take personal offence and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mackay, the member for Whitsunday has taken personal offence. Do you withdraw?

Mrs GILBERT: I do withdraw.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking her interjections.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, the member is not taking interjections. If there are continual interjections I will start warning people.

Mrs GILBERT: We need to make sure that we get the next stages of our ring-road up and running. The Bruce Highway is very important. The former member for Dawson, George Christensen, promised to fix the Bruce, but he did not. He even took out big billboards on the Bruce. We were expecting to have it fixed, but he just did not. We need to continue building overpasses over our railway lines and more overtaking lanes to get traffic moving.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: Some people sniggered. Is she talking about drunk teenagers again? I cannot hear her.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, please, member for Mackay.

Mrs GILBERT: I cannot quite hear what she is calling out to me.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: I am not taking her interjections. I stand with the Deputy Premier and support him going to Canberra to make sure we get the money we need to continue to fix the Bruce.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, before you start, I heard unparliamentary language used as an interjection. I ask you to withdraw that.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw.

Domestic and Family Violence, Queensland Police Service



Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.14 pm): Last year the Premier said that the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence had given a road map for reform. The media statement said it would be a watershed reform program, yet here we are one year on from the government's receipt of the report and what have they done? The government are yet to finalise their response. When asked this week, the minister said that the recommendations were a work in progress. We have not seen the next Independent Implementation Supervisor's report, and if the government do what they did last time we will not see it for months—perhaps in the new year.

On too many occasions we have had report after report by this government handed down without any action progressing, including: the 2013 Child Protection Commission of Inquiry; the 2017 report into the blue card system; the 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; and multiple reports from the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, to name a few. This government seems to lack the ability to follow through.

This week I was shocked to see the minister label the time frames that were given as arbitrary. The commission of inquiry was very deliberate. It gave a time line to this government to provide a road map, and it appears the government is not taking it seriously. In fact, it appears that the Premier does not even know what it is about. The minister stated, 'If you think you can change culture in one week,

two weeks or three months, you're kidding yourself.' I am not sure if the minister has read the report in detail. There are no one-week or two-week recommendations, but there are clear recommendations not to change culture overnight but to put measures in place for the long term. This is a pivotal report. I will highlight recommendation 2, which states—

Within 12 months, the Queensland Police Service identify, using the mechanism for measuring domestic and family violence demand, the further additional funding and Full Time Equivalent positions needed to meet that demand.

The opposition already knows that we are 202 police officers short. We know that police officers are overworked. We know the percentage of DV callouts. One way to support our workforce is to ensure there are officers there to respond. I note that yesterday was National Victims of Crime Day. The minister needs to step up to the plate, be accountable and show leadership. To have a watershed report such as this and to show so little commitment to carrying out its recommendations is offensive to every officer and every victim who came forward and shared their story. This is a call for change, yet all we see from this government is the same old games and the same old talk with no action.

In relation to the RACQ rescue chopper, where is the member for Mackay? Once again the member is silent, missing in action and not representing her community—as always.

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding



Ms LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (2.17 pm): This afternoon we have heard from the member for Whitsunday about how she is shocked about domestic and family violence prevention services. I was incredibly shocked when, less than 24 hours after a woman was allegedly stabbed by her husband on Father's Day in a street in Frenchville, the shadow ministers of the opposition—

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask that the member confirm that the matter is not sub judice and is not currently before the courts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member, will you confirm for the House that that is not currently before the courts?

Ms LAUGA: Mr Deputy Speaker, the matter is before the court. I am referring to the opposition's doorknocking in the street where the crime was allegedly committed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice. I will remind all members that you cannot refer to the actual event.

Ms LAUGA: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. A crime was committed in Frenchville and less than—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that is an event you have already mentioned which can be identified and then potentially used by either side in a court case, so in this case I would advise you to move on from that.

Ms LAUGA: I would suggest that those opposite need to pay some respect and not be out doorknocking in communities that are grieving and are victims of crime in their own right.

Opposition members interjected.


Ms LAUGA: Less than 24 hours. Every single member on this side of the House is extremely disappointed with the outcome of the Commonwealth government's infrastructure review. The Palaszczuk government has made it very clear to the Commonwealth that now is not the time to cut infrastructure in Queensland, but the difference between us and those opposite is that we on this side of the chamber stand up for Queensland while those opposite do not. When the federal government takes aim on Queensland, we stand up against it. We fight to make sure Queensland gets its fair share. When the federal LNP introduced legislation to force Queensland to sell its public assets, it was Labor that stood up to fight. When the federal LNP cut \$316 million from Queensland hospitals in 2019, it was Labor that stood up to fight. When the federal LNP cut our fair share of GST, it was us on this side that stood up to fight. When the federal LNP tried to compulsorily acquire thousands of hectares of grazing land at Marlborough, it was Labor that stood up to fight.

What did those opposite do? Absolutely nothing. They did not pick up the phone to their federal buddies. They did not write letters to their LNP ministers. They did nothing. I am certain that their inaction was not just laziness; it was apathy. They just do not care about Queenslanders, and their lack of action when our state has come under attack is evidence of that. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept. Those opposite have not only ignored the attacks on Queensland by their federal LNP counterparts over the years; they just do not care.

We on this side of the House will not stand idle as the federal government cuts critical infrastructure projects from our state. I am pleased to be part of a government that stands up for Queensland. We have no issue whatsoever with picking up the phone and telling our federal counterparts exactly what we think about these cuts—in fact, our federal counterparts know to expect it of us. We want the roads and the rail that Queenslanders have been promised. We want the Bruce Highway to be given the priority funding it deserves as the backbone of Queensland's thriving regional communities and industries. Do not cut from Queensland.

(Time expired)

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Performance

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.21 pm): It is that time of the proceedings when we play the old cost blowout calculator game with the incompetent transport and main roads minister, the member for Miller.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comment personally offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw. For those playing along at home, let's go for it with the first round—Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A. The original budget for this was \$709 million. That has now blown out to \$1.219 billion. That is half a billion dollars there. That is No. 1.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: Yes, thank you, ding-a-ling-a-ling. We go to the Coomera Connector, which was a \$1½ billion project. That has now blown out to \$2.163 billion, so that is a \$633 million blowout. That is on the scorecard. We keep going, and the Northern Transitway was \$53 million but it has blown out to \$172 million. That is a nice even, kind of, \$119 million blowout under the watch of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.


Then we go to the big one. He kind of tried to have fun during estimates, if it was not for the bravery of a very fine public servant who came clean and we got to the bottom of it. I am talking about the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. That one there, as Queenslanders all know, was just a small, paltry blowout of \$2.4 billion! Unbelievable. Then we get to the new Gold Coast railway stations. He cannot even get railway stations built on time and on budget. That was \$120 million and is now up to half a billion dollars. That is a \$380 million cost blowout.

I have to advise the House of the latest and greatest bit of work from the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I refer to the latest project fiasco, the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project. Some members are simply the gifts that keep on giving. This is something that I actually downloaded from the World Wide Web about an hour ago. It showed—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: I know; it is amazing. This was a \$2.6 billion project. It was to be co-funded, with \$1.3 billion from the federal government and \$1.3 billion from the Queensland government. We now know, from the train wreck of a media interview done about 50 minutes ago from the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, that that one is going to blow out by \$2½ billion to \$5 billion. Absolute genius! Incompetent.

Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding; Liberal National Party, Arts


 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.24 pm): I stand today in support of the Premier's call on the federal government to ensure that Queensland gets its fair share of federal funding. Our population is booming here in Queensland and now is not the time to cut the infrastructure spend in Queensland. Our decentralised state has the largest road network in Australia. Baysiders are consumers of the M1 and the Gateway Motorway. These road corridors are important infrastructure projects for all of my constituents who make use of those roads. That is why I am happy to stand here and join the Premier to call-out and ensure that we get our fair share of funding.

Today I am also here to talk about those opposite and ask them what funding they will be cutting in Queensland. They are yet to advise that. I spoke last week about the LNP's little, far right yellow and blue brochure. I remind everyone in the House that there is not one mention of the arts and culture in this ridiculous little document. I guess they do not have any policies. I guess that is what they are saying.

They do not support the arts, nor are they inclusive, which is pretty clear by the actions of the LNP powerbrokers in my electorate. These people have moved into the bayside and have been accepted and treated with kindness at their time of great need, and this is how they are repaying my community. They are throwing around homophobic attitudes with their right wing, shameful, out-of-step attitude. These people have threatened sponsors and they are wanting to close down the entire festival due to the acts that will be on show. These are LNP powerbrokers: remember that.

They have kind of accepted that the Fringe is going to go ahead, but they want to close down the Bay Pride event. I have called on the local LNP to make a public statement that they do not support this heavyweight LNP powerbroker, but what have we heard? We have heard nothing, not a thing. What an absolute disgrace. I call on the LNP to make it clear that they are not homophobic and that they are an inclusive organisation. The Wynnum Fringe is an inclusive event with loads of family friendly shows and activities. I call on the LNP to drop down there and see these fantastic events. Come and see what beautiful opportunities there are for our entire community.

Bushfires

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.27 pm): From Mission River in the north all the way to the border, paid and volunteer firefighters are currently responding to more than 40 vegetation fires, and six warnings are in force. Sadly, we have recently seen lives lost in Tara and near McKinlay. I want to put on the record my condolences and the condolences of all members on this side of the House to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives.


I also want to put on the record from both myself and my colleagues our thanks and admiration for the paid and volunteer firefighters, associated staff and landholders who have battled and are continuing to battle those fires. Since we last met in this place, we have seen some of the worst bushfires in Queensland in the last 40 years. Some of those fires continue to burn today and predictions are that there are more to come. We have seen infrastructure, homes and other structures destroyed. Today we have Queenslanders who were made homeless earlier this year who are relying on family and friends and support services and agencies.

As that recovery continues, and as the response to current fires continues, there are more and more reports of challenges being put in the way of preparedness. It is almost impossible, for example, to burn off along main roads, despite the fact that we see roadsides covered in heavy fuel loads of vegetation. That continues to pose a significant risk in some areas of our state.

We have firebreaks that locals describe as insufficient, and that is if they get permission to put breaks in. As the Premier saw in Tara, firebreaks save homes, but today we have insufficient firebreaks in a large number of areas throughout Queensland. While this government and the minister talk about investing in the Rural Fire Service, we have brave volunteers calling out the fact that their knowledge and experience are being overlooked. While this government and the minister talk about taking notice of warnings, we know that 300 fire warning signs were ripped down across Queensland and replaced with just 64. The truth is that, among the bravery of the responders and the pain being felt by Queenslanders, we now know there are questions surrounding the safety of almost 250 Rural Fire Service appliances.

People across Queensland take steps to protect their community from bushfire every year, and their efforts should not be stymied by a government that has dropped the ball. It is time for this minister and this government to heed the warnings, because every time they fail to do so they put more Queenslanders at risk this bushfire season.

Premier's Reading Challenge


 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.30 pm): On 30 October I was delighted to attend the Leichhardt State School in Ipswich to present certificates to students for the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Premier's Reading Challenge is an annual statewide initiative for Queensland's state and non-state schools and home educated students from prep to year 9, as well as children aged up to five years enrolled in early childhood centres. The challenge began in April 2023 and ended in August. The Premier's Reading Challenge aims to improve literacy and encourage children to read for pleasure and learning.

The number of students who participated in the challenge across Queensland was truly outstanding. The total number of participants was 111,679 students, which is about half the population of Ipswich. The number of books read was over 1.5 million. Schools registered to participate numbered 889, while early childhood centres that participated totalled 323.

It was necessary for participating students to read 20 books to receive a certificate, but the efforts by the Leichhardt State School were truly amazing. Archer, a year 3 student, read 100 books, while Hunter, a year 1 student, read 120 books. A higher achiever was Annabellah, a year 3 student who read 151 books, while Shaunak, a year 4 student, read 180 books. The top Premier's Reading Challenge reader at Leichhardt State School for 2023 was Isabella, a year 3 student who read an astounding 312 books. That is between April and August of this year, five months—a truly amazing effort.

I would like to congratulate Maja Bogicevic and her staff for organising the Premier's Reading Challenge but particularly deputy principal Elena Finlay, who coordinated the challenge. I should mention that Elena was recently awarded the Dr John Dwyer Excellent Leadership in Teaching and Learning Award. Elena has been a teacher for 22 years and firmly believes that 'reading is everybody's business'. She works tirelessly with her colleagues at Leichhardt State School to improve students' literacy outcomes at the school. It would be remiss of me not to mention that one of Elena's colleagues includes the sister of the member for Bonney, Emily O'Connor, Head of Department—Teaching and Learning. It would also be remiss of me not to congratulate all of the students right across Queensland who participated in the reading challenge as well as their teachers and parents. I look forward to attending the awards night for the year 6 students of Leichhardt State School at the Ipswich Sports Club on 6 December.

Housing

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.33 pm): When will the Palaszczuk Labor government take responsibility for the worst housing crisis that this state has ever experienced?

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection from the member for Logan. There are people in his electorate sleeping under bridges in tents and he comes into this parliament mocking that situation. When are they going to take responsibility for nine years of lack of planning, not forecasting the housing supply that we need? When are they going to take account of the fact that the release of residential lots has decreased by 30 per cent since they came to government?

This is the worst housing crisis this state has ever experienced. This Labor government has been in power for 25 of the last 30 years, and for the last nine years it has done nothing when it comes to housing our most vulnerable. What did we find out this week?

A government member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection from the former minister, who was right at the forefront of this lack of planning.

Mrs Frecklington: Got sacked.

Mr MANDER: Exactly, got sacked from that particular portfolio because she could not handle it; they had to move her on. The other minister there, the member for Springwood, was there as well; he was part of this lack of planning, no forecasting—what the Auditor-General criticised because they have no plan with regard to housing our most vulnerable people. This week we find out that Queensland has the largest rent increases in the nation, at 9.5 per cent on average. There are some people in regional Queensland who spend half their wages on paying rent. Of course, to make all this worse, we have the lowest rental vacancy rates in the country, at 0.85 per cent. If it were not so tragic—

A government member interjected.

Mr MANDER: Well, it does not matter what you say; it is not funny. Then there is the Housing Investment Fund, the greatest fraud ever put on the Queensland public.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Members, the level of interjection is getting out of control. I will ask the member to be heard in silence for the rest of his contribution.

Mr MANDER: They said that 3,600 homes will be built by the end of 2024. How many do you think have been done already? Not even one per cent; in fact, not one house has been built under the Housing Investment Fund that has a person living in it. I think 32 homes are being built at the moment. Both those projects at Chermside and Redcliffe have been delayed. Five thousand seven hundred extra by 2027—Tell 'em they're dreamin'!

Remembrance Day; Cooroy Cenotaph



Mr SKELTON (Nicklin—ALP) (2.37 pm): I begin my contribution by acknowledging our veterans—from the oldest to the youngest, to those Australians still serving and who have served—and the families and communities who support them. On Saturday, 11 November, at the Cooroy Cenotaph, we marked Remembrance Day, a solemn occasion to honour the courage and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation. Remembrance Day is a day for reflection, not only on the horrors of war but also on the enduring human spirit that strives for peace and justice. We remember those who paid the ultimate price for their families and their country. We remember the 27 souls from Cooroy and surrounds who never returned from World War I, the then Great War, and the 27 families whose lives were permanently altered. Remembrance Day is a day to remember that, even in the face of unimaginable adversity, humanity has the power to come together, heal and rebuild.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the Cooroy-Pomona RSL Sub Branch for their unwavering dedication in ensuring the Cooroy Cenotaph receives the attention it so deserves. Thanks to their advocacy and the government's Queensland Remembers grants program, the Cooroy-Pomona RSL were able to secure \$40,000 in funding to have this cenotaph upgraded for accessibility, as well as add the names of some 40 fallen soldiers from World War II from the district. Their tireless efforts and commitment to preserving our history are truly commendable.

As we remember those who have fallen, let us also reaffirm our commitment to peace and unity. Let the Cooroy Cenotaph stand as a symbol of our determination to work together for a better world—a world where conflicts can be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy rather than through the horrors of war. Thanks to the dedication of the Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch, this monument stands renewed, reminding us of the debt we owe to those who have served our nation. Let us remember, let us honour and let us strive for a future where the sacrifices of our heroes are truly honoured through peace, unity and a better world for all. Lest we forget.

Desalination Plant



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.40 pm): It is difficult to rise after such a moving speech by the member for Nicklin, but I want to prove I had already written this speech and was intending to talk about the water wars in Queensland that stem from a complete lack of planning from the Palaszczuk government. We know that the front page of the *Courier-Mail* on 14 August of last year had the headline 'Water war', but I want to move onto the 'desal wars' that we are having with the Palaszczuk government.

We know that there is an argument going on between the member for Pumicestone, the water minister and the Deputy Premier, so I thought it would be important to go through a timeline in relation to this. It was on 10 October this year that the Premier publicly announced a desal plant costing \$8 billion, but when she was questioned there were no details and no location. She did not have a clue about the capacity and there had been no consultation. In the media conference the Premier flippantly said, 'It might be Kawana'. Out of the blue, she said Kawana. Then the water minister was asked about the location and he said, 'Some people are talking Kawana and some people are talking Bribie Island'. On 11 October, I asked a question without notice of the water minister. He had the opportunity to rule out Bribie Island, Kawana or Caloundra. He did not rule out any of those locations. In actual fact, the water minister provided comments to the Bribie Island paper on 15 November which stated—


As I have already said, the best location will be determined by SEQ Water during the development of its detailed business case.

During this phase SEQ Water will be exploring potential locations, the capacity, the timing of delivery ...

That was on 15 November. Then that afternoon what did the Deputy Premier do? He waited for the water minister to be on sick leave to overrule the water minister and to overrule Seqwater's consultation with local communities.

The question now is: where is the government's proposed \$8 billion, because there is no money in the budget, no planning and no community consultation for this desalination plant? Where is the desalination plant going to be? Is it going to be in Caloundra? That is the latest intel. Is it going to be in Kawana? When will the Palaszczuk government front up to the people of Bribie Island and give them a rock-solid guarantee? We cannot trust a thing that the Palaszczuk government say. Before the last election they said that there would be no increased or new taxes—that was a complete untruth. The only way to have satisfaction is to vote in the LNP.


Mental Health Services

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.43 pm): Last year, I had the immense honour and privilege of leading the government's inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders, and I want to provide an update for the House. I was particularly pleased with recommendation 1b that the Queensland government 'creates a dedicated funding stream for mental health and alcohol and other drug services and explores all options to create it'. I am pleased to report to the House that—as we all know—that recommendation has been picked up in full by the government and implemented. This is why we now have a \$1.645 billion levy to spend over five years.

Sadly, the LNP did not support that levy, nor did the Greens, for that matter. They spent a lot of time in the community talking about taxing billionaires, but the first chance they got to do it, they did not bother to do it. I will give the member for Maiwar his due, at the 11th hour he came in here and voted for it and had to undo all the damage done by the member for South Brisbane. Let's look at what it is funding: 252 more frontline workers; \$47.9 million to boost alcohol and drug and other services; and \$40 million to deliver the most comprehensive network of eating disorder services in Queensland's history; and \$1.8 million over five years for Stepping Stone Clubhouse, an organisation that does fantastic and amazing work in my community. They are now taking that work to the north side of Brisbane and supporting other Stepping Stone Clubhouses around the state, as well. There is also \$47 million of investment to deliver new clinicians to provide clinical in-reach into all existing headspace centres. We know that there are more headspace centres being built. One of the things we know clearly from that inquiry is that the majority of people who will develop mental health issues will do so between the ages of 12 and 25—that is exactly where we have to be spending the majority of our resources.

This week, which is Perinatal Mental Health Week, we have committed \$20 million to increase community-based perinatal and infant mental health treatment services. We have to provide that intervention and care at the very early stages of life to prevent people from developing lifelong mental illnesses or alcohol and other drug dependencies, which have massive impacts on the individuals, their families and the entire community. We know, because the LNP voted against this funding, that it is under threat. If the Crisafulli LNP government are elected next year they will be supported by the Greens and they will shut this down. They will not continue this important work. Only Labor will deliver better services for people who suffer from mental illness and are afflicted by alcohol and other drug addictions.

Youth, Early Intervention


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.46 pm): It is increasingly obvious in multiple realms that there are issues surrounding early intervention, especially with our youth. Prevention is key, whether in relation to crime, mental and physical health, school attendance, or disruptive behaviours. Our home environment is the first touchstone for interventions, with the next safety net our schools, family and friends and our communities. With increasing numbers experiencing housing insecurity, there is also instability from mental health and addictions in households. The frustrations of communities that have individuals sleeping rough with their children and who are offered accommodation yet refuse is just one example of where no agency can force a resolution, which, in itself, is early intervention. Currently it appears that interventions only occur once a crime has been committed which, in many instances, is already far too late for these children.

From our schools, reports from teachers that they have increasingly become disempowered to provide parameters for our youngest Queenslanders is of concern. With no ability to prevent disengaged students walking out of class when they choose to, the ongoing time demands of those displaying antisocial or problematic behaviours, and a system that does not provide constant whole-of-life monitoring and mandatory pathways to address this is creating a domino effect of teacher attrition rates and student absenteeism. Teachers and parents of these students need greater support and options beyond fragmented delivery and oversubscribed programs that are mostly voluntary. With vast volumes of reports, papers and inquiries identifying early intervention as key in prevention—whether behavioural, mental health or criminality—we need to ask ourselves why are we so late in the early equation?

There is also the question of why recommendations from these bodies appear to fall by the wayside, or are only partially implemented, including geographically. Widening gaps are being experienced across the state. Budgetary constraints are often part of the excuse; however, let us look at what it costs to not intervene early with our children to prevent disengagement and the resulting trauma. Lamb and Huo from the University of Melbourne calculated both the lost opportunity and the fiscal and social cost, which included lost tax payments, increased public expenditure on criminal justice

and corrections, health and support programs and welfare. These costs did not include things that are harder to quantify such as the provision of housing or care for young people, or the considerable economic costs borne by non-government and philanthropic organisations; nor do they include the intergenerational cost of disadvantage. Prioritising early intervention in budgets ultimately saves not only dollars, it saves lives. Let's ensure budget considerations are made at every level of government to move beyond the cost of an election cycle to one that expands a lifetime.

Thuringowa Electorate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.49 pm): I will stand on my record of delivering for Thuringowa any day of the week against any candidate, be they LNP, Katter or whoever steps up and has a go. They should try to keep up with this. On roads alone there is Hervey Range Road upgrade, Riverway Drive stage 1, Townsville Ring Road stage 5, Riverway Drive stage 2—and I will be there fighting for it all the way until we cut the ribbon. That is \$433 million just in roads. I got advice from the minister's office on QTRIP—and I am the glad the members for Townsville and Mundingburra are here—and, together, we have delivered \$2.1 billion in road upgrades in the northern district, creating nearly a thousand jobs. That is what we do in North Queensland.

In water security there is the Haughton pipeline, \$450 million; Riverway Drive duplication of the water main, \$33 million; Lansdown, water, \$26 million—another \$500 million on water security. The jokers opposite should not even come at us, because they cannot speak up. They cannot shine a light on any of this because they do not back it in. Phillip Thompson promised and lied—he told a mistruth. He failed the people of Townsville on water.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member just used unparliamentary language. I would ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I did hear that and I then heard the member correct himself. For the record, would you withdraw, member for Thuringowa?

Mr HARPER: I withdraw. In health there is \$1.3 billion this year alone. After the LNP sacked 400 nurses we have employed—and I thought it was 600 but I have received updated information—900 health workers. We have doubled the number they sacked in Townsville. In police and emergency services there is over \$131 million. There is a new ambulance station in Kirwan and a new one in Burdell. Of course, there is the police academy and the new Kirwan Police Station.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER: Members opposite might not want to hear it, but I am going to go right through the list. In housing, there is \$100 million on new accommodation right throughout Townsville, and there are more projects to come. There is our port expansion, \$2 billion. Of course, I go back to the Queensland Country Bank Stadium, \$290 million, and \$250 million on Works for Queensland. This is an incredible list. How did we get to 2.7 per cent unemployment in North Queensland? The members from North Queensland know. All of this adds up—and my favourite is coming: education. There has been \$12 billion delivered since 2015 in infrastructure projects. That is the proud record of the Labor Party.


I have been saving the best for last: \$100 million in building, maintenance and new halls has gone into the nine state schools in the Thuringowa electorate. I will highlight just one: Kelso State School, \$5.5 million. What did the LNP put in during their time? \$500,000. I table a list.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 13 November 2023, from the Caucus Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon. Grace Grace, Mr Dan Byron, to the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, regarding education infrastructure in the Thuringowa electorate [\[1905\]](#).

Shame on the LNP for not investing in education and infrastructure. That is why we had a 13 per cent unemployment rate under them and we have 2.7 per cent under Labor.

(Time expired)

Bushfires, Tara

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.52 pm): Since this House met two weeks ago we have seen some of the worst bushfires in the last 40 years across Queensland. Some are still burning. Sadly, in the north-west an aircraft was lost and its crew lost their lives near McKinlay. Tragically, at Tara two people lost their lives. One was well known to local support agencies. I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of those who have lost their loved ones.

There are other fires around the state including the Carnarvon bushfire, which is still burning. That fire has burnt through about 350,000 hectares and it is still burning. At Wallangarra and Dalveen, which the member for Southern Downs and I visited, we heard about the lovegrass—or 'kerosene grass' as the locals call it—that fuelled the intensity of the grassfires in that area. That is why it is so important to do burn-offs along the roadsides, a process that the Rural Fire Service volunteers tell me has been burdened with unnecessary compliance requirements by this state Labor government.

I would like to extend my thanks to the many departmental agencies, volunteers, not-for-profits and local governments, landholders and farmers across the state who have been at the front line of these fires—and many still are. Local government staff from the bushfire impacted areas have gone beyond the call of duty. Other council staff from across the state have been lent to assist these councils. In my electorate I want to single out the Tara Neighbourhood Centre and their staff. They have been tireless workers for those impacted in the December 2022 fire, the February 2023 fire and the October 2023 fire. Approximately 53 dwellings and many other structures have been destroyed by the Tara fire. There are nearly as many structures destroyed as dwellings and most do not have insurance.

Tara is grateful for the assistance of the caravans and the cabins that are being erected at the Tara Caravan Park. However, it will be a very long recovery process. There are people, though, like Janette Lacy of Billabong Lane, who lost her home in the February bushfires. Janette has been living in a shipping container for the last nine months. It is very important that all those people who lost their homes in the February fires at Tara are not left behind in the recovery process.

It is also important in the recovery process that there be greater bushfire prevention in the Tara residential estates, like the removal of vegetation at the home the Premier saw during her visit to Tara. There need to be more firebreaks, more breaks that are wide enough to enable the movement of machinery and more prevention in all areas of the state. You need to be able to ensure you can get dozers and graders along a lot of those firebreaks, which at present are not sufficiently wide. Prevention is absolutely critical to reduce the frequency and intensity of these bushfire disasters. We are only just at the beginning of the bushfire season and we have seen incredible bushfires across this state.

North Queensland Tourism and Events Awards



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.55 pm): Firstly, I would like to table this petition on behalf of the residents living along University Road, Annandale in my electorate of Mundingburra. This is a section of the Bruce Highway that has become very busy due to growing population and high traffic movements—the success of Queensland. This petition is in relation to the need for noise barriers along some sections of University Road. This road has over 33,000 traffic movements a day and generates a lot of noise. I support the urgent need to have noise barriers installed to address the constant noise these residents experience on a daily basis. I table the petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the sound barrier (Annandale) Bruce Highway [\[1906\]](#).


I want to talk about the highly successful tourism and events awards held last Friday night in Townsville at our award-winning stadium—and the member for Cairns was with me—the Queensland Country Bank Stadium, which was built by this government. What a great investment that is. It was an excellent night of celebration for all those who promote Townsville and the surrounding region through the tourism sector. The tourism offering just keeps getting better, and I thank them all for what they do to make the visitor experience in the region unique and incredibly special, which leaves people wanting to come back for more.

I want to congratulate the following winners in their respective categories. In accommodation, hotel, the winner was The Ville Resort-Casino; accommodation, motel, Kernow in Charters Towers; accommodation, caravan and holiday parks, Townsville Eco Resort; dining, restaurant, Shorehouse on The Strand in Townsville; dining, cafe and casual dining, Herveys Range Heritage Tea Rooms—an excellent experience and highly recommended. The winner of the bars, breweries and distilleries, Townsville Brewing Co; business conferencing venue, the highly successful The Ville Resort-Casino—and congratulations to them on the recent opening of Ardo; tours, attractions and experiences, the hall of fame winners were Texas Longhorn of Charters Towers. Congratulations to them. It is a very good tourism experience.

The transport and hire services winner was SeaLink, which operates to Magnetic and Palm islands, and congratulations to them. In festivals and events, major—this is beautiful—Women's State of Origin, Townsville 2023. This was held in our award-winning stadium. What a great success. The festivals and events, destination winner was SeaLink, Magnetic Island Race Week; new tourism business or experience, Pilgrim Adventures, Pilgrim Magnetic Island; and excellence in accessible

tourism, North Australian Festival of Arts. The Richard Power Award went to Mick and Lynda Bethel from Tourism Texas Longhorn Tours from Charters Towers. Congratulations again to all the winners. The Young Achiever Award winner was young Georgie Arnold, a young pilot from Townsville Helicopters—and what a great mentor she is.

Coal

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.59 pm): This Labor government has approved another coalmine expansion. Last week I received a media release from the resources minister gleefully declaring that his government had approved a new coalmine expansion in the Bowen Basin. This is, of course, just the latest project that Labor has given the tick to. Their friends at the federal level have approved seven new or expanded coalmines and 232 gas wells since taking power last year. This Queensland Labor government is not content with just approving new coal and gas. They are now going one step further and funding it with public money.


In another media release the same day as they approved a new coalmine expansion, Labor spruiked \$21 million of publicly funded grants to expand gas exploration in Queensland. They helpfully included in this media release that this Labor government has opened up 20,000 square kilometres of Queensland for gas exploration since 2017.

One could be forgiven for assuming that these media releases are in fact the brochure Labor put together for the gas industry to make sure those sweet, sweet donations keep coming in. I bet it will not be putting that on any of its election flyers in the seats that are threatened by the Greens. Are we going to see the member for Cooper putting up a billboard in Ashgrove spruiking '20,000 square kilometres of gas approvals', or what about the member for Greenslopes? How about a big billboard on Logan Road that says something like 'Labor—giving \$21 million in public handouts to the gas industry'? Are we going to see any of that? In just a few hours Labor and LNP members will be toasting the destruction of the Lake Eyre Basin with the gas executives at their bring the basin to Brisbane cocktail reception here in parliament, sponsored by Santos. I could barely believe my eyes when I saw this in the inbox.

Labor has promised at every election since 2015 to protect the Channel Country rivers of the Lake Eyre Basin. New gas exploration in the basin means more emissions, interruptions to some of the last free-flowing desert rivers in the world and toxic chemicals threatening local ecology and Indigenous cultural heritage. Traditional owners and conservationists have worked tirelessly for years to protect the Channel Country, but while they wait for Labor to make up its mind Labor is organising cocktail functions here at Parliament House with the very companies that want to wreck the Channel Country. It is no wonder this government does not want to increase gas royalties. The Treasurer went to great lengths this morning to avoid just straight up answering the question that the member for South Brisbane asked. It would make for some really awkward chat over the cosmopolitans tonight I imagine, wouldn't it, Treasurer? Labor members, enjoy your cosmos and pina coladas with Santos execs. I hope the donations are worth it. Make sure you get some good connections with them for when the members for Cooper, Miller, Greenslopes and Stafford are all looking for a job next year—

(Time expired)

Daintree Rainforest

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.01 pm): They say being in nature is good for mental health and wellbeing. I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Daintree, one of the oldest rainforests in Australia. The Daintree Rainforest is over 1,200 square kilometres and is home to many animals and plant species not found anywhere else in the world. I love my electorate for the reason that I get to have one of the oldest rainforests in my electorate. Not only that, the region is home to two UNESCO World Heritage areas, the other being the Great Barrier Reef. The natural beauty and biodiversity is what brings people to our region. Visitors come to our region to have a holiday, explore the rich biodiversity of the Daintree and get out to experience the Great Barrier Reef to take in everything it has to offer. I want to enforce that there are many benefits to being in nature. It improves your mood, reduces feelings of stress or anger and helps you get out and feel more relaxed. It improves your physical health, confidence and self-esteem.

I want to highlight that we have the most amazing places to visit in our backyard and we should not take it for granted. Places such as the Daintree and the Great Barrier Reef are at risk of the impact of climate change and we should be doing everything we can to make sure we continue to protect our greatest assets for our children and our children's children to enjoy. A few weeks ago I was invited to

visit the Daintree by ClimateForce. ClimateForce's core mission is to protect and maintain two foundational symbols of the region—reef and rainforest. ClimateForce is currently delivering the Tropical ReGen project aiming to regenerate a rainforest corridor in the Daintree.

I heard about the research undertaken to bring back the natural biodiversity. ClimateForce took me out to the plantation where there were rows after rows of trees planted to regenerate acres of land that will one day grow back to the natural dense rainforest. I even got to plant a few trees and absolutely loved the feeling of giving something back to the environment. I met researchers, university students and volunteers doing incredible work to restore parts of the Daintree. I give a shout-out to Barney and Liana. Thank you for inviting me into your space and opening my eyes to the wonderful work you do to care for the environment. I love my electorate, I love the rainforest and the reef and I hope we can keep it in its natural form forever and a day so that the next generation can continue to enjoy our greatest natural assets.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 26 October (see p. 3344), on motion of Mr King—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 29, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into coal mining industry safety*, tabled on 16 February 2023.



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (3.04 pm), continuing: Under the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003, the relevant clause states—

The ATSB must, as soon as practicable after an investigation has been completed, publish, by electronic or other means, a report in relation to the investigation.

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Act, however, states—

The Minister, CEO or chief inspector may make or issue a public statement identifying, and giving information about ...

- (a) the commission of offences against this Act and the persons who commit the offences;
- (b) investigations conducted under this Act about accidents or high potential incidents at a coal mine

There is just a small difference in wording with 'may' instead of 'must', yet the difference it has made to these two sectors could not be more telling.

Another interesting comparison involves accident response times. Coalmining operators have an obligation to report serious accidents as soon as possible after an event takes place. During 2014-15, the average time for reporting an accident to the inspectorate was 6.3 hours. For the last reporting year, this had increased to 7.8 hours. Reports of serious accidents should be made within three hours and the delay in reporting these incidents is a matter of considerable concern. The extent to which coalmine operators have implemented the BOI recommendations tells us little about the current state of safety and health within the industry. Only legislating for full transparency of its accident investigations and reports will do that. Just one word in the act needs to change. That is all it will take.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (3.07 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee Report No. 38, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General reports on the water sector*, tabled on 24 February 2023.


It gives me pleasure to rise to speak to this report, which was tabled in February, titled *Examination of Auditor-General reports on the water sector*. This report gives a very clear indication that things are improving but that entities can do more. I congratulate all of the water entities on making progress from these Auditor-General reports that we have done over the years. I will just explain what this report is about. In the foreword we said that 'water entities rely on information technology systems', and that is the absolutely crucial part and that is what this committee focused on. Over the years water entities have received recommendations from the QAO regarding the security of their information systems dating back to 2020-21 and even back to 2017.

Over the years we have said that water entities must take steps to strengthen the security of their information systems. That is one of the reasons we have recommended in past reports that they establish their own risk management and audit committees. That is the gist of what we are doing, but I will just go into some of the details of what we found was necessary and what the Queensland Audit Office pointed out. For example, the Audit Office pointed out that the internal controls were generally effective but once again could be improved. For example, one entity's control environment was assessed as ineffective due to three significant deficiencies which related to access of information systems. That is a really important finding and, as I said, the reports since then have shown that they have picked that up. However, the Auditor-General also pointed out that not all entities have fully addressed the recommendations in the *Water 2020* report to strengthen security of their information systems. That is what we want to emphasise as a committee—that is, that they have done well but that they really need to keep upping their game when it comes to information security.

That could relate to deficiencies in financial systems, invoicing and payroll. Those areas may be simple but they are absolutely crucial. The point is that cyber risk vulnerabilities and exposures must be continually assessed and entities must continually improve how they face those cyber risks. That is the case for all government entities.

We found that the entities had made those improvements. I will quickly go through what they have implemented in response to the findings by the QAO: incorporating external standards and recommendations into corporate plans and systems; regular audits of access—I know that they are doing that; regular cybersecurity training and refreshers for staff; application of the principle of least privilege to those security systems and use of strong password practices; encryption for sensitive data; network and firewall upgrades; self-assessing their systems against the audit and assessing risks to their system; and making sure they work with the Australian Cyber Security Centre to implement their essential eight mitigation strategies. That is it in a nutshell.


Even though what we looked at in this report was quite narrow in focus, increasing cybersecurity is absolutely essential. Over the years we have seen that become more and more important for all government entities. When we are talking about the security of our water distribution and sewerage systems it is absolutely crucial. That is why a common theme in our reports is to say to these entities that they need to have a rigorous independent audit and risk management committee that meets on a regular basis and provides robust reports and assessments to those water entities. I commend the public servants within those water entities who have been taking notice of what we and the Audit Office have been saying and implementing those improvements over the years. We look forward to seeing more of those improvements and practices coming through in future years.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.12 pm): It is a privilege to rise to speak on this important Auditor-General's report. It is a shame that in audit after audit there is ongoing reporting of deficiencies in systems. I note that there have been some improvements, but it does seem to be groundhog day going back as far as 12 years ago. I recognise and thank Mr Brendan Worrall, the Auditor-General, and his team for their candid advice and the clear guidance they provided to our committee and the questions that they answered for these entities delivering water for Queenslanders.

Not every week but just about every fortnight there are cybersecurity attacks reported in the paper. Most recently it was the Optus attack and prior to that Medibank, and some of the financial institutions were hit. If we want to make sure that our water supply is protected and secure, we have to be serious about cybersecurity. I note the committee's recommendation to look at independent audit and risk committees across these entities and local governments. That is sensible. Some of those local government entities might not be able to afford their own singular independent audit and risk committee, but as a group of like-minded entities they could come together and share knowledge and ensure that controls and protections are in place.

Cybersecurity is a process that we are all becoming familiar with. There are not too many weeks that go by where there is not an email from the Parliamentary Service to our offices or ourselves testing the security of this network. In fact, that is one of the eight steps to ensure best practice cybersecurity management. It is not just about having the most recent software, because regularly it is human error. It is through somebody contacting a person and asking them to download an app or a website and put in codes to gain access. It can happen very easily. It is important to have training and testing, have access controls updated and have new user access reviewed regularly to make sure that the system itself renews. Monitoring, which is also part of the training, is very important, as well as strong passwords. I recently updated the password for my financial institution. It is interesting that as soon as you have a special character in your password it increases your security by 27 to 100 times. The Auditor-General identified encryption and other technical aspects as best practice.

Most of this report was around cybersecurity, but there was also commentary around floods and drought and ensuring there is flood mitigation capacity as well as safety. One of the concerns I have in relation to safety is the ongoing increasing standard of engineering that is being applied to some of these dams and structures which is seeing less and less water being held in them as opposed to investing in a level or a structure to make sure that we can, for a small extra cost, meet the standard and be able to keep that level of water in there for drinking and for flood related purposes. Of course, there was the important ripping down of Paradise Dam. It did not feature in this report, but certainly these reports do refer to engineering standards. We have to be safe but invest in solutions so that we do not see a reduction in the water available for drinking purposes, for irrigation purposes and also for flood mitigation.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.17 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 38 of the 57th Parliament by the State Development and Rural Industries Committee tabled in February 2023. The committee examined the Queensland Audit Office report No. 9 of 2020-21, dated 28 January 2021. This report summarises the audit results of six entities in Queensland's water sector: Seqwater, Sunwater, Urban Utilities, Unitywater, Gladstone Area Water Board and Mount Isa Water Board.

The Queensland Audit Office made three recommendations in its report. The first was that all entities strengthen the security of their information systems. These entities rely heavily on technology, and increasingly they have to be prepared for cyber attacks. Any unauthorised access may result in fraud or error or significant reputational damage. Their workplace culture, through their people and processes, must emphasise strong security practices to provide a foundation for the security of their information systems. The second recommendation was that the distributor-retailers, Urban Utilities and Unitywater, need to engage more closely with developers to determine whether their assets are complete, obtain engineering drawings and other information in a timely manner, closely monitor development application registers for completeness of recorded assets, and identify and address causes of delays in processing of engineering drawings. Thirdly, the Auditor-General recommended that as part of the negotiation process for enterprise agreements entities should ensure they understand how these arrangements interact with employee contracts.


The Queensland Audit Office also noted that the class action related to the 2011 South-East Queensland floods was brought against Seqwater, Sunwater and the Queensland government through the Supreme Court of New South Wales. A judgement was handed down in favour of the plaintiffs in November 2019. The court determined that the percentage of the liability be allocated to Seqwater, 50 per cent; Sunwater, 30 per cent; and the Queensland government, 20 per cent. Both Seqwater and Sunwater appealed the judgement and have insurance policies that apply to this situation. The judgement created a financial obligation for the group members that can be estimated and is likely to require payment.

The committee found that a key finding of the Queensland Audit Office report was that, over several years, the water entities had received recommendations from the Queensland Audit Office regarding the security of their information security. One of those reports dates back to June 2017, *Security of critical water infrastructure*. Yet, in 2021, the Queensland Audit Office continued to find that improvements were necessary.

The committee also found that information security is critical to the delivery of services and the protection of consumer information. The committee noted that the Auditor-General regards cybersecurity as the biggest threat to state and local government public sector entities, with the cybersecurity risk growing through the pandemic when many businesses moved operations online. As detailed in the report, the committee recommended—

That the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water takes steps to ensure that all water entities establish their own independent audit and risk management committees, and that these committees be required to consider information management system and cyber security risks.

In closing, I thank my fellow members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, the committee secretariat, Hansard, the Queensland Audit Office and the former Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the examination of the Auditor-General's reports on the water sector. The Auditor-General's reports examined by the committee included report No. 9, *Water 2020*; report No. 3, *Water 2021*; and report No. 4, *2021 status of the Auditor-General's recommendations*. It is obvious that some time has passed since those Auditor-General reports were written and it is disappointing that we are only starting to consider them now.

The reports summarise the audit results for our water entities. I appreciate and thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for their focus on the topic of water entities, strengthening their information security systems and cybersecurity risks, which are alive and well. The report also covers other issues that I will touch on. In relation to cybersecurity and information systems, for not only our water entities but also government departments, the question must be asked and will continue to be asked: what is the government doing about it? Where is our data held? Who has the use of that data? More and more individuals are becoming increasingly concerned about cybersecurity leaks. It is imperative that our water entities take this extremely seriously, as has been recommended by the committee.

I refer to the liability of Seqwater for damages following the 2011 floods class action. In 2021 I mentioned in this House that the report found the financial audit results of Queensland's six state owned water sector entities were reliable apart from one non-recorded liability and expense relating to one entity. Of course, that was Seqwater's 2011 flood class action liability. Seqwater received a qualified opinion for their audit for not recording that liability and matching expense. At the time, the LNP members of the committee rightfully questioned the matter as a cause for great concern. As time has shown, Seqwater successfully appealed against the court judgement and did not have to pay damages to the group members of the class action. At the time of that class action decision, I said that the Premier had the power to direct those government owned corporations not to undertake appeals. It was a cruel action that cost taxpayers even more so that entities could carry on defending themselves in court.


At the time when these reports were prepared, Queensland was in the grip of a drought, as it definitely is now, particularly in the central and south-east regions. The issue of water security was noted in both reports as continuing to pose challenges such that 'projects that contribute to the reliable provision of an acceptable quality and quantity of water are a priority'. In 2023, we find ourselves back at that point with drought conditions upon us once again. In 2022, the Labor government was given a breather with heavy rainfall and water inflows into our catchments. However, it feels like we are back to square one when it comes to water security for South-East Queensland.

The government's complete failure to plan for and deliver water security in our great state continues. We have had the announcement of a desalination plant but with no details, no time frame, no construction and not even a location. On this side of the House we constantly talk about the Palaszczuk government being in chaos and crisis when it comes to water security. Their failure to deliver water security, just like cybersecurity as has been outlined in this report, is another perfect example of that. Fairly soon, the people of South-East Queensland are going to see rising water costs because of the failure to plan. Queenslanders keep suffering because the Palaszczuk government has failed to cater for the population growth ahead of us. Queenslanders definitely deserve better than this.

I finish by thanking the members of the committee, in particular the LNP members of the committee, of course.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I did say all 'members of the committee': Mr Chris Whiting, Mr Jim McDonald, Mr Michael Hart, Mr Robbie Katter, Mr Jim Madden and even Mr Tom Smith. Hopefully, by having a position on this committee, the member for Bundaberg will learn something about water in this state.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.26 pm): I can guarantee that I will never go to water when the member for Nanango is on her feet having a go at me. This report contains the recommendation of all of the committee, not just the opposition. I start by also thanking the committee members, led by the chair, Mr Chris Whiting, W-h-i-t-i-n-g; the deputy chair, Mr Jim McDonald, M-c-D-o-n-a-l-d; the member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden, M-a-d-d-e-n—not 'mad dog', just 'Madden'; the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart, H-a-r-t—although, H-E-A-R-T would do just as well; the member for Traeger, Mr Robbie Katter, K-a-t-t-e-r; and this old chunk of coal, Tom Smith—just a battler.

It is important to note that the committee put forward a recommendation following its inquiry into the Auditor-General's reports on water security and safety. We examined two financial audits that were conducted by the Auditor-General in relation to Queensland's water sector: *Water 2020* and *Water 2021*. We looked at six entities, which I will not spell: Seqwater, Sunwater, Urban Utilities, Unitywater, the Gladstone Area Water Board and the Mount Isa Water Board. The Auditor-General reports focused on strengthening the entities' information security. In a world of increasing technology, cyber attacks and, on a global scale, cyberwarfare, it is very important that government entities ensure that they undertake all steps to keep cybersecurity strong, which will keep communities safe. That is very important.

The committee made one recommendation—

That the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water takes steps to ensure that all water entities establish their own independent audit and risk management committees, and that these committees be required to consider information management system and cyber security risks.

Of course, we know that there is no greater risk to Queensland than the LNP. It is important to note the Queensland government response in full, which states—

The recommendation is supported, noting the water entities listed in this report have independent audit and risk management—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SMITH: I note that the member for Callide is asking how you spell 'LNP'. It is just three letters. He is still trying to work out what order to put them in.


The Queensland government response states—

The list of water entities includes the State-owned bulk water providers Sunwater, Seqwater, Gladstone Area Water Board and Mount Isa Water Board and the council-owned water distributor-retailers, Urban Utilities and Unitywater.

These independent audit and risk management committees consider a broad range of risks relevant to their businesses, including information management system and cyber security risks. Therefore, no further implementation is required.

I can hear a loud droning sound. I am not sure what it is, but it does sound slightly like the scraping of knuckles on concrete.

I want to mention how great is our water minister in this state. He is a fantastic minister who is making sure that he stands up for all of regional Queensland, not just his own patch in Central Queensland. That was on show with the announcement in the budget of the continuation of the 15 per cent irrigation discount for agriculture as well as our 35 per cent horticulture rebate. This helps our growers right throughout Queensland, especially one in the region of Bundaberg, Dean Akers. I have spoken about Deano a number of times. He is a good man and a good fellow. He happily stood up with us post the budget to talk about what these irrigation discounts mean to growers across the Bundaberg region. The Queensland Horticulture Board will no doubt be a big fan of them as well. I heard recently that they have had a little bit of a change, apparently under protest, but that is okay. We will make sure we continue to stand up for them. Is Labor for the bush? You can bet on it.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise to speak on the examination of Auditor-General's reports on the water sector. Two financial audits were conducted on Queensland's water sector: *Water 2020* and *Water 2021*. These reports highlight concerns about keeping information secure, ensuring water security and proactive governance. When dealing with information security and water security, a good government acts expeditiously to close gaps and loopholes. It is therefore concerning that, despite years of recommending improvements regarding information security, the QAO continues to find areas for further improvement. The QAO noted that there was almost a decade of outstanding recommendations from reports tabled as far back as 2015-16.

This report examines the audit of Seqwater, Sunwater, Urban Utilities, Unitywater, the Gladstone Area Water Board and the Mount Isa Water Board. It identified issues around liabilities from the 2011 floods class action; compliance and reliability of financial statements; declines in profit and shareholder returns; and that information security, drought and ensuring a sustainable water supply continue to pose challenges. As the committee noted, key findings include: water entities rely heavily on information systems and technology; a cyber breach was exposed where malicious actors accessed a web server; the need for strong security practices to protect information, respond to changes and safeguard against external threats; and for timely monitoring of access to systems.

It is seriously concerning that, despite years of being told to update security, the auditor found more weaknesses in the system and processes entities use to prepare financial statements and that security of information systems continues to be the most common weakness across the public sector. It has only one solution—one which is politically acceptable for a government which is anti dams and beset by inaction. The solution is a costly new venture—an \$8 billion desalination plant to cover up its lack of planning. Under this government, studies and business cases into potential projects pile up and never see the light of day. It seems that water security is only seen through the prism of a political narrative.

During the committee hearings, the member for Lockyer asked about information regarding the ongoing implications of drought and preparations for the longer term future that the entities are undertaking. Before he was cut short by the Labor Party chair who claimed, 'We are delving into opinion here,' the QAO senior director said—

It does become quite complex because it does cover a raft of different asset bases and agencies as a collective.


The casual attitude about information security, the use of data and ensuring data is current appears to be systemic. Only two months ago we debated another QAO report which found that the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water was not effectively managing the information it collected.

When the Auditor conducted this investigation, Queensland was experiencing drought. It is therefore timely to look at its findings as we enter the dryer El Nino climate cycle. The Auditor found—

The sustainable supply of water continues to be a challenge for the sector, with the majority of Queensland in drought ... Extreme weather conditions increase operational costs and the need to prioritise water security projects.

After nearly a decade, Queensland is still waiting for a water security plan. The Water Strategy Plan announced by the Premier only a few months ago is not a water security plan; it is more of a political fix. Announcements do not deliver water security and drought preparation. Dams underpin the viability of many regional areas such as Gympie by providing a reliable and secure water source for domestic, agricultural and industrial use. For years I have advocated raising the Borumba Dam wall to ensure the region's water security. When I ask about water security, the Minister for Water deflects responsibility either to the Gympie Regional Council or to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen. I was therefore interested to hear in an announcement about the proposed pumped hydro scheme that the Deputy Premier announced that a new dam wall will replace the existing Borumba Dam wall and increase the storage capacity from 46 gegalitres to 224 gegalitres. The announcement was never about our water security; it was about a renewables project.

The Gympie region needs assurance that downstream domestic, industrial and agricultural water users will not be adversely impacted by the lack of supply. When a government is obsessively focused on media cycles, on how things look and is besieged by chaos and crisis, it is careless, wasteful, paralysed by inaction and fails to plan, fund and build the water infrastructure Queensland needs.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.35 pm): In speaking to this committee report about the Auditor-General's report, I want to touch on one issue that was noted on page 4 of the report relating to the sustainable supply of water. Looking back into the Auditor-General's report, there is particular mention of the sustainable supply of water in relation to off-grid communities. I want to talk about Canungra, because nowhere in South-East Queensland is the supply of water and the sustainable supply of water so dire as it is in Canungra in the South-East Queensland region.

It has had its water supply production stopped twice since 2019 due to very low flows within Canungra Creek, which is the water source for Canungra. It is not connected to the grid. This is an issue that I have been raising for many years now, because it shows a complete failure of planning on the part of the state. Now that there is much more residential development occurring there, it is becoming a real point of contention for residents. Just today in the media there are reports of Canungra residents calling for a moratorium on development as the town's only source of water dries up. I table a media report from ABC News.

Tabled paper: Article from the ABC News online, dated 16 November 2023, titled 'Canungra residents call for moratorium on development as the town's only source of water dries up' [[1907](#)].

The media report refers to the fact that even people who have recently moved there, knowing what is going on, are very concerned about the pressure that has been placed on Canungra Creek. It is not just for the people who live there in residential blocks; it is also for businesses downstream on Canungra Creek towards Tamborine, for farming enterprises, for turf farms and people who are not users of the Urban Utilities network—people who use the standpipe in Canungra to obtain water for their acreage blocks. These users are placed under an enormous amount of pressure when Canungra Creek stops because water has to be tankered into town from Beaudesert. Not only do we have a water supply problem but we also have a road infrastructure problem, but that is another question for another day. The lack of planning over many years, ever since the state took over water responsibilities from councils in 2008, is causing a huge amount of problems in Canungra.

Seqwater has recently released its *South East Queensland Water Security Program 2023*. That document refers to the fact that strategic water supply options planning is underway. I have been talking and writing to Seqwater and urging for action on the water security front at Canungra for at least six years. In this document, which has only just recently been released, Seqwater says that it will get some planning options underway. I think that is too little and too slow. It says that eight to 12 years may be the time frame in which something could actually be done about it. That is not good enough for our families in Canungra, or for the farms and businesses that rely on that creek.

It does show a failure of planning on the part of the state. The residential developments that are putting pressure on the water supply in Canungra which the Auditor-General referred to were approved by a court order in 2011. It is not as though Seqwater and the state authorities have not had the opportunity to consider that there was going to be this pressure. Yet still in 2023 they are only talking about undertaking options analysis for something to occur perhaps in eight to 12 years time.

In the meantime, every time we get a dry spell and Canungra Creek stops running and a procession of trucks has to come into town every day just to keep people in water. That is not good enough for a town so close to metropolitan areas—to the Gold Coast and to Brisbane. It is also not good enough for people who pay premium dollars to be part of the SEQ Water Grid—like we all do in the SEQ Water Grid, paying for all the debt that has been racked up on the part of Seqwater over the last 20 years—to rely on that situation or to be in a situation where, if they live off the network, they can only get a thousand litres of water delivered at a time to keep their acreage property going during a drought and feed any animals they have. A thousand litres of water does not go very far when it is very dry.

I am highlighting this because the Auditor-General has highlighted that there are sustainable water supply issues for Canungra and other off-grid communities. The state needs to pay more attention to this because it knows that more development is coming. It is already approved, and the situation is only going to get worse if action is not taken.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (3.41 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee Report No. 39, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 16: 2021-22: Contract management for new infrastructure*, tabled on 1 March 2023.

This speech will follow pretty much the same outline as the one before. Once again, there have been some pertinent recommendations from the Audit Office about how state entities can improve some of their processes. I will talk specifically to what is in this report.

The gist of it is that the Auditor-General made 11 recommendations. The committee report says that there is some really good evidence and some indications that all of those 11 recommendations that the Auditor-General made have been followed through. The two departments—the Department of Energy and Public Works and the Department of Education—should be congratulated for that.


The reason the Auditor-General focused on those two departments is that they deliver approximately 60 per cent of our infrastructure building projects. That is why we need to look at what their project management practices are. Project management is a very specific science these days. There are many experts involved. It is hugely important. My brother-in-law is one of those people who works in project management. To see the level of skill and expertise that is brought to this particular science by many Queenslanders is quite awe inspiring. The committee report recognised the significant work done by both departments to improve their contract management and governance frameworks. That includes training, streamlining business units, updating frameworks and consolidating guidelines.

I will go into some very quick details of what the Auditor-General recommended. Firstly, the Auditor-General said that those two departments have designed their contract management frameworks to manage new infrastructure projects—so those frameworks are there—but they had not adequately updated them. Secondly, the Auditor-General said that some variations can be positive and others can indicate a range of issues. In general, it is managed well. In the time period audited, they averaged about nine per cent of the total cost of the audited projects. That is well within the 10 per cent buffer that is built into those projects.

Thirdly, the Auditor-General said that the capital works management framework, for which DEPW is responsible, is good. They do that well, but they said that the DPEW could promote its services for managing infrastructure contracts to other government departments and, at the same time, other entities could make better use of this department's expertise. Fourthly, the Auditor-General said that both the DEPW and DoE needed to provide better guidance, training and support to their project teams in managing contracts. I think that is relevant to all departments.

When we asked the departments whether they had implemented the 11 recommendations from the Auditor-General and they said, 'Yes, we have,' we were impressed with the amount of detail they provided. I will not have enough time to go into too much of it, but the detail they provided was impressive in showing what they had done to implement the recommendations to improve contract management. For example, in response to the first recommendation to strengthen its whole-of-government framework, the DEPW confirmed that it is modernising the governing framework for infrastructure asset management framework and it has a new building policy framework which consolidates and rationalises four existing frameworks which govern how agencies plan, deliver and maintain government building projects. That would have commenced by now. It is great to see that they have taken charge of that. Secondly, the DEPW has updated, where necessary, the whole-of-government framework.

Another recommendation that I thought was quite pertinent was for the departments to revise their internal policies, procedures and guidance. DEPW advised that they had established a Contract Management Centre of Excellence, a contract management plan and a user guide, which has been released. If organisations such as the Department of Education use that throughout the state, I think we are going to see improvements and get a heightened quality of project management that is already being done by the state government.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.46 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak on the committee's report titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report 16: 2021-22—Contract management for new infrastructure*. Once again I would like to place on the record my thanks to Mr Brendan Worrall and his team in the Auditor-General's office for the great work they do in holding the government to account and identifying deficiencies and opportunities, as good risk management and accountants do.

As we outlined in our statement of reservation to this report, at the time of our report the government had proposed to spend \$52.2 billion on infrastructure projects over the next four years. That means that project management is vitally important. Project management and the control of projects is how projects are delivered on time and on budget. It is a complex issue. You need to make sure that those projects are managed well every step of the way.

In a sample audit of six projects worth \$1.4 billion, it was uncovered that there were overruns of \$127 million. If those overruns occur in the \$52.2 billion worth of projects, then there will be an extra \$5.3 billion, or thereabouts, which Queenslanders are going to have to find or cut services, as we have seen.


Last night we were speaking about waste. This Auditor-General's report talks about proper contract management. I note the comments from the Auditor-General about the capital works management framework, which is the whole-of-government framework for managing infrastructure projects, and these two departments deliver around 60 per cent of infrastructure projects. The Auditor-General identified that the whole-of-government framework was not well understood by many departments, and one of the recommendations was that it be better promoted so that people understand the risks if projects are not properly managed. Departments were regularly doing their own project management and there was a risk that projects were not being controlled very well.

The 11 recommendations in the Auditor-General's report talked about all of those contract management approaches to make sure there is proper project management. We have had the Woolloongabba development, which was originally costed at \$1 billion through a media release but then turned out to be a \$2.7 billion development. Then a \$19 billion hydro scheme was announced, although I note that that money is not in the budget yet.

I note that the Auditor-General's report did identify the establishment of a Contract Management Centre of Excellence and promoted learnings from that. One of the things professional people do is capture learnings and understandings and replicate those what worked well and get the best outcomes possible. That is something that Queenslanders rightfully deserve.

The Audit Office also found that the whole-of-government capital management framework had not been reviewed for a period of time. It was introduced in 1999 and there had been very little change to it over that time, so I welcome the recommendation that the whole-of-government framework for contract management be reviewed every three years. That is completely out of date when you look at it as being a whole-of-government framework, and that is probably why some of the different departments were not using that. Some of the framework is pretty straightforward and simple, but other things are necessary for best practice controlled engineering projects or other projects that are being delivered with public money.

This audit looked at the \$1.4 billion and uncovered \$127 million in overspend. I welcome the recommendations of the Auditor-General. I recognise that the State Development and Regional Industries Committee will be doing another review of the Auditor-General's process within the next year. I look forward to being part of that and seeing improvements in the contract management framework and that best practice is achieved in every case possible across project management in Queensland.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.51 pm): I rise to speak to the examination of *Auditor-General Report 16: 2021-22—Contract management for new infrastructure* by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee and its report No. 39 of the 57th Parliament tabled February 2023. I would first like to acknowledge my fellow members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee: our chair, the member for Bancroft; the deputy chair, the member for Lockyer; and the members for Bundaberg, Burleigh and Traeger. As well, I would like to thank the committee secretariat, Hansard and the staff of the Queensland Auditor-General's office.

The Auditor-General focused on the Department of Energy and Public Works and the Department of Education. This is because these departments deliver approximately 60 per cent of the Queensland government's building infrastructure project. The audit focused on contracts entered into by the Department of Energy and Public Works for six projects with a combined value of \$1.4 billion. After doing so, the Auditor-General made 11 recommendations relating to government frameworks, managing contract performance and good practice. A summary of the key findings of the Auditor-General's office states—

The DEPW and the DoE have designed their contract management frameworks to manage new infrastructure projects but have not adequately updated them.

During a project, the scope of work may change for various reasons, resulting in contract variations. Some variations can be positive and others indicate a range of issues. At September 2021, the contracts reviewed by the QAO had over \$127 million in contract variations, or nine per cent of the total cost of the audited projects.

The Capital Works Management Framework (for which the DEPW is responsible) is the whole-of-government framework for managing infrastructure projects. The QAO found that at the whole-of-government level, DEPW could further promote its services by managing infrastructure contracts. At the same time, entities could be making more use of the department's knowledge.

The Auditor-General also stated—

... the Department of Energy and Public Works and the Department of Education need to provide better guidance, training and support to their project teams in managing contracts for infrastructure projects. Project teams have not consistently demonstrated that they appropriately manage contract risks and issues, nor have they always adequately assessed the performance of contractors.

The Auditor-General advised that the Department of Energy and Public Works was modernising the governing framework for infrastructure asset management in the public sector and it is addressing the Queensland Audit Office's recommendations across government through the recently released Building Policy Framework. He stated—


The new BPF consolidates and rationalises 4 existing frameworks which govern how agencies plan, deliver, and maintain government building projects. The new framework was set to commence 1 July 2023.

As part of the BFP implementation, DEPW has commenced the Reinforced Infrastructure Contract Management (RICMAN) initiative. This initiative seeks to develop a targeted contract management framework for infrastructure contracts and bridge the gap between policy principles and their operational application by public sector entities.

All of the recommendations made by the Auditor-General were supported by the State Development and Rural Industries Committee. The committee recognised that effective contract management is critical to ensuring value for money, securing the project's intended benefits and reducing the risk of cost overruns and delays.

Having considered *Auditor-General Report 16: 2021-22—Contract management of new infrastructure*, the committee made two recommendations: firstly, that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report; and secondly, that the State Development and Rural Industries Committee,

within 12 months, further examine the progress of implementation of the Queensland Audit Office recommendations by the Department of Energy and Public Works and the Department of Education. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to contribute to the examination of the Auditor-General's report. I thank all committee members. I will not spell out their names this time, but I do thank them for their work. It is important there is oversight into how the government operates, especially in the delivery of key projects. It is worth noting that the committee accepted the recommendations of the Auditor-General and we appreciate the work that they do. When you enter into big game changing infrastructure, from time to time there can be variability in the contract; however, it is a good thing that governments continue to invest. It is a good thing that the Palaszczuk government continues to invest right throughout Queensland, whether it is in the south-east corner, Wide Bay, Central Queensland, further north or out west. That is exactly what this government does.

It was interesting to note the statement of reservation by the member for Lockyer and the member for Burleigh. You do have to wonder whether, if they have concerns about contract variabilities and if they had been in government, they would have discontinued those contracts. Would they have cut key projects? Would the North Queensland stadium not exist under the LNP? Would the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College not exist under the LNP? Would those students and teachers, teacher aides, cleaners and admin workers not have a school to call home? Would there be a lack of jobs throughout the south-east corner because the LNP got out the razors and cut key projects?


I also note that in the statement of reservation the LNP highlights Cross River Rail. We know that not only is Cross River Rail transformative for the south-east corner and playing a major role in the Olympics; it is creating jobs across the Wide Bay region. In fact, it is not just creating jobs; it is creating careers. We know that careers create families, lifestyles and livability. That is exactly what Cross River Rail will do through the train factory at Torbanlea. I note that the member Maryborough is here, and I know how proud he is of the trains in Maryborough. He has changed that city. What's more, it is generating jobs in Hervey Bay. It is generating jobs for the people of Bundaberg. All that the people who live in Childers have to do is jump on the highway for 25 minutes and they will be at their career manufacturing trains. For people living in Bundaberg Central it is an hour's drive and you are there at your career manufacturing trains. It is game changing for all of Queensland, especially for the Wide Bay region.

We have to wonder if the LNP would cut that program. I was talking to the member for Maryborough recently and he said, 'Absolutely.' He was adamant that they would cut it. It is getting close to four o'clock and I am the last contributor, so I will allow the vote to occur and I will wrap it up there. The LNP will cut but we will continue to invest.

Debate, on motion of Mr Smith, adjourned.


COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Transport and Resources Committee report on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) by 8 March 2024 and the report back date for the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be varied from 24 November 2023 to 19 January 2024.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (4.01 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Exhibited Animals Act 2015, the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017, the Fisheries Act 1994, the Forestry Act 1959, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Sugar Industry Act 1999, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 15 November 2023

Tabled paper: Message, dated 15 November 2023, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[1908\]](#).

Introduction



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (4.01 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Exhibited Animals Act 2015, the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017, the Fisheries Act 1994, the Forestry Act 1959, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Sugar Industry Act 1999, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement for compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 [\[1909\]](#).

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes [\[1910\]](#).

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1911\]](#).

Today I have pleasure in introducing the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The bill is an omnibus bill that amends 14 acts and six regulations. Most of the amendments are directed at more effective protection for, and regulation of, agriculture, animal management and welfare, forestry, biosecurity and fisheries ensuring a safe and sustainable Queensland.

In particular, this bill will amend the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 to strengthen dog laws in Queensland and address community concerns following the recent spate of serious dog attacks. These attacks have not been isolated to one area of Queensland, or to particular locations within the community, and highlight the need for action to be taken. Dogs are an important part of over a million Queensland families, and responsible dog ownership can have numerous benefits to both individuals and the community.

I know that there will be many in this place who, if they do not have a dog themselves, have constituents with very firm views on dogs within the community. In my seat of Ferry Grove—and I am sure it is the same in many other seats—I engage with a lot of those constituents. On many occasions, they bring their dogs to markets and to coffee catch-ups and talk about the effects of attacks on their own cute, fluffy animals as a result of irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to get out of control and sometimes attack these dogs.

This bill will have strong community interest, no doubt, and I am sure the committee will have very strong community engagement on this matter. The benefit with our system of government is, although the elements surrounding our proposed stronger dog laws have been through long consultation as well as public feedback, the committee process allows for that final round of community engagement on the draft laws for our state.

However, dog management presents an ongoing challenge for local government, our health system and communities. Across Queensland, more than 8,500 complaints about aggressive dogs and dog attacks are received annually by local governments, with approximately 2,500 dog attack victims requiring hospitalisation. Unfortunately, 81 per cent of those are children who are attacked, sometimes in their own homes. These statistics are harrowing, and that is why further action has been required. A lot of these attacks do not make the media, but any attack is an experience that can live with people for years and can cause mental as well as physical trauma.

That is why I established the Animal Management Taskforce to respond to community and local government concerns about serious dog attacks across Queensland. The Animal Management Taskforce is made up of mayors and councillors from across Queensland, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the RSPCA and senior Department of Agriculture and Fisheries officers. Assisting the Animal Management Taskforce is a Technical Working Group represented by officers from a range of urban, rural, regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities and local governments, the Local Government Association of Queensland and the RSPCA.

The Technical Working Group was tasked with compiling evidence to support the priority areas and to make recommendations to the taskforce that provide an effective and efficient animal management framework. At this point I would like to thank the Local Government Association of Queensland as well as the involvement of individual councils for their involvement in the taskforce. The information provided by the councils to the taskforce highlighted a number of areas where there could be improvements to how they manage dogs within their communities.

The Local Government Association of Queensland and councils were active in their involvement, and there were areas of improvement that were identified that went for further public consideration. On 30 May 2023, I chaired a meeting of the Animal Management Taskforce to discuss the work undertaken to date, including the preparation of a discussion paper which would cover a suite of proposed measures to better deal with dangerous dogs in this state and promote community safety.

The amendments included in this bill are the culmination of reforms recommended by the taskforce as well as input from the community on our public 'Strong dog laws: safer communities' discussion paper, released on 25 June 2023. I said at the time, 'It is so important that we get this right to make sure any new laws meet community expectations.' The consultation was open for 60 days and allowed many Queenslanders to have their say. The discussion paper highlighted the strong views Queenslanders have when it comes to human safety as well as the safety of other dogs. This was demonstrated by the feedback received during public consultation on the discussion paper confirming strong community support for all the prevention and enforcement strategies and activities included in this bill.

I would like to thank all those who provided submissions and responded to the discussion paper. Almost 4,000 people completed a survey or made a written submission. This included 14 written submissions from local governments, including the LGAQ; 11 submissions from animal welfare, veterinarian or dog associations; four from environmental and native wildlife organisations, as well as written submissions from the service industry, including Australia Post, as well as the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties.

On 13 July, the survey was amended to collect data on the dog ownership status of survey respondents. Of the respondents, 3.9 per cent did not provide their dog ownership status. Of the respondents who did provide their dog ownership status: 87.38 per cent own or have owned a dog not declared dangerous or menacing; 1.99 per cent own or have owned a dog declared dangerous or menacing; 4.07 per cent own or have owned both dogs not declared dangerous or menacing and declared dangerous or menacing; and 6.56 per cent have never owned a dog.

There was also a very broad geographical spread identified for consultation on this discussion paper: 54 per cent of respondents were from major Queensland cities such as Brisbane and areas around the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast; a further 20 per cent were from inner regional Queensland locations, which include areas such as Bundaberg and Gympie; 20 per cent of respondents were from outer regional centres such as Townsville and Cairns; four per cent were from remote Queensland; and two per cent were from very remote Queensland.

Deputy Speaker, you would recall when we were governing from Cairns as a parliament earlier this year, I engaged with the governors and also the mayors from the Torres Straits and they referred to many occasions and issues they face in dealing with dogs in those communities, matters you would all too well be very familiar with.

About 90 per cent of survey respondents supported a community and educational campaign, 69 per cent supported the ban on the restricted dog breeds, 84 per cent supported a penalty review, 88 per cent supported a new effective control in public places offence, 81 per cent supported clarification of destruction orders, and 71 per cent supported streamlining external reviews. The bill implements all these proposals with only minor variations.

The bill emphasises the importance of people keeping their dogs under control when in public by introducing a new offence for not keeping a dog under effective control in a public place. This will complement existing offences where a person did not take reasonable steps to ensure their dog does not attack or cause fear, and for anyone encouraging a dog to attack or cause fear. The bill also includes significant increases in maximum penalties which will range from terms of imprisonment of up to three years where a person encourages a dog to attack and that results in death or grievous bodily harm to a person, down to fines where no wounding to person or animal has occurred.

The bill also increases the penalties for a range of other existing dog management offences in line with community expectations. Whilst legislation regulating dogs is not uniform around Australia, almost every state and territory has an offence related to dog attacks where the maximum penalty includes imprisonment. This bill brings Queensland into line with penalties in other jurisdictions, with recognition of the Queensland legal frameworks, and sends a strong message to irresponsible dog owners that the Queensland government is committed to safeguarding the community from dangerous dogs.

The bill also includes amendments to ban the five dog breeds classified as restricted in Queensland. These breeds, for example the American pit bull terrier, have all been associated with dog fighting. These breeds already cannot be imported into Australia and are only able to be kept in Queensland and most other states and territories under a permit. The dogs are already defined under section 63 of the act, and defines the dogs as those listed in the Commonwealth Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. These breeds are: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier and Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario. Very few Queenslanders own these dogs, with the restricted dog register held by my department identifying the youngest restricted dogs as 12 years old.

This bill will mean that these dogs will not be allowed in Queensland and no banned breed of dog will be present once currently permitted dogs die out. The existing dogs of these breeds will be grandfathered so that they will not need to be put down, but no new dogs of this breed will be allowed to replace them.

In addition, the bill will support local governments by increasing clarity around when an authorised person must or should make a destruction order for a dog, and limiting external appeals of QCAT decisions on destruction orders to questions of law. The amendments include a requirement that a destruction order must be made if a regulated dog or a prohibited dog seriously attacks a person or animal. Feedback from councils as part of the taskforce highlighted the need to ensure that dogs were dealt with quickly and from a humane perspective, and not left languishing until a decision was completed. It should also be made clear that, by the time a decision is appealed to QCAT, the facts of the matter will already have been reviewed twice.

To also assist local government, there will be provisions for penalty infringement notices, or PINs, that will allow councils flexibility for managing effective control requirements in public places, especially with dogs biting other animals. PINs give flexibility to councils to deal with matters quickly and provide a financial impost designed to deter poor behaviour and prevent conditions that can lead to people and animals being bitten.

I reflect on the time when I spent some time at the dog park with the member for Mansfield and the discussion paper had been recently released. There was overwhelming support from the constituents of the member for Mansfield for the Palaszczuk government acting on their behalf in appropriately bringing in these laws that the community is calling out for.

A legislative authority is also created for the chief executive to make guidelines about matters relating to compliance—for example, guidelines to help an authorised person to decide whether or not to make a destruction order.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to community safety, including better protections for the community from dangerous dogs. That is why the amendments included in this bill are part of a package of measures to promote responsible dog ownership which balances the numerous benefits of

dog ownership and community safety. Today, as part of that package, I am announcing an additional \$5.304 million over five years to support more coordinated, consistent and effective government action in response to dog attacks. This funding will ensure that local government animal management officers are supported to implement the bill. It will also fund a team of specialised investigators within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and a dedicated prosecutor to address those incidents which could result in prosecution for more serious offences.

Funding of \$0.595 million over two years is also available for co-designed initiatives to promote safety and reduce the incidence of, and harm caused by, dog attacks in First Nations' communities. Funding of \$1.567 million is being provided for a community education and awareness campaign, delivered with stakeholders across a range of platforms. This campaign will promote dog safety directly into Queensland homes, particularly those with vulnerable young children. The community education received strong feedback as part of the discussion paper with 90 per cent supportive of the development and implementation of a community education and awareness raising campaign, while five per cent of respondents were not supportive. In total, \$7.574 million over five years will be available under the *Strong dog laws: safer communities* implementation package.

With so many households accommodating companion dogs as pets in Queensland, the government recognises the inherent value and importance of dog ownership. These measures continue to support responsible dog ownership; however, the government is acting decisively on rising community concerns about safety and is delivering these stronger laws with more severe penalties to deal with behaviours that cause menace or serious harm in our public places.

The bill also amends the Fisheries Act 1994 to introduce measures that will support continued access to commercial fishing within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and will meet wildlife trade operation conditions for trawl fisheries, while ensuring a sustainable future. Wildlife trade operation conditions are set by the Commonwealth government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and an approval of a wildlife trade operation is made through an instrument signed by the minister or delegate.

For Queensland, it is vitally important that the wildlife trade operation is maintained in fisheries, otherwise there would be potential for financial loss for our commercial fishers. In March 2022, representatives of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization visited the Great Barrier Reef. On 28 November 2022, the report of their missions was released, which included a recommendation that the reef be ascribed on the list of World Heritage in danger. I encourage members of this place to read that report and the implications on the fisheries sector as part of the report.

My department has been instrumental in developing a response to the recommendations, some of which have already been publicly announced today, with further announcements of the report to follow. I make clear: there is no way to ignore the report, or to do nothing. Should the reef be listed as in danger, this would have major economic and reputational impacts on Queensland, including to the Queensland tourism industry and to commercial fishing in Queensland. There is an industry wrapped around the reef that is worth \$6.4 billion to the Queensland economy. It supports some 64,000 jobs.

Our government is committed to demonstrating to the international scientific environment community that Queensland takes the health of the Great Barrier Reef seriously. That is why this bill amends the Fisheries Act to introduce a legislative framework to support independent onboard monitoring on commercial fishing vessels in Queensland. Independent, onboard monitoring will allow data to be validated on bycatch. Any interactions with protected species will support continued access to commercial fishing within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area and meet Wildlife Trade Operation conditions for trawl fisheries, which may be implemented by the middle of 2024.

The amendments to support independent onboard monitoring include new chief executive powers to impose video monitoring of onboard observer conditions, and to approve monitoring equipment and appoint onboard observers. The amendment also provides for the installation of requirements for video monitoring equipment, including an express provision that recreational fishery activities are not to be recorded and an offence is introduced for interfering with monitoring equipment. To support the legislative framework, the bill includes a head of power to prescribe relevant matters for regulation, including specific authorities and boats to which video monitoring or onboard observers will apply requirements of how monitoring equipment is to be used, the period of use, along with information about the types of monitoring equipment use that must be kept.

These reforms will ensure the Great Barrier Reef remains an important and valuable resource for generations to come. Nearly every area of fisheries gets scrutinised by the committee, and that is to their credit. I know that at the estimates hearings there were detailed and insightful questions in regard to Queensland commercial fisheries. In this instance, I place firmly on the record that these provisions need to happen. Queensland is not an island when it comes to the legislative oversight of the fisheries sector. Queensland must act to preserve our commercial sector, as without action—as I previously mentioned—the Commonwealth's powers related to world trade operation conditions have the ability to intervene.

I reference the previous environment minister, the Hon. Sussan Ley, who wrote to me in regards to revoking the inshore fin fisheries, but also revoking the blue swimmer crab fisheries and Queensland mud crab fisheries. Furthermore, there are expectations for buyers, consumers, as well as the broader international community, when it comes to fisheries interactions. There is genuine international interest to—and I quote from the report recommendation—'develop and implement appropriate mandatory independent mechanisms for discard and bycatch monitoring, such as e-monitoring via vessel-based cameras, on all gillnet and trawl vessels within the property'.

There is also strong environmental non-government organisation interest in these provisions. I have no doubt that the committee will see submissions from them, as well as from their supporters, in the submission phase of this inquiry. In addition to the independent onboard monitoring reforms, the bill includes amendments to support the effective and efficient operation of the Fisheries Act more broadly. The bill will streamline the process for amending aquaculture improvements by the creation of a separate aquaculture authority to approve the ongoing operation and management aspects of aquaculture operations. The bill will enhance fisheries enforcement by simplifying and modernising seizure provisions.

The bill includes amendments to both the Fisheries Act and the Nature Conservation Act 1992. It replaces outdated references to First Nations people to support inclusive legislation that meets community expectations. These amendments will bring these acts into line with more contemporary legislation and will ensure our laws are truly reflective and encompass our First Nations people and reflects well on this place to show that we are listening to our First Nations voices.

This bill will ensure modern and responsible legislative frameworks by implementing legislative review recommendations for the Biosecurity Act 2014 and the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017. Both these acts were relatively new pieces of legislation and included the requirement for a review within five years of their commencement. These reviews confirmed the acts are performing well, but identified some areas for operational improvement where regulatory burden can be introduced via minimum effective legislation.

The Biosecurity Act review made several recommendations for improving its operation, including: transferring the list of prohibited and restricted matter to the Biosecurity Regulation 2016; improving DAF's ability to work collaboratively with local governments on biosecurity management; giving the chief executive power to approve extending the maximum period during which an inspector may use emergency power; extending the maximum period of a biosecurity emergency order from 21 days to six weeks to support emergency responses; and allowing a BEO to require a person to maintain movement records.

In response to the Biosecurity Act review, the bill makes a number of amendments to the Biosecurity Act to implement review recommendations. The bill amends the Biosecurity Act to transfer the list of prohibited and restricted matter to schedule 1 and schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act in the biosecurity regulation. It supports the effective and timely management of these lists. The bill improves emergency responsiveness under the Biosecurity Act by increasing the maximum length of time of a biosecurity emergency order may be in effect under the Biosecurity Act from 21 days up to 6 weeks. The bill gives the chief executive power to approve an extension of the maximum period an inspector can use their emergency powers from 96 hours up to seven days.

These provisions are required to ensure this state can equal deal with its biosecurity response. Since the act has been in place there has been a number of responses that Biosecurity Queensland has faced and, each time, they have done a great job. In terms of what that means when compared with other jurisdictions, the New South Wales Biosecurity Act 2015 contains the most comparable structure to Queensland and it allows their biosecurity emergency order equivalent to be in place for up to six months, with the ability to extend it for a further six months. For comparison, Victoria captures biosecurity emergencies under their broader Emergency Management Act 2013. An emergency

management plan may be put in place and it is reviewable at least every three years. As the requirements for making an emergency management plan more onerous, urgent updates may be made to a plan. These can only be enforced for a period of three months.

There will be protections in place to ensure reasonable use of these powers, although the maximum penalty would increase from 21 days to six weeks, but in considering whether to invoke an emergency order the chief executive must ensure the duration of the order is as short as reasonably practicable. The maximum duration of an inspector's emergency power would increase from 96 hours to a maximum of seven days at the discretion of the chief executive. The chief executive must publish the reasons for extension on the department's website as soon as reasonably practicable. These safeguards are reasonable in balancing the requirement of the need to have a strong biosecurity framework in Queensland to protect our agricultural sector from threats of disease such as foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease, while at the same time not having due to powers that are too broad for the demand as required.

Ultimately, staff need the time to deal with the multiple requirements of our biosecurity response and these provisions assist in that. The bill supports collaboration with local governments by authorising local governments under the Biosecurity Act to deal with certain pests under that invasive biosecurity matter. This is limited to invasive plants and animals that have been listed under the local law and where the chief executive is satisfied the listed matter meets the relevant criteria. The bill introduces these changes along with other minor amendments that enable more responsive management of biosecurity risks by simplifying powers of entry in an emergency and clarifying who is responsible for destruction of a biosecurity threat.

The bill also introduces recommendations from the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act review done in the first half of 2022. These amendments include changing the title of an enforcement action notice to 'notice inviting a request for mediation'. This is intended to reduce the perceived emphasis on enforcement action and ensure the process does not come across as unnecessarily adversarial for those unfamiliar with it, particularly at a time when they are potentially under financial and emotional stress. The bill also establishes a requirement that the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act be reviewed every 10 years to ensure it continues to achieve its purposes. With the possibility of future drought impacts on farm viability, these provisions will assist our producers and should be a means to reduce stress at times when there is already enough stress.

The bill also includes miscellaneous amendments to better protect our primary industries, promote animal welfare and biosecurity, and address human rights. The bill will support the industrial cannabis industry in Queensland by clarifying that industrial cannabis seed may be supplied to a seed handler and improving information-sharing provisions with other agencies such as the Queensland Police Service under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. The bill will improve animal welfare by ensuring businesses are appropriately responsible for the conduct of their employees and representatives in relation to animal welfare offences under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

The bill amends the false and misleading information offence provision in the Sugar Industry Act 1999 and the forfeiture provision in the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 to align with human rights. These provisions have been identified in a review of the Human Rights Act and should not be seen as controversial.

The bill also amends the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 to include a specific power to require veterinary premises to produce relevant records to support the Veterinary Surgeons Board to more easily obtain records where a veterinarian no longer works at the practice.


This bill is important in delivering community expectations when it comes to dangerous dogs and ensuring our councils have the necessary powers to take the actions required to keep Queenslanders safe while also ensuring there is an understanding of the place dogs have in so many peoples' lives.

The fisheries provisions are necessary to ensure that our commercial sector meets the expectations of the global community as well as the oversight requirements from the Commonwealth when it comes to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and related wildlife trade operation conditions. Without the provisions I have outlined, the sector will be constrained.

At this point I would like to thank my department for the extensive consultation that has occurred on this bill as well as all of the organisations and groups that have made submissions to the differing sections. Finally, I thank all Queenslanders who have been involved, whether through the informal consultations or the discussion papers that have led directly to the relevant provisions. The feedback

has been appreciated and welcome and there is always that further engagement through the committee process. The committee has a detailed, interesting and necessary bill that will excite strong community engagement before it, and I wish it well in its consideration. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (4.32 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development and Regional Industries Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (4.32 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report to the House on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by Friday, 8 March 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3619, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.33 pm), continuing: It is my pleasure to rise and continue my contribution on this bill. With your understanding, Mr Deputy Speaker, can I acknowledge someone I was due to meet at four o'clock, Md Shakhawat Hossain, the Consul General from Bangladesh from the consulate in Sydney. Welcome to the Queensland parliament. The Consul General has had the pleasure of meeting Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young, Governor, and I am sure he will be meeting other government ministers over the next couple of days. Welcome. I commiserate with the Consul General about Australia chasing down 306 runs in the World Cup the other night. However, it was not Queenslanders who did it; it was Western Australians with a couple of New South Welshmen.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Consul General, the House welcomes you.

Mr LANGBROEK: Welcome, Consul General.

I continue my contribution on the emblems bill. In addition to our coat of arms, which has been acknowledged previously in speeches, there is the state badge and flag, and other Queensland emblems and icons include the koala, the brolga, the Cooktown orchid and the Great Barrier Reef anemone fish from March 2005, which I referred to in my speech from the 51st Parliament. I will table a photograph—and I think the member for Scenic Rim said that is a misrepresentation and is misleading the House. There is also the state gem, the sapphire. Of course, let's not forget our state colour, the mighty maroon.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 8 March 2005, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland parliament, of a speech by the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, titled 'Emblems of Queensland Bill' [\[1912\]](#).

We have heard from others that joining the list is a dinosaur, the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*, as the state's fossil emblem. It was named in homage to the Central Queensland town of Muttaburra, located in the electorate of my honourable colleague the member for Gregory. We have heard it was unearthed by Doug Langdon, a local grazier, who stumbled across a fossilised leg bone beside an Outback waterhole on his Rosebery Downs Station in the early 1960s. It is named after him.

The muttaburrasaurus dates back approximately 100 million years, to the Cretaceous period. It was a herbivorous creature equipped with rows of grinding teeth. Some members here would have some experience with grinding teeth. It does not mean they are related to the muttaburrasaurus. Queenslanders visiting the Queensland Museum at South Bank can view the skeleton of the muttaburrasaurus located within the museum.

An honourable member: Do you know a good dentist?

Mr LANGBROEK: I know a few good dentists! There is more to this legislative journey than the acknowledgement of the state fossil emblem—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: But I cannot show you their face, member for Glass House. The bill encompasses pivotal amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. Whilst minor and technical, these changes are aimed at enhancing and clarifying parliamentary processes and procedures.

Firstly, I will touch on the amendment to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. It simply clarifies that members of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee have had the ability to participate in committee meetings via various means including by telephone, video or other electronic means since 23 April 1998. Secondly, turning to the Parliamentary Service Act 1988, the scope of the parliamentary precinct is to be explicitly defined as encompassing the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Legislative Assembly is in session. Adding to your duties, Mr Deputy Speaker, this bill will task the Speaker with preparing human rights certificates and explanatory notes for by-laws and rules made under the Parliamentary Service Act and will also include the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote notified to the Assembly.

As we celebrate the recognition of the muttaburrasaurus as the state fossil emblem, let us also acknowledge the importance of these legislative amendments. The LNP will not oppose the bill. Amendments in this bill represent a commitment to clarity, efficiency and the continuous improvement of our parliamentary processes. Together, these changes contribute to the growth of Queensland, showcasing not only our rich palaeontological history but also the resilience and adaptability of our democratic institution in which I am proud to stand before you.



Mr SULLIVAN (Stafford—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to support the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and I do so proudly. Before I kick off my own contribution, I wish to reflect on a few contributions we have heard so far, particularly that of the member for Logan, the chair of the committee. He went through in great detail and with such passion the extraordinary story that brought us here today, well supported by his fellow members including the member for Hervey Bay.

The story of Doug and Pearl Langdon is amazing. I will not repeat the history that other members have gone through. However, I will say that the tenacity, the instinct, the gut feeling, the ability and the dedication to see it through in terms of the difficulties of getting the fossils sorted and transporting them to Brisbane, and the dedication to the people of their town, of their community and of Queensland in making sure this was actually a public discovery and not their own form of self-promotion was extraordinary. It is to their credit that, as humble as they were and are, they did not want that. However, I think they deserve the credit they are getting in this bill.

I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House and for promoting it with his tourism hat on. I want to express that there are exciting opportunities for Queensland more broadly and for Western Queensland in particular building on the dinosaur trail in Outback Queensland, including the Australian Age of Dinosaurs in Winton, the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument in Winton, the Kronosaurus Korner in Richmond, the Flinders Discovery Centre and museum in Hughenden, the Eromanga Natural History Museum, the Outback at Isa, the Riversleigh Fossil Discovery Centre in Mount Isa, the Riversleigh World Heritage site, the Marine Reptile Fossil Display at Boulia, the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre in Isisford just outside of Longreach and of course the Muttaburrasaurus Interpretation Centre in Muttaburra. Having mentioned Richmond, I also wanted to pay tribute to the

contribution from the member for Mermaid Beach. I think his personal history is extraordinary and I genuinely appreciated his contribution and insight. I spoke to him briefly and he promised to tell me more when we find time to catch up for a drink, so, member for Mermaid Beach, I look forward to hearing more history.

Having gone through the benefits for Western Queensland and where this history started, as the proud member for Stafford this is not just about the Outback but about all of Queensland. Like the iconic Ekka, this is something that brings country and city together. My experience comes through the Queensland Museum and I pay particular respect to the role that the Queensland Museum played in getting us to where we are. I want to give a particular shout-out to Alan Bartholomai, who was the Queensland Museum director, and the then Queensland Museum curator, Ralph Molnar, for not only making this happen but for being part of the naming process to what we now know as *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*.

Last night in a different capacity I said that when it came to graduating year 12 students it was not my motivation for getting into public life but one of the benefits is the ability to embarrass your children, so I will now get to do it again when it comes to my son. I spent many years at the Queensland Museum learning about muttaburrasaurus and loving the education of my son in learning about dinosaurs and having a love of dinosaurs. I was a single parent at the time and made sure that he and I both had an annual pass. We spent many a weekend learning about it with the interactive displays. Other members like the member for Bundaberg have referred to the stampede wall and the importance of that in our state's history. As my son got into prep and could read for himself, seeing his learning and his engagement and inspiration that the Queensland Museum gave him was fantastic. I should, as a sidenote, give a shout-out that his second favourite museum experience was when Thomas the Tank Engine came to the Ipswich Railway Museum. Member for Bundamba, is that just in your patch or in Ipswich?

Mr Madden: No! It is in my patch.

Mr SULLIVAN: Forgive me, member for Ipswich West. I did not mean to cause a stir in the House, so forgive me. Just before anyone in the opposition tries to raise a matter of relevance, one of the great ways to enjoy the dinosaur trail in Western Queensland is to catch the *Spirit of the Outback* out there, so do not say, Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, that I cannot make anything relevant.

Going back to the Queensland Museum at South Bank, my son and I loved it when he was a toddler and a young boy. We would find a spot where he could see ferries going down the river, buses coming through the Cultural Centre, trains coming along the South Brisbane line and of course the dinosaurs, so that was an absolute joy. While I would not have thought of it at the time, what a privilege to come the full circle and play a small part in having the privilege of representing my community in making the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* our state dinosaur emblem. It is fantastic.

In his contribution the minister made the point that symbols matter, so having an inclusive and really representative emblem is important. I think it is important just generally for the next generation of kids coming through in their education in the lead-up to the Olympics in terms of selling our identity and building on our identity in creating tourism opportunities for those intrastate for Queenslanders to get out west, for interstate tourists and international tourism. I think it is a really important step, so I thank the minister for that. It is brilliant to see. To be fair, I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House. I know with his other hat he deals with and dedicates a lot of time to the issue of legacy. I think this is a pretty good one.


In terms of the technical issues, the previous speaker, the member for Surfers Paradise, reflected that there are technical but important changes to both the way this parliament operates and the way our committees operate. The changes regarding the committee system, including the CCC Act, are really important and reflect the modernity of our committee system and, in my reading of the legislation, clarify and confirm existing practices rather than introducing revolutionary change. I think it is really good. It is a practical way that committees work. All of us who went through those committee hearings during COVID realise that that is even more important, so it is really important to get these changes through to make sure that there is no doubt as to how that is meant to operate. Likewise with the technical changes to the parliamentary precinct legislation, I think they are sensible and worth while—technical and administrative sure, but important—and so I put my name to that.

I again thank the minister for bringing this bill forward, his team in his office and the department. I also thank the committee. My reflection of the debate to date is that it seemed it was a real collegiate effort with teamwork. That is a really good sign given an indication from the chair that there might be

more work for that committee to do in terms of what we could do further in promoting the interest in dinosaur tourism and related issues. I thank all of the members of the committee for doing a good job on behalf of us, because that is what parliamentary committees are.

Mr Tantari interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: I take the interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. I will not refer to his committee as the 'dinosaur committee'—just yet. Thanks to the committee staff and all submitters who got us to where we are today. I am really proud. I do sometimes talk about legislation to the kids at home quite genuinely when they are engaged. This is one where I look forward to doing so as well.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. On 22 October 2022 the Queensland government announced the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* as the state fossil emblem. Amending the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005 is required to officially recognise it as the state fossil emblem. In addition to legislating for the state fossil emblem, the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 also includes certain amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to address a number of minor and technical issues to improve and clarify parliamentary processes and procedures. These include amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to clarify that members of the CCC and its predecessors have been able to attend committee meetings either in person or via video link or other electronic means; and amendments to the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 to clarify that the 'parliamentary precinct' includes the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and its galleries while parliament is sitting. Further amendments to the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 provide that, in a proceeding for an offence related to a person's behaviour on the parliamentary precinct, evidence may be given of any of the directions given by the Speaker or other authorised person in a court or other forum outside the parliamentary precinct. This means that disruptive behaviour taking place inside the parliamentary precinct can be adequately prosecuted without parliamentary privilege intervening.

Also included are amendments to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to refine the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly, while ill, can notify the Assembly of their request for a proxy vote; to retrospectively clarify that since 23 April 1998 members of parliamentary committees have been able to participate in committee meetings in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means; and to update a number of cross-references in the act to definitions that are explained and provided for in the Electoral Act 1992.

The bill amends the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005 to prescribe *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* as the state's fossil emblem and provide a common name, the Muttaburra dinosaur, or, as mentioned by the member for Hervey Bay, Mutt.

In relation to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, since 1998 participants in Legislative Assembly committees can attend said committee meetings via remote means, including phone or video. There is an inconsistency between this and the fact that Crime and Corruption Committee meetings require members to be physically present. In 2020 the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 was amended to include the definitions of 'present' and 'voting' in order to clarify that members could participate through electronic means. To ensure consistency, this bill amends the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to include those same definitions. Because the relevant standing orders have been relied upon since 23 April 1998 to enable members of the PCCC and its predecessor committees to meet by remote means, the bill makes these amendments retrospective to that date in order to ensure that the meetings of the PCCC and its predecessor committees were not inquorate when decisions their members took at meetings were made.

The bill also provides that, for the purposes of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988, the Legislative Assembly and its galleries are considered to be part of the parliamentary precinct while the Legislative Assembly is sitting. In October 1988, the parliament passed the Parliamentary Service Act, which established the Parliamentary Service Commission, rather than the Speaker, to determine policy and overall management and control at Parliament House. In 1995, the parliament passed legislation to abolish the Parliamentary Service Commission and vest its powers in the Speaker. However, the definition of 'parliamentary precinct' was inadvertently not amended at the time to remove the exclusion reference to the Legislative Assembly and its galleries when the Assembly is sitting. This has meant that on parliamentary sitting days since 1995, the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries have technically not been part of the parliamentary precinct for the purposes of the Parliamentary Service

Act 1988. This has not affected the ability of the Speaker to control the behaviour of members of the Legislative Assembly when the Assembly is sitting but does mean that the by-laws made by the Speaker to control the behaviour of other persons entering upon the parliamentary precinct on a sitting day do not apply if such persons are in the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries. The amendment in the bill will clarify the definition of 'parliamentary precinct' to ensure by-laws made by the Speaker will apply to persons in the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Assembly is sitting.

The bill also provides an amendment allowing evidence to be given in a court or place out of the Legislative Assembly of a direction made or purportedly made by the Speaker or a person authorised to make such directions during proceedings in the Assembly. The amendment is necessary to ensure that evidence can be given in a prosecution against individuals who obstruct or otherwise disrupt proceedings in this House, for example, under section 50 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988.

The bill amends part 5 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to provide that the Speaker will merely be required to notify the Assembly they have received a proxy voting request from a member rather than have to read it to the Assembly. This means that for members of the Assembly who are ill and requesting a proxy vote, the details of their illness do not have to be divulged to the Assembly. The bill also makes retrospective amendments to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 regarding committee meetings held via remote means, for example by telephone, video or other electronic means. While amendments were made to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 in April 2020 to ensure all future parliamentary committee meetings could be held with members either present in person or participating by remote means, they were not made retrospective at that time. It also updates a number of cross-references in the act to definitions that are explained and provided for in the Electoral Act 1992.


That is the very nitty-gritty detail of this particular bill. The committee were very lucky to have this bill before them and to have explored Western Queensland and the dinosaur trail and learn many things about the ancient history of Queensland. It would have been quite fabulous indeed. Someone made the point that emblems are important. That is indeed true. We are talking about a creature that lived many millions of years ago. What stands out to me most about this particular fossil emblem being chosen is the story around it: its discovery by Doug Langdon and his fierce protection and advocacy. He was adamant that it had to belong to the people of Queensland. The Queensland Museum assisted in keeping these remains in Queensland. They rebuilt this dinosaur for all of us to see and put a tiny Western Queensland town on the map. It has made that part of Queensland a place where you can drive around and see different types of dinosaurs that roamed this continent many millions of years ago.

I would not go as far as the member for Stafford and mention legislation to my children, including legislation about dinosaurs—it sounds a little bit long-winded—but all of our children enjoy going to the Queensland Museum, and the dinosaurs are the first thing they see. Up until you are about 10, everything is about dinosaurs.

Mr Smith: Thirty-three!

Mr SKELTON: In some instances it lasts longer, in particular for the palaeontologists among us. It is great for Queensland—it is great in particular for regional Queensland—to develop an industry that is sustainable. It will keep young people in those regional towns employed in jobs. It will keep that lifeline there. That is what we need to do in this state. We are a decentralised state, but we own it and we are proud of it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Before I call the member for Glass House, I give a general warning to members that, however joyous the interjections might be, you must be in your own seat if you wish to make them.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.58 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Like many in the chamber who were born in the seventies and raised in Brisbane, it will be a cool day when we pass a piece of legislation that enshrines as an emblem of Queensland the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*. A favourite memory of mine as a kid was visiting the Old Museum over near the Royal Brisbane hospital. When we were living away from Brisbane, the highlight was visiting my grandmother, who lived in Brighton in the minister's electorate, jumping on the train at Shorncliffe and catching it into Fortitude Valley, then jumping on what I thought was a tram—I am told the tram track was ripped up long before that so it must have been a bus that looked like a tram—and up the hill we went to the Old Museum and out we got, to be confronted by *Tyrannosaurus rex* and a few other dinosaurs.

A government member interjected.

Mr POWELL: The metro and the tram will be similarly unfamiliar for the current generation. That is certainly one of my favourite memories from childhood. To be part of a legislature that is now bringing in a state emblem that is a dinosaur, and a dinosaur that is one of our own, is a very cool thing. As others have said, when we get home we will all have a lot of fun telling our children or our grandchildren, when they come along in the future, all about it.

As Manager of Opposition Business, I want to focus on a number of the other amendments that this legislation will bring into effect. As others have said, they are largely technical in nature and are being made to the Crime and Corruption Act, the Parliamentary Service Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act. In the case of the Crime and Corruption Act, the bill will retrospectively clarify that since 23 April 1998, which is almost the time when I was visiting the old museum, members of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and its predecessor committees have been able to participate in their meetings in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means.

The changes to the Parliament of Queensland Act refine the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote notified to the Assembly. Similar to the Crime and Corruption Act amendments, the bill will amend the Parliament of Queensland Act to retrospectively clarify that, since 23 April 1998, members of parliamentary committees have been able to participate in committee meetings in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means and to update a number of cross-references in the act to definitions that are explained and provided for in the Electoral Act 1992.


Amendments to the Parliamentary Service Act clarify that the parliamentary precinct includes the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Legislative Assembly is sitting and provide that the Speaker is to prepare the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker under the Parliamentary Service Act. The bill also amends the Parliamentary Service Act to provide that in a proceeding for an offence related to a person's behaviour on the parliamentary precinct a direction made or purportedly made by the Speaker or a person authorised to make such directions during proceedings in the Legislative Assembly can be given as evidence in a court of law. I want to spend a little bit of time speaking about this amendment. There is a slight concern amongst some members that, whilst we really want to respect and continue to enshrine parliamentary privilege, we need to ensure that we get these amendments right. Therefore, I want to unpack that amendment a little further.

Clause 8 of the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill seeks to amend section 4, Definition, of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 to amend the definition of 'parliamentary precinct' by omitting the following words 'but does not include the Legislative Assembly chamber, or the galleries of the House, whilst the Legislative Assembly is in session'. As the explanatory notes to the clause provide, this amendment will ensure that the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries are considered to be part of the parliamentary precinct for the purposes of the Parliamentary Service Act when the Legislative Assembly is sitting. This will ensure by-laws by the Speaker, under section 50 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988, will be able to be applied to persons in the Legislative Assembly chamber and its gallery when the Assembly is sitting. However, I note that section 50(7) provides directions given under that section do not apply to members of the Legislative Assembly in the conduct of their parliamentary business. That is the important point to make here. In no way is this impinging on parliamentary privilege as it applies to members of the Assembly when they are going about their parliamentary business.

This has come about because of some of the actions we have seen in the gallery in particular over recent years and the inability to necessarily provide evidence based on the Speaker's directions in those instances to proceedings that followed. Disturbing the Assembly has long been recognised as a contempt and the Speaker and/or the Legislative Assembly has powers under the standing orders, the Parliament of Queensland Act and the common law to deal with such contempt. We have received advice from the Clerk that including the chamber and the galleries in the definition in section 4 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 will allow the Speaker to apply the by-laws to persons in the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries, but will in no way diminish the existing powers of the Speaker or the Assembly to deal with contempt under the Parliament of Queensland Act, the standing orders or the general contempt powers of the House.

I note that sounds very technical. I do not know if the minister had concerns raised on his side of the House, but a number of our members certainly want to make sure that we protect the long-held tradition of parliamentary privilege. These changes are more about behaviour in the gallery and behaviour by non-members. Certainly, this will not impact on members of the Legislative Assembly as they go about their parliamentary business.

With that, I return to what others have focused on and, indeed, what the bill focuses on, which is our friend the dinosaur. When I go home this afternoon or tomorrow morning, as I said, I am going to have a lot of fun catching up with my kids and telling them that we have a brand new emblem in the state of Queensland and it is the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (5.04 pm): I rise to make a short contribution on the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. For the majority of my contribution, I will talk about the value of the dinosaur industry to rural communities of Queensland. I commend the work of my ministerial colleague, Minister Hinchliffe. I applaud his efforts on this bill. It is not very often that a new state emblem is declared, especially one that has been millions of years in the making. The committee should also be thanked for their work on the bill. The committee travelled to rural communities to engage with stakeholders in the process to establish the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* as the state's official fossil emblem.

It may seem a little odd to be talking about making an animal that died millions of years ago a state emblem. Without straying into the territory of the committee's current inquiry into prehistoric, dinosaur and palaeo tourism in Outback Queensland, it is really important to note that we have rich places of interest to visit away from our usual tourism centres. During the COVID period, many people travelled to Central Queensland and found a new enjoyment in the regions and in seeing what Queensland has to offer. We have plenty to offer in Queensland.

This is not the first time I have had the pleasure of engaging on dinosaurs. While I was a Queensland senator in the Commonwealth parliament, I was asked to attend an opening of the Cambridge Downs store in Richmond. After that opening, Mayor John Wharton took me to Kronosaurus Korner. I think it is worth noting that other areas of Queensland also have wonderful attractions when it comes to dinosaurs—areas such as Richmond, which is world renowned for its 110-million-year old marine fossils. I note that *Kronosaurus queenslandicus* was shortlisted for the emblem but did not make the cut. The committee report noted that the kronosaurus dinosaur was an enormous ocean-dwelling pliosaur that fed on turtles, fish, sharks and other marine reptiles and lived between 98 million and 112 million years ago. When you are in Central Queensland, 500 kilometres from the coast, it is hard to believe that you are standing in what was once an inland sea.

It is not just Queensland children who are fascinated by dinosaurs; there are other tourists as well. The town of Winton is important to this bill and the committee travelled there for their inquiry. It was in Winton where the 2020 campaign to establish a state fossil emblem originated. I note there were a few unsuccessful candidates from Winton, but the Australian Age of Dinosaurs and the town are still well worth a visit. A few years ago I had much pleasure in taking the then Japanese consul general, Tanaka-san, to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs in Winton.

I want to reflect on my experience of first visiting the Australian Age of Dinosaurs when I was the local government minister. I also want to reflect on a real legend of the bush, Mayor Butch Lenton. He was one of those characters who, from the moment you met him, you knew was genuine and you knew you were going to get on with. He mentioned the Age of Dinosaurs. I said, 'What's the chance of going there?' He said, 'Let's go and do it.' I was extremely impressed and that is why I encourage anyone who is visiting the area to take the opportunity to go to the Age of Dinosaurs.

In 2019, the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association held their annual dinner at the Age of Dinosaurs. The guest speaker was the late Andrew Symonds, the famous cricketer. The New Zealand and Japanese consuls general joined me in a celebration of Australian agriculture. After the Bowen Gumlu Growers event, the Japanese consuls and I flew to Winton. The consul general remarked on the size of the state and how Japanese tourists would find it a very different experience. The attraction of the dinosaurs as well as the wonderful agriculture of Winton highlight the great benefits of having a fossil emblem to attract visitors from right around the world. In its report the committee stated—

The Maranoa Regional Council, Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Winton Shire Council, Barcaldine Shire Council, Red Dirt Tours, Flinders Shire Council, and residents of Muttaburra all expressed support for the Muttaburrasaurus dinosaur as the state's fossil emblem.


Such stakeholders acknowledged that there may have been preferences for other candidates, particularly within the regions in which those respected fossils were discovered. Reference was made to the fact that parts of the muttaburrasaurus had also been found in New South Wales. However, there is also a general acknowledgement by those stakeholders that the muttaburrasaurus is a significant and well-known dinosaur as well as being one of the most complete fossils found in Queensland. The

committee visited the Muttaborrasaurus Interpretive Centre, which charts the history of the discovery of the muttaburrasaurus. It is also worth a visit as part of any trip to Queensland. I also would like to read part of the statement from Pearl Langton's account. She said—

I forget, I think someone said about 1983 they named it *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*. Doug put his hand in the air, 'Muttaborra, you're on the map!'

The bill now puts this dinosaur as the Queensland emblem and Muttaborra on the map. Rural communities in Queensland will benefit from this bill. Future generations of Queenslanders will have a great experience in learning about this dinosaur, the rural communities where they roamed and, no doubt, the other emblems of Queensland.

I note that this bill contains other measures including: amendments to recognise participation in committee meetings by telephone, video or other electronic means; amendments to the Parliamentary Service Act 1988; and amendments to refine the process for notifying of proxy votes and other technical amendments. They all are being supported as part of the only recommendation of the committee—that the bill be passed. It is an honour to speak in this debate as Minister for Rural Communities as this bill will have real and lasting benefits for communities across Queensland, through ongoing interest in the fossil emblem and the other candidates, in tourism and educational opportunities. They will continue to inject funds and visitors into these towns. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am so incredibly pleased that the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni* has been chosen as Queensland's fossil emblem. The muttaburrasaurus lived during the Cretaceous period, about 100 million years ago. It was about seven to eight metres long, which is the average length of two cars. Humans need not have been scared of the muttaburrasaurus as it was a herbivore, eating mainly plants including seed ferns, ferns and conifers. The fossil remains of the muttaburrasaurus were found in Muttaborra, Central Queensland, where the traditional owners are the Iningai people and Bidjara people. Doug Langdon, a local grazier, discovered the fossil bones while mustering cattle in 1963.

The muttaburrasaurus skeleton was the first relatively complete Australian dinosaur fossil found. It was the first Australian dinosaur to be fully reconstructed as a life-size model, and its fossils have only ever been found in Queensland. The muttaburrasaurus is an ornithomimid dinosaur, meaning it is a bird-footed dinosaur. Queensland's new fossil emblem provides a unique representation that showcases our state's rich palaeontological discoveries and history. Queensland really is the fossil capital of Australia.

The state fossil emblem will support economic development and palaeo tourism in Outback Queensland. Many of the Southern Hemisphere's key dinosaur finds are in Outback Queensland, and there is growing interest from around the world in palaeo tourism. We know that some of Queensland's key dinosaur find locations account for an estimated 11 per cent of all tourism, or almost 122,000 visitors, and 26 per cent of leisure tourism visitors to the Outback Queensland region.

I am very proud that the Capricorn Caves in my electorate are Queensland's oldest tourist attraction. It is amazing that here in 2023 we are writing into legislation a state fossil emblem which will support palaeo tourism in Queensland, especially given that the Capricorn Caves are Queensland's oldest tourist attraction, opening to visitors in the early 1880s. The caves are etched out of limestone formed from deposits made by a coral reef 390 million years ago. The first exploration for fossilised bones in the Capricorn Caves began in 1998 by Dr Scott Hocknull, senior curator of GeoSciences Queensland Museum, and Noel Sands, member of CQ Speleological Society. Their search revealed the longest palaeontological record of faunal change anywhere in Australia—from 500,000-year-old rainforest fauna through to 200,000-year-old arid fauna to modern fauna. On the fossil tour through the Capricorn Caves, you really can travel back in time. I encourage all members of this place to consider a visit to the Capricorn Caves, Queensland's oldest tourist attraction.

Mr Hinchliffe: Quite a decent pub near there.

Ms LAUGA: There is a beautiful pub there at the caves, Minister. The palaeo guide will lead you through the caves, revealing thousands of tiny bone fossils and teeth embedded in the caves' sediment. They are mostly the prey of owls and ghost bats, but occasionally a tooth of a marsupial lion or the Tasmanian tiger is discovered. Inspect the dig site where a bone from a three-metre giant lizard was found. As you trek through the dry rainforest, spot life-size images of the *Bohra*, the giant tree kangaroo, or *Varanus*, the giant lizard.

In an exciting twist of time, a recent citizen science program for Capricorn Caves' Big Science Adventure unearthed a remarkable find—a fossil tooth from an ancient rainforest koala. This discovery provides a fascinating glimpse into the prehistoric past of these iconic Australian creatures who once lived at the caves in my electorate. The highlight of the Big Science Adventure emerged when the final group of fossil hunters, which included the keen eye of Benjamyn Willson, made an exceptional discovery. Ben was actively exploring the dig pits alongside his family when he uncovered the rare treasure. Only one other specimen of an ancient rainforest koala has been found in the deposits; therefore, this may be from the same species or another unnamed one.

Palaeontologists Dr Scott Hocknull and Rochelle Lawrence, who were volunteering for Big Science Adventure as part of National Science Week this year, are meticulously examining the fossil to uncover its story and verify the identity of which species it belonged to. This tooth holds invaluable clues about the habits and environment of ancient koalas. Their dedication to verifying its authenticity underscores the significance of this discovery. In the words of Dr Scott—

The koala fossil is about 360,000 years old and is part of a very rare component of the rainforest fauna. But what it shows is that until very recently koalas in Australia were known by more than just the one living species.

Down the road from Capricorn Caves, at Mount Etna, there is fossil evidence of the modern koala we know and love, the extinct giant koala, and an extinct rainforest koala. I note that the koala is the faunal emblem of Queensland and here we talking about the new fossil emblem of Queensland and the important role in palaeo tourism that the Capricorn Caves has played since the 1880s as Queensland's first tourist attraction—and also the importance of the Capricorn Caves, with fossil evidence of modern koalas, the extinct giant koala and an extinct rainforest koala. I think somehow there is a big loop there that we need to pull together in some sort of great tourism promotion, once this emblem officially becomes the Queensland fossil emblem.

This new tooth may come from the extinct rainforest species or another extinct species. Sadly, the giant and rainforest koalas were driven to extinction in the area when changes in the climate occurred around 280,000 years ago. Many other exciting discoveries were made on the day recently at the Capricorn Caves, including some bones from the extinct land-dwelling crocodile, the giant tree kangaroo and the Komodo dragon. Another discovery was what looks to be the partial limb bone from a giant extinct echidna. Imagine that: a giant echidna. It sounds terrifying!


Ms Pease: How big would the spikes be?

Ms LAUGA: They would be massive. We all are very much looking forward to the fossil verification by Drs Scott and Rochelle. The state fossil emblem will support existing Queensland government investment, including funding allocated to deliver a road map to grow dinosaur tourism across Outback Queensland. The search for a fossil emblem was initiated after a petition from the Winton community putting forward *Diamantinasaurus matildae* as Queensland's official fossil emblem. A working group was formed, and additional nominations of potential fossil candidates were sought. Consultation was undertaken with community groups, including relevant cultural heritage groups and traditional owners. From this consultation, the working group shortlisted 12 candidates for the state fossil emblem ahead of a community vote.

The muttaburrasaurus joins the ranks as the state fossil emblem of Queensland and now sits amongst: the koala, which was officially named as Queensland's faunal animal emblem in 1971 after a newspaper poll showed strong public support for this endearing marsupial; the Cooktown orchid, which became Queensland's floral emblem in 1959 during celebrations to mark the state's centenary; the sapphire, which was named the official state gem for Queensland in August 1985; the Barrier Reef anemone fish, which was officially named as Queensland's aquatic emblem in March 2005 when the public nominated the species as their preferred representative for Queensland; and Queensland's bird emblem the brolga, which has featured on the Queensland Coat of Arms since 1977. It was not until January 1986 that it was announced as the official bird emblem of Queensland.

The muttaburrasaurus is the pride and joy of the community of Muttaborra, a community which I was just speaking about last night with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It was great to see the RFDS Queensland CEO Meredith Staib, board chair Russell Postle and deputy chair Georgie Somerset AM here at parliament last night with many from the RFDS Queensland team to celebrate 95 years of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which not only provides aerial transportation for patient to critical health care for over 330,000 Australians every year but the RFDS Queensland section delivers more than 12,100 mental health consultations annually, including in the community of Muttaborra, and has the largest mental health service of RFDS sections across Australia.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Service contains several specialised teams which provide psychological therapies and tailored programs for rural and remote Queenslanders, including the beautiful community of Muttaborra. I thank the RFDS team for visiting parliament last night and for their work supporting the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders right across the state, including Muttaborra. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.20 pm): The opposition is supporting this bill, so I will take the opportunity to make a few comments of a general nature about elements of the bill. I will start by relaying a short story. In 2017, I think it was, I had the good fortune to visit the Australian Age of Dinosaurs attraction near Winton. I am sure the Minister for Tourism is quite familiar with it.

Mr Hinchliffe: I've been there a number of times.

Mr Brown: I remember that trip.

Mr KRAUSE: I think the member for Capalaba may have even been on that trip as well and the former member for Stretton.

Mr Power: Is there a pub there?

Mr KRAUSE: There was a pub there. It may have been a trip about the rural hotels bill, but I digress from my story. I have been distracted by members of the government already. They are very nasty like that sometimes—very nasty.

I was saying that I had the good fortune to visit the Australian Age of Dinosaurs. I was going there in search of fossils. Lo and behold, I walked through the gate and there was Michael Crandon and Jann Stuckey! We saw some other fossils as well, but Michael, Jann and I had a very good tour through the museum that day. It was shortly after I had the good fortune to be the shadow minister for tourism. Jann was the former shadow minister for tourism at the time as well, so that added even more excitement to the trip.

As I said, we welcome this bill. We are supporting it. The muttaburrasaurus will become an official emblem of Queensland, alongside the koala, the Cooktown orchid, the sapphire and the Great Barrier Reef anemone. It is good that the muttaburrasaurus is being recognised in this way.

I would also like to make some comments about a couple of other provisions in the bill, in particular in relation to the Crime and Corruption Act and the formal changes being made to validate all meetings of the PCCC since 1998. Of course I welcome that. All members who have been part of that committee since that time would welcome that as well given the nature of things they deliberate upon.

The amendments will make sure that members can participate in meetings through electronic means—telephone and videoconference. I think that is eminently sensible. If I want to move a motion in that committee that the Carne report should be released, members can participate in that electronically. If I want to move a motion in that committee that the Trad report be published, members can participate in that debate electronically. If I want to move a motion to start an inquiry through the PCCC, members could participate in that debate as well electronically. If I want to move a motion to urge the government to adopt all legislative changes required to enable the CCC to have the full powers that it should have as the Fitzgerald inquiry laid down in 1989, then members could participate in that debate electronically as well.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We do not deal in hypotheticals. It is really important that we stick to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I ask you to come to your point of order please, member for Logan.

Mr POWER: It is important that we stick to the long title of the bill. In that case this is not relevant to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point of order was on relevance. The member for Scenic Rim, I believe, was referring to applications of the innovations in this bill. I ask him to be mindful of relevance and to come back to the long title.

Mr KRAUSE: It is important that members are able to participate in all manner of meetings of the PCCC, regardless of what is on the order of business for that committee. I was just giving an example, member for Logan, about things that may be subject to PCCC deliberation. It has been 860 days since some of those recommendations have not been—

Government members interjected.

Mr Mickelberg: They don't like it.

Mr KRAUSE: No, they do not like it. I take that interjection. I also want to refer to the issue of—

Government members interjected.

Mrs Gerber: They don't like it.

Mr KRAUSE: No, they do not like it.

Mr Power: You sacked the PCCC. You voted to sack them.

Mr KRAUSE: They are always interrupting. The member for Logan is so rude.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! The member on his feet is not taking interjections.

Mr KRAUSE: I was going to comment on the sapphire. The member for Keppel very kindly listed all of the emblems of Queensland—the sapphire being one of them. It makes me think about the fact that Sapphire is a place in Queensland as well where there are a lot of small mining claims. There is a great concern amongst communities who mine sapphires at the moment, including Sapphire and other establishments like that, about regulations that are being proposed by the department of mines in relation to those tenures. Given that sapphire is an emblem of Queensland and we are talking about emblems of Queensland in this bill, I want to place on the record my deep concerns about some of those regulations that are being proposed by the government and the impact that they might have on people who live in those communities and the economic impact that that regulatory regime may have on some people who are just working very hard to make a living.


Mr KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Merely saying the word 'sapphire' does not bring something into the long title of the bill. I would question the relevance of this contribution.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim, you have been sailing close to the wind on relevance. I ask that you confine your contribution to the long title of the bill.

Mr KRAUSE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. In relation to the CC Act, we support those amendments. We support the muttaburrasaurus, of course. It has been a pleasure to be able to tell my story about fossils and the Australian Age of Dinosaurs.

I also note that there are changes to the Parliamentary Service Act in relation to the definition of the parliamentary precinct. This is an important change. Unfortunately, sometimes in this chamber incidents occur that require the Speaker to exercise their powers to re-establish order or ensure that the safety of members and staff can be maintained. This change clarifies that the parliamentary precinct includes the chamber and the galleries when the Assembly is sitting.

Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, I do not think you have had the opportunity to be in the chair when there have been disruptions in the gallery, but I have in the 54th Parliament. I know that that led to wideranging reviews about security and the legislative basis for the Speaker exercising their powers to ask the gallery to be cleared. We always need to be mindful that our legislation keeps up with what is needed to maintain security and order here. It was unfortunate that when I was in the chair that day in 2012 I had to give a direction that the gallery be cleared such was the disorder. I think that by making sure there is a solid legal basis for that should give comfort to everyone in the chamber but especially to members who have the honour of sitting in the chair as Speaker or as a Deputy Speaker. With those few words, I will wrap it up. We are supporting the bill.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (5.29 pm): That was riveting. How can you make a meal of this? I am looking forward to making a contribution to this debate because this is such a fantastic topic. What is also fantastic about the topic is the by-product of it. I will begin by stating the obvious: I strongly support the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The proposal is to amend the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005 to officially recognise the muttaburrasaurus dinosaur as the state's fossil emblem. I have spent a great deal of time discussing this with the minister, and we know that it was a hotly contested field. There are a lot of people who would have liked to get this, but each and every one of them represents a fantastic part of our state. This state has an amazing history, and I am confident that as we move forward we are going to see more of it.

This act will confirm the outcome of a public vote on 12 fossil candidates from around Queensland. We saw the *muttaburrasaurus* emerge as the people's choice to represent the state and its rich palaeontological history. I am very envious that, as part of its examination of the bill, the committee considered advice from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and feedback from stakeholders provided by three submissions, a public hearing held in Winton and a public forum held in Muttaburra on 5 October 2023.

Before I get into the exciting bits about the dinosaur, I do want to mention that the bill also contains certain amendments to the Crime and Corruption Commission Act 2001, the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to address a number of minor and technical issues to improve and clarify parliamentary processes and procedures, including to clarify that the parliamentary precinct includes the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Legislative Assembly is sitting and to provide that the Speaker is to prepare the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker under the act. Another important one is to amend the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to refine the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote notified to the Assembly. The last point I want to note is that the bill will also amend the Parliament of Queensland Act to update a number of cross-references in the act to definitions that are explained and provided for in the Electoral Act 1992.

The bill proposes to amend the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005 to officially recognise the *muttaburrasaurus* as the state's fossil emblem. The Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia all have official fossil emblems—some of those could be people—respectively: an ancient marine creature, two ancient fish and an ancient sea worm. The amendments would see Queensland join the ranks of these other jurisdictions by officially confirming the *muttaburrasaurus* as Queensland's chosen state fossil.

I know that we have heard from a few members, but I really feel the need to go through this because I think this creature sounds impressive. The *muttaburrasaurus* lived in the Cretaceous period, and I know from listening to the chair of the committee, who is an expert in this area, that that was about 100 million years ago. It was seven to eight metres long, the average length of a couple of cars. It was not a meat eater. It was an ornithomimid dinosaur, which meant that it was bird footed, but it differed from other ornithomimids because it had an inflated, bulbous snout, a big head—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr HEALY: That is right—and a powerful bite with specialised shearing teeth, as we have heard from one of the members.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr HEALY: No, I have moved on. I am not talking about the member for Mermaid Beach. These teeth were used for eating plants such as ferns and conifers.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr HEALY: That is a bit harsh, isn't it? I can tell you that it is absolutely amazing. As we have heard from a number of people here today, many of us have driven out to these parts and we have seen these amazing facilities and the infrastructure that is out there. I can tell you that from a tourism perspective, particularly when you take into account the fact that parts of our state have been ravaged by drought, it is a tough way to make a living out there. This is creating significant new opportunities—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr HEALY: Correct. I will take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. The Australian Dinosaur Trail encompasses the towns of Winton, Hughenden and Richmond, which all have their own unique dinosaur stories to tell. A journey along the Dinosaur Trail offers visitors a range of unique experiences not available anywhere else in the world, let alone Australia. In Winton you can visit Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways, which is set in an amazing landscape of red earth, spinifex and jump-up country. You can see the dinosaur footprints that inspired the dinosaur stampede in Steven Spielberg's movie *Jurassic Park*. Head to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum to see the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils. It is absolutely fantastic to see the way it is presented and the enthusiasm of the staff, and we are talking about regional areas. In Hughenden meet Hughie, a skeletal *muttaburrasaurus* at the Flinders Discovery Centre. Travel north from Hughenden to Porcupine Gorge National Park to see 500-million-year-old layers of rock formations in this deep gorge, which is known as 'Australia's little Grand Canyon'. In Richmond you can visit Kronosaurus Korner, which is—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr HEALY: My apologies; I will take that interjection. It is coming back. I am happy to be corrected on that point—which is primarily dedicated to displaying marine reptiles because, as most of us would know, that used to be part of an inland sea. I can tell you that these are some of the best preserved skeletal remains anywhere. Then if you go to Eromanga, Stuart and Robyn McKenzie, who have discovered Australia's largest dinosaur, have a fantastic, world-class facility. Stuart and Robyn do a great job and it is fantastic. Seriously, you only have to look at the—


Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr HEALY: I did; that is correct. I went out there; I opened it. Before I became the assistant minister I took my son and we drove from Cairns to Hughenden. Then we went out to Richmond and then we went down to Winton, so we did this. It is a fantastic, exquisite part of Queensland. This provides a fantastic new opportunity for our regional areas. As everybody in this chamber knows, you do it tough in those areas, particularly when Mother Nature is not on your side.

In terms of Outback Queensland dinosaur tourism, visitor numbers are expected to increase to 1.2 million visitor days and nights over the next 15 years. The Palaszczuk Labor government has invested millions into this. This level of visitation contributes to broader tourism and economic activity across the region. Research produced for Tourism and Events Queensland identified that visitors spent more than seven times what they spend at the dinosaur attraction in the local economy before and after their visit. These are the sorts of things you really want to remember. Go in and purchase some really good commodities, take them home and put them on the shelf.

There is no doubt about it: millions of dollars will continue to be invested and millions of dollars will continue to be made. We are a government that recognises the importance of the tourism component out there. The future potential for dinosaur tourism in both direct and indirect impacts is estimated to more than double over the next 15 years to 2035-36, generating over \$80 million for Queensland's visitor economy and supporting 1,373 jobs. That is outstanding.

I want to acknowledge the committee and the work they have done. I also want to acknowledge the Queensland Museum and the contribution they make when people make these discoveries. I am confident that we will see more discoveries as our interior continues to dry up. It will provide great economic opportunities and the government will be here to support them. I want to acknowledge the enthusiasm of my parliamentary colleague and the minister. It is a great event and I look forward to getting out to these parts in the near future and enjoying them again.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.38 pm): Australia is known as a great ancient land. We have a fascinating fossil history dating back millions of years and the longest living cultural history in the world dating back over 60,000 years through our First Nations people. Our country's state emblems and icons should reflect our history and our values. Queensland's shield on our state's coat of arms symbolises Queensland's primary industries: a sheaf of wheat, the heads of a bull and a ram and mining which is represented by a column of gold rising from a heap of quartz. On the crest, the state badge of the royal crown and Maltese cross is framed by two stalks of sugar cane, which is very special for my area.

The Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 will officially recognise the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* as our state's fossil emblem. Regional mayors, museums and tourism bodies were all invited to nominate a fossil emblem addressing specific criteria. The fossil needed to be recognisable to Queenslanders and connect with our values. The muttaburrasaurus was discovered in Central Queensland and is symbolic of Central Queensland. The dinosaur fossil has also been found in New South Wales but it was found first in Queensland.

Dinosaurs, and in particular the muttaburrasaurus, are not widely identified with any other organisation, so it is fitting to be a Queensland emblem. The naming is the culmination of an extensive consultation process and reflects our government's commitment to supporting a world-class tourism industry that provides vibrant, authentic, accessible and transformative visitor experiences that reflect our natural and cultural values and our communities and regions. The nomination is very fitting as dinosaurs roamed Australia nearly a million years ago. It has a lot to tell us about the land we live on through the research of the fossils.

The fossil should be a creature on its own, not a collection of different types of dinosaurs. The muttaburrasaurus is a unique creature. Roaming in Queensland, first discovered in Queensland and found in various places across our state, it is a great emblem for our state. Great dinosaur walks with

footprints have been found and preserved, and this shows how herds of them roamed across Queensland. It is exciting to look at, with its leathery skin and standing about eight metres in length and about 2½ metres in height. It has strong jaws, as we have talked about before, with its shearing teeth so it can chew through vegetation. What I liked was its claw-like thumbs. This fossil has flown under the commercial radar. It seems like it was just sitting there for it to become a Queensland emblem. It is quite unique to Queensland.


The muttaburrasaurus will inspire a whole new wave of young palaeontologists, as well as adults looking to extend their fields of study. There are fantastic opportunities out there in the field with dig sites right in our own backyard. All of those children out there walking around with their plastic dinosaurs tucked under their arms will be able to set their sights on a career as palaeontologists researching dinosaurs.

The Queensland government confirmed that the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* was the preferred state fossil for Queensland based on the results of all the public consultation. The muttaburrasaurus dinosaur is an ornithomimid dinosaur from a period approximately 100 million years ago. The dinosaur was named by the Queensland Museum director, Alan Bartholomai, and the Queensland Museum curator, Ralph Molnar. Its name is taken from the town of Muttaburra in Central Queensland and the local grazier, Doug Langdon, who discovered the first fossil specimen while mustering in 1962.

Queensland has much to offer our visitors, and our emblems highlight the beauty and many wonders of our state. Our new fossil emblem will be a unique representation that will showcase Queensland's rich palaeontological diversity and history. When I attended a district Rotary conference in Longreach earlier this year, one of the presentations was from the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum. The couple of hundred Rotary delegates from across Central Queensland, Northern Queensland, the Northern Territory and Timor Leste were enthralled with the rich history, the exhibits and the professional presentation of the specimen. Every person wanted to know how to book their dinosaur holiday just from that one presentation out at Longreach.

The presenter told of the great story of our dinosaur fossil history in Winton, with the discovery of a giant femur in 1999 on a sheep property, Belmont, near Winton. While David Elliott was mustering, he discovered the bone that was at the time Australia's dinosaur that roamed Winton 95 million years ago. This discovery led to more digs and more discoveries of more fossils. David and his wife, Judy, formed the not-for-profit Australian Age of Dinosaurs incorporated to ensure the preservation and conservation of the dinosaur specimens from Winton. This led to the construction of the world-class Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum of natural history. It houses the world's largest collection of dinosaur fossils.

Excitingly for Queensland, this is just one of our 10 dinosaur sites, with others including Outback at Isa, Riversleigh Fossil Discovery Centre in Mount Isa, the Eromanga Natural History Museum, the Flinders Discovery Centre in Hughenden, the Kronosaurus Korner at Richmond, the Marine Reptile Fossil Display in Boulia and the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre in Longreach. There is something special about dinosaurs. The mystery of these prehistoric animals fascinates young and old. Just imagine the education value for everyone when they visit our dinosaur sites. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.47 pm): I rise to be a part of this bill. We are talking about the muttaburrasaurus, and this is a fantastic opportunity for us to explain how important the region I belong to is.

Mr Boothman: The home of fossils.

Mr MILLAR: Yes, it is the home of fossils and I could be a fossil right now, I suppose. I want to thank everybody in Queensland who voted on making the muttaburrasaurus the emblem. This is not just about the muttaburrasaurus; it is about the town of Muttaburra. For people who may not know, if you want to go to the dead centre of Queensland, point to Muttaburra. That is the dead centre of Queensland. It is an amazing town. It has a primary school and a population of about 80 people.

Mr Stevens: An historical hospital.

Mr MILLAR: Yes, I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, who is a Richmond boy and knows a bit about the muttaburrasaurus. There is a fantastic replica of the kronosaurus in Richmond, which Johnny Wharton, the mayor of Richmond, likes to show me. I thank everybody who voted on this. It is an emblem which means a lot to Queensland and it means a lot to Outback

Queensland. What it means to us and what it means to regional Queensland is an opportunity for tourism. Yes, we have got agriculture. We have got cattle, sheep and wool, but our third commodity out there is tourism. Tourism plays a significant role in making sure that we have a community that is surviving not only in Muttaborra but in Longreach, Blackall and Winton. I would also like to—

Mrs Frecklington: Muttaborra sheep show.

Mr MILLAR: The Muttaborra sheep show is a fantastic event. I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. It is a great event. I would also like to recognise the person who discovered the muttaburrasaurus, Doug Langdon. Doug has done a fantastic job in discovering it, but there are other people out there who have discovered more dinosaurs and it has become a great tourism trail. I think we absolutely need to take the opportunity to make sure our tourism industry benefits from this. I see the Minister for Tourism across the chamber. He understands what we are trying to do with Outback tourism. We obviously have to shift our tourism opportunities to not only domestic but also international. One thing I have always tried to drive—I see the member for Cairns; he and I have talked about it—is our reef and beef tourism. Let's bring the international tourism from China, South-East Asia, America and Germany into Cairns and places like that to get the reef aspect and then move them straight out to the Outback to give them the real outback experience. Recognising what we are doing today with the emblem helps that, and I am thankful for that.

I think it is important that we also recognise the fantastic contributors to Outback tourism. A good mate of mine, David Elliott, from Winton has the Age of Dinosaurs and has done a fantastic job. Of course, he is being recognised as a great Queenslanders. He has put great effort into making sure that tourism and the Outback is recognised. The opportunity it provides for our economy is fantastic. I would also like to recognise a lot of other people out there, like Smithy from Longreach. I recognise the Kinnon family, who have gone through a tough time over the last six months. We lost the paddle steamer in the Thomson River. They have been able to resurrect that out of the Thomson River and they will be using it as a display. They obviously cannot float the paddle steamer again. We have real pioneers in tourism in Western Queensland. We have the Big Red Bash and the Birdsville Races. We have the Betoota pub back up and going again as well, which is fantastic. I would also like to recognise the efforts which have been put into Boulia with Rick Britton, and Robbie Dare with the roadhouse that burnt down about four years ago. He has that re-established out at Bedourie. All of this plays a big part in that tourism package for Western Queensland. We are going to go through droughts and we are going to go through low commodity prices, but one thing that puts cash into Western Queensland is the tourism industry. Recognising the emblem as something from our area helps that. Young people and young families want to come across.


I would like to thank everybody who voted for the muttaburrasaurus. I would also encourage everybody here to head to Muttaborra. It is a great town. It has a nice pub. It has a lovely community feel. When I was a young bloke, when I was at the ABC as a young rural reporter, we used to have to go and play Muttaborra in Rugby Union. The problem there was that, back in those days, in the early nineties, Muttaborra was full of Kiwi shearers who could play Rugby Union. It was very hard at six o'clock in the morning to get blokes on the bus to go to Muttaborra to play potential All Blacks trial games. I will give it to those Maori shearers of Muttaborra: they were tough, they were hard and they did beat us. It was always a tough ask, but—

Mr Hinchliffe: What was the team nickname? The Dinosaurs?

Mr MILLAR: I am not sure, but we used to call them the Muttaborra All Blacks. It was the same in Barcaldine with the shearers there. Playing for the Longreach Jumbucks in my young days, I did get towelled up quite a few times. I thank everybody for voting for the muttaburrasaurus.

Mrs Gerber: What is a muttaburrasaurus, can you tell me?

Mr MILLAR: It is a dinosaur. I thank everybody for voting. Also, can you support Western Queensland tourism? Get out there. It might be a bit hot at the moment, but certainly in April, May or June, if you are looking for a holiday, please come out to Western Queensland.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.55 pm): Following the member for Gregory, who has so many of these fossils and attractions in his electorate, particularly—

Mr McDonald: The member for dinosaurs.

Ms LEAHY: He is very much the member for dinosaurs, I have to say. I was very pleased to visit the Winton dinosaur and meet David Elliott when we were up there for the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils. I also had the opportunity to go to Richmond, where—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach because Kronosaurus Korner is something very special to the state. It would be remiss of me not to mention the dinosaurs at Hughenden. I am sure Jane McNamara would deal with me in a manner appropriately if I did not mention the Flinders Shire as well.

We are debating the legislation. The state government has made the decision to have a state fossil emblem. I think that is a very good thing. The interesting thing is that I have the Eromanga Natural History Museum in my electorate. Sid, Zac, George and Monty did not campaign for the muttaburrasaurus. In fact, they were campaigning for Cooper. Cooper is Australia's largest dinosaur and he is housed at the Eromanga Natural History Museum. I acknowledge the member for Cooper, who is in the chair at the moment. I will give a couple of stats about Cooper. Cooper is 90 to 95 million years old. He is nine metres high to the top of his backbone and 30 metres long. I measured up the chamber to see if we could fit Cooper in the chamber, and we cannot. He is actually bigger than the parliamentary chamber. That is one of the issues that we have out there, because we do not have a shed big enough to fit Cooper in.

Mr Hinchliffe: I think Cooper would have been a stranger in the gallery.

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection from the minister. Cooper probably would smash this place, because he is quite a big dinosaur. His bones are on display in the Eromanga Natural History Museum.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Ms LEAHY: It is not a big enough museum. I take the interjection from the member for Gympie. It is really difficult when you find dinosaurs that are so big; we do not have a big enough shed to house them. The Eromanga Natural History Museum is looking at a stage 3. I encourage all governments to have a look at what is needed out at Eromanga, because we house Cooper—he will have his bones there as well. We have Sid, Zac, George and Monty; they are all housed from the collections from the Murray-Darling Basin and the Lake Eyre and Cooper basins which are part of the overlying Eromanga Basin. It is a fossil collection that continues to grow exponentially every year, and that gives us an incredible opportunity to grow the tourism that comes with that whole palaeo experience.

We have over 70-odd palaeontology sites registered and working in South-West Queensland, so I am pleased to see that we do have a fossil emblem because that takes fossils and the fossils of Outback Queensland to the world.

I note that the Economics and Governance Committee is doing an inquiry into prehistoric dinosaur and palaeo tourism in Queensland. I encourage them to come out to the Eromanga Natural History Museum. We have four-star accommodation out there as well. I suggest they book in early, because it is exceptionally popular out there in Eromanga. They will see what they have done with palaeo tourism. They can probably have the full palaeo experience.

I hope that having a fossil emblem that is recognised by Queensland will encourage people to go out to places like Kronosaurus Korner in Richmond or to Winton and Eromanga. You can follow the entire trail, which is quite unique. It is a really important part of our history in Queensland and a very important part of how we have become Australians.

The interesting thing about Cooper is that the landscape out there is red outback sand and a lot of mulga trees. He used to eat about a tonne of vegetable matter a day. How he would do that now I have absolutely no idea, because mulga would be a pretty dry diet, I must say.

Debate, on motion of Ms Leahy, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

In-Home Palliative Care; Kilcoy, Road Safety



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (6.01 pm): It is everyone's hope that if our loved ones need palliative care at the end of their lives that this service is readily available. Palliative care is about enabling a person to live in dignity, peace and comfort in their final months and days. It aims to achieve

the best quality of life for patients and their families. I thank each and every palliative care nurse for the work that they do. It has come to my attention, however, that in the South Burnett region it is not necessarily always the case that we have this service available. I am deeply concerned about reports that in-home palliative care is simply not accessible. There is a waitlist. In fact, I have been told by one patient who is battling cancer but who is not palliative, that they should put their name down on a list for palliative care now as the list is so long that they may not be able to receive the care in time if the focus of their illness is no longer on cure. Of course, that is deeply concerning.

I heard of a disturbing case recently where a gentleman needing palliative care had literally slipped between the cracks. I wrote an urgent letter to the health minister about this terrible situation, and the care he had been needing for three months suddenly and thankfully arrived on his doorstep, so I thank the health minister for that. While his family and I are grateful for that swift action once it was brought to the government's attention, this situation should never have occurred in the first place. I pass on my sincerest condolences to the gentleman's family, as the gentleman has now passed away, thankfully in peace in his final days.

I recently asked the health minister a question on notice about in-home palliative care in the South Burnett. Over the past five years, on average 139 people have required in-home palliative care. On the surface it appears that all is well, but in reality we are very concerned about what is actually happening for patients who cannot access in-home palliative care. We have local, independent nurses who can provide the services but who are not utilised, as the Queensland Health in-home palliative care contract is with Blue Care. I am calling now for the government to review how the system is working, particularly within the South Burnett.

On another issue, I thank the Kilcoy Chamber of Commerce, in particular president Lee Robinson and his lovely wife, Julie Robinson, and also Cameron Smart and Councillor Kylee Isidro, who joined me today here in parliament where we are advocating for the government and the Department of Transport and Main Roads to listen to our concerns in relation to road safety within the Kilcoy business district.

Caboolture, Housing; Christmas Toy Drive Appeal



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.04 pm): I start by acknowledging the outstanding public servants who work in the Moreton Bay Housing Service Centre in Caboolture. They used to be called the Caboolture housing service centre. I am old school—I will always call them the Caboolture housing service centre. They are outstanding public servants who are committed to helping some of the most vulnerable people in the Caboolture region. They do an outstanding job.


Everyone knows that there is a challenge around housing at the moment when it comes to not only availability but also affordability. This particular service centre is doing outstanding work with a growing level of demand. The government is doing what we can to support the work of those not only at the housing service centre but also throughout the Caboolture region more broadly and across Queensland.

I am very pleased that in the last few months we have seen the completion of some new housing developments in the Caboolture region to increase the availability of social housing stock. There was a development in King Street comprising 20 units—15 one-bedroom units and five two-bedroom units. That was a total commitment of \$7 million and was built by Paynters. They did an outstanding job on that particular development. There was also a development in Merino Street comprising 10 units—four one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units—and they were built by BLD Building Legal & Development. Both developments are of outstanding quality and everyone will be very proud to call them home. I know that those properties, those units, are being made available to vulnerable people in our community straightaway. I give a big shout-out to those who look after vulnerable people in the Caboolture region, and well done to those builders who have delivered new homes for vulnerable people in the Caboolture region.

I want to highlight the annual tradition in the Caboolture-Morayfield area around supporting kids in care. Over a decade ago I helped establish a Christmas toy drive appeal and it has now grown to what we believe to be the biggest and most successful community Christmas toy drive in the state. This year we are hoping to deliver more than 700 Christmas presents to children. It is a real community effort. There are donations right across the community, both financial and in kind, to ensure children in

care have the experience that we all want kids to have at Christmas time. Thank you to all those people who supported that toy appeal and well done to the committee of Kindness for Kids in Care for the outstanding work they do.

Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre; Mackay Base Hospital, Helipad


 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.07 pm): Last Friday I was very privileged to join with the Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre to celebrate 20 years of service to our local community. They started out on 24 July 2003 and originally operated out of the George Street neighbourhood hub. Tim Mulherin, the former member for Mackay, was integral in their establishment and was acknowledged on that day. They offer free legal advice and information nights, and they service over 1,200 clients across the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday communities. I congratulate the leadership of Justine Sturgiss as the chair, their manager and principal solicitor, Jessica Brake, and all of the volunteer legal professionals who support an incredible local organisation.

I take the opportunity to mention something that is very close to my heart and that of my community in the greater Whitsunday region—that is, the announcement by Queensland Health of the decision to stop the landing of RACQ CQ Rescue at the helipad at the Mackay Base Hospital on an interim basis clause. An incident occurred over a week ago and a risk assessment was to be carried out. The CEO of RACQ CQ Rescue was contacted by the Mackay Airport because a representative from Queensland Health had contacted them to say, 'Could you build an interim facility in two months because the helipad at the hospital is going to be out of service for the next three years due to hospital upgrades?' As a region, we welcome the \$250 million in hospital upgrades, but I have been told by locals that that cost has now blown out by \$60 million. I have written to the minister to ask for her intervention and to understand what that cost blowout means. It should not be to the detriment of those who need emergency care and who need to be transported to our emergency department at Mackay Base Hospital.

The amount of \$5 million is contributed by local people who deduct their contribution from their salaries and by companies that rely upon that emergency service. It comes from organisations like Hamilton Island, mining and resource companies and G&S Engineering as well as mums and dads who make deductions from their salary to co-fund our emergency service, which was established in Mackay by locals for locals.

The Chief Medical Officer from Mackay Hospital and Health Service came out and said that five or 10 minutes or 20 minutes does not matter. I can tell honourable members that this decision will risk lives. I urge the minister to look deeply into this. Why is there a cost reduction in the capital program? Why is my emergency service at risk? I call on the member for Mackay to stop being silent for her community.

Cost of Living, Relief

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.10 pm): My community, like all of our communities, is not immune to the cost-of-living pressures we see nationally. I have been spending time, like many of us in this chamber, engaging with constituents who are doing it tough or are concerned about those who may be doing it tough. I have also spent time with some exceptional members in my community who are doing what they can to help those who are affected most by what we are seeing across the country, and I want to give them recognition today.

I want to call out the fantastic Phill and Colleen, of Phill's Fruit and Vegies, who run a fresh fruit and vegetable shop out of their home in Nundah. Phill and Colleen are wonderful people who would give the shirts off their back to make sure our community has a place to purchase healthy groceries at a reduced cost to the big supermarkets. It was my absolute pleasure to recognise them for two years running in my Nudgee Small Business Awards. I will always take the opportunity to thank them for what they do and remind them how loved they are by our community.

I also want to call out a lovely family in Wavell Heights, Claire, Josh and their little one Freya, who have initiated the Wavell Heights Edible Exchange. It is a community exchange where people can drop off food and other items they might not have a use for and pick up things left by others that they need. It helps those in need and it reduces food waste. I thank them for providing such a wonderful service that brings our community together in a spirit of generosity.

Much like my community is here for one another, the Palaszczuk government is here for Queenslanders, delivering the largest array of cost-of-living relief in the country. Both my wonderful electorate team and I have heard from many in my electorate who have benefited from our energy rebates, helping to lower their power bills. There are those who are able to afford new energy-efficient appliances, thanks to our appliance rebate. We are delivering cheaper car and boat registration and free glasses for our seniors. We are saving Queensland families over \$4½ thousand in kindy fees through our Free Kindy program. We are providing access to free vocational education and training with Fee-Free TAFE, including a cost-free Diploma of Nursing in 2024. We are helping families keep their kids in active sports through our FairPlay vouchers program. We are also boosting funding for school breakfast programs and have put over \$710 million directly back into the pockets of Queenslanders through our Containers for Change scheme.

We have a range of assistance available to assist people with securing and maintaining housing, with record investments to boost social housing stock as well as direct assistance such as bond loans, rental security subsidies, mortgage relief, headleases and a range of other supports. Our government is investing more than any other before it to support Queenslanders and the people of the Nudgee electorate, and we will continue to do so. It is only a Labor government that will do that.

Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.13 pm): Last Friday I had the privilege of attending the Broadbeach State School's celebration of the life of Ryley Kemp. Ryley was a student of the school who passed away in March of this year from a rare cancer disease of the brain called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, or DIPG. Ryley will be forever eight years old.

Ryley's short life should be seen as an inspiration to us all in the way he fought this horrible disease with a bright and positive attitude that endeared him to his fellow students, the school staff and all who met him—so much so that, as a dedicated follower of the Gold Coast Suns AFL team, Ryley was honoured by the Suns. They officially made him Sun No. 39, to his absolute delight. Ryley's parents, Beau and Terry, have been incredibly stoic throughout their painstaking journey, and their memories of Ryley will ensure he stays alive with them for the rest of their lives.

To honour the memory of Ryley, Beau and Terry have embarked on a fundraising venture to find a cure for, or to prevent, this horrible disease called DIPG. To that end, last Friday's celebration of Ryley's life was a fundraiser for the charity Run DIPG to help other families impacted by this childhood cancer. Broadbeach State School came out in their hundreds to support the fundraiser and there was a fantastic roll-up of Suns players. This shows they are a great community sporting team who are more than happy to share their sporting success with remarkable community spirit. The growth in the community heart of the Suns reflects the mighty heart of player No. 39, Ryley the brave.

There were superheros, vintage car buffs, multiple game challenges, Pilates—I did not get involved with that—and face painting. Everybody there had a great time. Principal Mr Bruce Langes, his ever diligent sidekick Mr Wayne Jenks and their compassionate and caring student council must be congratulated on their moving and responsive organisation of a special day for Ryley the brave.

I am sure it was just the start of the fundraising journey for Beau and Terry, as I know they are off to Canberra to seek further help from the federal health minister. I sincerely hope that further help is forthcoming from the federal government, with that body having the greatest access to funding of all three levels of government.

This horrible disease is a national problem that cannot be ignored. I urge anyone who can assist Beau and Terry on their fundraising journey in any way to contact my office. Finally, I encourage everyone to dig deep for DIPG to help alleviate the suffering of families inflicted with this debilitating disease.

Logan Electorate, Schools



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (6.16 pm): Our thoughts are with Beau and Terry and, of course, their forever little No. 39, Ryley.

I want to tell the House and the people of Logan something exciting. That is, the construction on the new primary school in Park Ridge has begun. The bulldozers are out there and there are already maps and plans up. It is quite exciting because this is a growing area. Anyone who has been down

Chambers Flat Road and seen the East Beaumont estates and the other estates towards Logan Reserve would have seen the tremendous growth in the Park Ridge area, and we are a government that backs growth with the services that families need.

Stage 1 of the new school includes an admin; the family link hub, which is a special feature for this school; an early childhood education centre; classrooms; the information and resource centre; amenities; canteen; a multipurpose hall; outdoor multipurpose courts; the sports oval; playgrounds; a car park; and the covered areas. Park Ridge's new primary school will increase the new schooling network and provide relief to the surrounding schools, which are Crestmead State School, Marsden State School, Logan Reserve State School and the existing Park Ridge State School. What is great is that last week I spoke about the opening of the new admin centre at Park Ridge State School. We have also done other construction. We have completed the new South Rock State School, Yarrabilba State School and, of course, new classrooms.

What I want to say to the people of Logan is that there is a real concern. When we are growing this fast and are in desperate need of these new classrooms and new schools, we cannot afford a government that makes cuts. That is what worries me, because we know that in the period between 2011 and 2015 no new schools were built in our growing area of Logan. There were, in fact, no new classrooms built in our growing area of Logan. Now we are seeing that investment. I want to thank the education minister, because she understands what growing areas need. She is making a considerable investment in these fantastic, state-of-the-art new schools and new classrooms and it makes an enormous difference.

As I said, the project is already in the construction phase. The signs are up from FK Gardner & Sons, an experienced builder of schools. It is going to continue through to 2023 and 2024, but it is due to open in January 2025. We will see a fantastic new principal come on board in mid-2024 so that enrolments can follow. The principal will be based at either Logan Reserve or Park Ridge school in a small office, possibly in the fantastic new admin centre at Park Ridge State School, so parents can do their interviews there and be ready for the following year.

We are making the investments in schools that are absolutely necessary for Logan and the families that are moving down there, but I am worried there will be cuts if there is an alternative government that does not value it.

Northern Iron and Brass Foundry



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (6.19 pm): Poor government legislation is threatening the closure of an 89-year-old business which employs 70 workers in Innisfail. Established in 1934, Northern Iron and Brass Foundry has been proudly manufacturing in Innisfail for nearly 90 years. It provides essential heavy-duty fittings and product to the mining, rail, sugar and other industries, which employ thousands of Queenslanders. However, the business has been under threat since the government introduced its waste reduction levy bill in 2019. Overnight NIBF faced a 200 per cent increase in waste levy costs. At the time I raised this in parliament and held meetings with the minister, NIBF and the department. NIBF was granted a financial exemption with assurances that this would be fixed, but four years later there is still no solution.


NIBF has exhausted every possible option to recycle on site. It does not have waste facilities at its door like businesses in major cities do. It will be left with no other option but to transport waste nearly 300 kilometres to Townsville as it cannot be dumped locally. This will add hundreds of thousands of dollars of extra cost which will potentially close down the business, but that is not all the foundry has been punished with. The changes and removal of electricity tariff 37 forced the foundry into higher tariffs, increasing its electricity costs by 40 per cent. Add to that the fact that the business emergency management levy went from \$16,000 to \$48,000 a year.

Members should be able to understand why the business feels gutted, yet I continue to see government members of parliament pat themselves on the back about how they are backing the workers in the manufacturing industry. The ALP has abandoned the average worker and ignored the manufacturing industry in regional Queensland. The Labor Party's founders, who stood under the Tree of Knowledge, would be turning in their graves. In September the Premier stated—

We know that we have the best manufacturers right here in Queensland. I want to see more young people, more women, getting into manufacturing because these jobs are good secure jobs for Queenslanders.

Except if they live in regional Queensland! All Northern Iron and Brass Foundry is asking for is urgency and some empathy in working with it to amend the legislation to allow the business to keep its doors open and keep employing locals. That is not much to ask for. What better reason is there than to save an 89-year-old business and 70 manufacturing jobs?

Pumicestone Electorate

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.22 pm): Whether you catch the bus, ride a bike, drive or walk, Pumicestone residents deserve the very best local transport options. It is only a 12-minute drive from Banksia Beach to Woorim, but it takes local high school student Maddy an hour on the bus to get to her part-time job on the weekend. Since COVID, local shortages mean that older people who maybe cannot walk as far as their local bus stop often also cannot book a taxi. Now I am asking residents of Bribie, Sandstone Point, Beachmere, Ningi, Donnybrook, Toorbul and Meldale to speak up about their local transport issues in our new transport study. Whether you would like an on-demand bus service to take you where you need to be or just better bike paths, our Bribie and surrounds transport study is the first step. Please have your say and I will keep working hard to make our public transport and local transport in Pumicestone the best that it can be.

From better public transport to getting chemo in our satellite hospital, I am focusing on what really matters to people in Pumicestone, and that is why it has been very disappointing to see the desperate LNP scare campaigns that have set out to scam Bribie locals. Our government has repeatedly ruled out desalination on Bribie Island, but the LNP keeps wasting taxpayers' money by shoving its lies down our throats and into our newspapers and our mailboxes.

Mrs GERBER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Pumicestone just used some unparliamentary language in her contribution. I ask for your ruling on it and ask her to withdraw that unparliamentary language.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I did not hear it, but if you did use unparliamentary language I ask that you withdraw that.

Ms KING: I withdraw. Instead, I perhaps should have said that the LNP is shoving its mistruths down the throats of the people of Bribie Island. It is very disappointing. We only ever see the LNP in Pumicestone when it turns up to scare and hurt our community. Take the member for Glass House: he spends more time in Pumicestone on Bribie Island than he does in his own electorate, and he goes there to spread misinformation rather than stand up for the things that matter for the people in Maleny. He had egg on his face today when it turned out that it was the LNP that promised a 125-megalitre desalination plant on Bribie Island. The LNP said that it would do it if the science stacked up.

The LNP does not respect people in Pumicestone. It just blows in to run its scare campaigns, it talks down our community and then it blows out again. We have seen it time and time again. The LNP is not fighting for our fair share of funding for Bribie Island Road. It did not campaign to get chemo in our satellite hospital so that sick locals can get treatment closer to home. The LNP is not working to improve our public transport or build our next Bribie Island bridge. It just shows up to attack our satellite hospital, spread its mistruths and tries to scam locals into voting for it. I am proud to come home to our beautiful community and work alongside it for an even better Pumicestone.

While I am on my feet, I want to offer my congratulations to our Bribie Island High and ACC Moreton graduates who are finishing up with high school today. We are so proud of you.

Currumbin Eco-Parkland

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.25 pm): I want to inform this House of an action of the Palaszczuk Labor government that is having some cruel impacts on my community. The state government has quite cruelly demanded that the Valley Equestrian Centre remove about 30 pregnant cattle and horses as well as rescue horses from the state owned Currumbin Eco-Parkland by the deadline of 20 December this year. The deadline that the state government has imposed on Valley Equestrian Centre poses significant health risks to the pregnant mothers and their calves, and the short time frame also risks the welfare of the rescue horses. All the community is asking for is for the state government to take into account the welfare of these animals and show some compassion—show some understanding—and extend the time frame for them to be safely removed. The Valley Equestrian Centre needs until about February next year to find a suitable home for these animals and to allow the pregnant cattle the time they need so they can be safely transported.

Why will the Palaszczuk Labor government not give my community the time it needs to safely move the animals off the Currumbin Eco-Parkland? Let us face it: the state government has done nothing with this land for almost three years now, so why is it forcing these animals off under a deadline that is going to cause them harm? It stinks of politics. Maybe it is forcing the animals off because it has an announcement that it wants to make. That is something that we have come to expect of this Labor government, because it constantly puts announcements and politics before people. We know that we are waiting on the master plan for this site. Is that why it is prepared to compromise the welfare of these animals—because it wants to announce the Currumbin Eco-Parkland master plan? Recently a community member provided me with a draft staging plan of Currumbin Eco-Parkland. It was obtained from a site officer on the parkland. It is dated 21 November 2022 and it shows a different plan.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, are you going to table that document?

Mrs GERBER: I will table it when I am finished reading from it, if that is okay, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is a different plan to what is online. What is online is dated September 2022. This draft staging plan does not show any mountain bike skills tracks and it does not show any group camping facilities for schools or community groups, but what is most upsetting for our community is that it does not show any areas at all for the Currumbin Valley horse community to use the Currumbin Eco-Parkland. I am glad that it does still show the koala rehabilitation vet unit for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital—something our community has been campaigning on—but this state Labor government needs to come clean on its plans for Currumbin Eco-Parkland. Is it going to listen to the community and deliver what the community wants on the eco-parkland or, as usual, is it going to railroad our community and not listen and deliver something that the community has not even been asking for? I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document titled, 'Draft Staging Plan (Stage 1—Option B)' [[1913](#)].

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Schools; Gambling Community Benefit Fund



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.28 pm): It is a pleasure to round out the week. I have some good news for the House about the students of Good News Lutheran School. Last week I attended their school assembly to hand out my Premier's Reading Challenge certificates. Congratulations to all of the schools and students in my electorate. Over 1,000 Mount Ommaney students participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge.

Mr Sullivan: Well done!

Ms PUGH: I am so proud, member for Stafford; I really am. It gets bigger and better every year. The year 3 and 4 students of Good News also presented at their assembly some fantastic ideas from their science unit that I want to share with the House tonight, because I think they are worth investigating further.

The first group of young students created a website and made a TikTok dance video about button batteries, inspired by one of the student's younger siblings who had taken a liking to button batteries, to raise awareness of the dangers of button batteries. It was fantastic, and I commend the students for their work. The next idea would have been super popular for me back when I used a straightening iron. One of the students created a home alarm system that, as you got to the front door, would let you know if you had left something on, like a straightening iron or a kettle, so that you could go back and turn it off before you left. The final design was a check-in, go card type system for students who walked to school and whose parents want to know where they are. When they get to school they can check in and mum and dad receive a notification. They had even come up with a prototype. I was blown away that this kind of work is being done by primary school students.

I was also thrilled to go and talk to some of my local groups about the Gambling Community Benefit Fund money they have recently received. There was \$21,000 for Assistance Dogs Australia to purchase IT equipment; \$15,000 for the Brisbane Bangla School for a monument; \$35,000 for the Centenary Netball Club for their well-deserved court upgrade; \$21,000 so the Darra RSL can get an even bigger office; \$700 for the Oxley Men's Shed for equipment; and \$9,500 for the Corinda Christian Kindergarten for their long-awaited shade sail. When I visited the kindy to let them know about this money, they were excited about free kindy and told me that, since the announcement of free kindy a little while ago, their enrolments for next year are almost full. They are so excited that free kindy will start for all eligible Queensland kids on 1 January next year. They have been promoting it far and wide—and so have I. Mums and dads of Queensland: if you have a kindy-age kid, get on the Free Kindy finder app and find your free kindy for 2024.

The House adjourned at 6.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting