

- Recognises the handing back of Mungkan Kandju National Park to its traditional owners (the Wik Mungkan, Southern Kaanju and Ayapathu People).
- Welcomes the transfer of an additional 75,074 hectares of freehold land previously revoked from the Archer Bend section of the park to the Oyala Thumotang Land Trust.
- Acknowledges that this is National Reconciliation week, and in that spirit the Government intends to further develop and strengthen relationships with Indigenous people, including through actions such as the return of this freehold land;
- Endorses the Premier's apology delivered last week to the Wik Mungkan people for what they have been through;
- Recognises Premier Campbell Newman and his government's commitment to provide opportunities to Indigenous people of Queensland, including real jobs and training, supporting home ownership and business opportunities; and
- Notes the LNP's election commitment to a joint approach to conservation in partnership with traditional owners and that Gerhardt Pearson and other Indigenous leaders have endorsed the LNP's plans to introduce a Bioregion Management Plan to replace the former Labor Governments misguided wild rivers declarations on Cape York.

Sitting suspended from 6.38 pm to 7.35 pm.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Error in Division

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! Honourable members, there was an error in the reported vote for the division on the private member's motion. The announced result of the first division—that is, that the amendment be agreed to—was incorrect. The announced figures were ayes 72, noes 8, the correct figure is ayes 71, noes 8. The record shall be altered accordingly.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (7.36 pm): I advise the House that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly has today, in accordance with standing order 136(2), agreed that committee reports in respect of the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) Bill and the Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are to be tabled by the committees considering those bills by 12 June 2012.

Auditor General's Reports, Referral to Committees

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (7.36 pm): I advise that the committee has agreed, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor General's report titled *Improving Student Attendance*, tabled on 17 May 2012, be referred to the Education and Innovation Committee and the Auditor General's report titled *Results of Audits: Local Government Financial Statements for 2010/11*, tabled today, be referred to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 230.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (7.38 pm): I begin my speech by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land upon which we are standing. Mr Deputy Speaker, please pass on my congratulations to Madam Speaker on her appointment as the first female Speaker of the Queensland parliament. The House has made an outstanding choice.

I am honoured to be standing here today as only the second conservative member for Everton in its 40-year history. I am proud to be part of this historic intake of 2012. Never before has an incoming government been given such a mandate and never before has such a high expectation been placed on a new government. Along with my new colleagues, I am acutely aware of the enormous trust the people of Queensland have placed in us. I thank the people of Everton for showing confidence in me and I intend to work very hard to live up to that high expectation.

I wish to acknowledge the man who I believe was most responsible for the LNP's electoral victory, the member for Ashgrove and our new Premier. I thank the Premier for having the courage, boldness and vision to attempt what no other politician in Australian history had ever achieved. I thank him for his leadership and the grace he displayed when he withstood an unfounded attack from the previous Labor government—an attack that will go down as one of the dirtiest in history. I am proud to serve alongside the Premier in this LNP Newman government.

Although I am new to politics in a formal way, I have had a very keen interest in the subject all my life. I thank my mother and my late father for developing my political consciousness from an early age.

Politics was a regular topic for discussion in my family. My brothers and I were taught to be informed, to have an opinion and to be unafraid to voice it. Ironically for a newly elected conservative politician, my family was as Labor as they come. In the recent election my first challenge was to convince my mother to vote for me. Despite my doubts, she assures me that she did. My mother was like thousands of other people in Queensland who voted for the Liberal National Party for the first time. My parents were from an era when the Labor Party represented the values of the average worker. Recent election results show that that voting public no longer believes this to be the case. I abandoned the policies and the philosophies of the Labor Party years ago, because it abandoned me. No longer would I be treated with contempt by a party and a government that patronised me on a regular basis. I found a better way.

I am proud to be a member of the Liberal National Party. My core political values align with those of this great party: the belief that individuals must take responsibility for themselves in life, that entrepreneurial spirit should be encouraged, that hard work and initiative should be rewarded and that healthy, strong families are the cornerstone of successful societies.

I stand here today as a member of the Queensland state parliament after joining the LNP only a little over two years ago. Only in this party could I achieve this feat. To be preselected as a candidate for the LNP you do not need to be brought up in student politics. You do not need to have worked as a political staffer. You do not need to belong to a faction, nor do you need to be an official of a trade union. The LNP offers people with real world life experience an opportunity to use that expertise to serve the people of Queensland. And there is no greater example of this than this current government, where I believe this is the greatest diversity of representation that this state has ever seen. The massive injection of new blood will bring an enthusiasm and zeal for change that will have a lasting, positive effect on this great state.

Being elected the new member for Everton is a huge honour, albeit a little surreal. The last time I was in this chamber before our recent induction was as a 12-year-old Grovely schoolboy during a parliamentary tour. I never dreamed that nearly 40 years later I would be sitting in this august House as an elected member. I hope that my election might be an encouragement to young people who come from humble beginnings similar to mine. I am a product of my electorate. I am a born and bred Brisbane boy who attended school in bare feet, sang a hymn at the start of every school day—this is in a state school—and at ‘little lunch’ drank the compulsory milk that was issued under the government policy of the day.

I am a proud state schoolboy who progressed from Grovely primary school to Mitchelton State High School—schools on the western and southern borders of my electorate respectively. I played junior rugby league at West Arana Hills football club, pumped petrol at the Mitchie service station and served as a part-time groundsman at the Brook Hotel during my final year at school. As a boy I helped deliver mail for my mum, a mail contractor, when the Everton Hills area was not developed enough to warrant an official postal delivery. Evading attacking dogs probably helped me years later to dodge fleet-footed rugby league players. My connection with the Everton electorate will remain in my heart all my life, with my dad buried in a small cemetery at Albany Creek across the road from where my mum now lives.

I come to this parliament with a background of varied experiences. Many will know that sport has played a major role in my life. As a child I played all codes of football, as well as cricket, golf, hockey and even wrestling. As you can see from my physique, that venture was short-lived. Sport has equipped me with many great life skills. It has taught me about leadership, working towards a goal, working as a team, dealing with failure and respecting your opponent. Of course sport also promotes a very healthy lifestyle. I am a strong believer in my old Mitchie high school motto—mens sana in corpore sano, ‘a sound mind in a sound body’. I am delighted that we have a Premier who models this adage so well. It was great to join the Premier on some of his morning runs during the election campaign. In the interests of my future career advancement I made sure that he beat me every time.

As Assistant Minister for Sport and Racing, I look forward to helping this government implement policies like Get in the Game that encourage children to leave their computer games and get out into parks playing active sports. Unfortunately my talent as a junior rugby league player was never recognised, so I became a referee. As a rugby league referee, I developed a very thick hide which will hold me in good stead for parliamentary life. I know what it is like to be constantly abused, unmercifully criticised and blamed for every loss a team suffers—and I am talking about refereeing junior football! As a referee I always had 50 per cent of supporters against me. I thought I might find some relief from that burden when I retired from the NRL and joined the party room of the LNP. But, alas, this has not eventuated. The diversity of opinion about my refereeing career continues. On the one hand, we have the member for Gregory, who holds me in reasonable esteem because I controlled the 2004 grand final, which his beloved Bulldogs won. Countering that affection is the member for Hinchinbrook, who every day gives me menacing stares as he mistakenly blames me for the Cowboys loss in the 2005 grand final.

After 20 years of officiating in NRL, I am used to being under the scrutiny of millions of people, making hard decisions under incredible pressure. My objective in political life will be the same as it was

as an NRL referee—that is, to win respect, not necessarily popularity. But I am much more than a rugby league referee. For the last six years I have been the CEO of one of Australia's largest youth and children's organisations, Scripture Union Queensland. This organisation is best known for its very effective and highly respected school chaplaincy program, a program that provides pastoral care for thousands of young people in Queensland state schools. Leading this non-profit organisation, with its 600 staff and \$30 million turnover, gave me another real-life experience that I believe will help me to be a more effective local member. I know the challenges associated with recruiting and retaining staff, I know how difficult and costly it is to comply with bureaucratic red tape, and I know how hard it is to stretch every dollar to make sure the costs of business are met.

More importantly, my time at SU Queensland helped me develop my heart for young people and children, especially those who are marginalised or are struggling in life. Modern life throws up lots of challenges for our youth. Some young people find themselves in trouble because they make bad decisions. However, more often than not, they are in these precarious positions because they are victims of bad decisions that adults make. They then find themselves in a cycle which is so hard to break. Mother Teresa once said that the greatest disease in this world today is not leprosy, not tuberculosis, but the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and unloved, and many of our young people suffer from this 'disease'. It breaks my heart to see children suffering unnecessarily. They deserve every bit of support we adults can provide, and for many they find this support in their school chaplain—someone who is seen as independent, someone who is accessible and someone who will listen to them without judgement. I pay tribute to the over 500 chaplains serving our children sacrificially in Queensland state schools. I hope that in my time in this parliament I can help develop policies that will ease the pain for those young people who are suffering and also facilitate support structures that will prevent that suffering from occurring in the first place.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my heart for the marginalised extends to the plight of Indigenous Australians. I am embarrassed to say that it has only been in recent years that I have fully appreciated the challenges associated with being an Aboriginal Australian. Over the last few years a small group of Aboriginal elders have educated me about the dislocation the majority of First Australians feel. This education and the ensuing relationships that I have built have led me to develop a renewed respect for a very proud people. Respect and education is the key to achieving long-lasting reconciliation. We need to find real solutions rather than politically correct platitudes. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians need to take responsibility for finding a better way to close the obvious gap.

The source of my compassion for those who suffer is my Christian faith, a faith that has been on the public record for over 20 years. Nailing your colours to the mast like this often leads to emotive, ill-informed comments from a small section of the community who immediately tag you as part of some extreme right movement. People who know me would not place me in that category. I think they would describe my faith as earthy. I am a strong believer in the words of St James, who said, 'Faith without works is dead.' In public life I will promote those Christian values that this country was built on and are regarded as universal principles of truth: love your neighbour as yourself, every human being is unique and of value, and the marginalised and genuinely disadvantaged must be cared for.

The Everton electorate is a mix of the old and the new. On the southern border are the established suburbs of Mitchelton and Oxford Park, which have been settled since the early 1900s, while at the northern end is the newer suburb of Eatons Hill, typically populated by younger families. Right in the middle of the electorate is the Bunyaville State Forest, a slice of wilderness beauty that acts as a giant lung in the district. We believe that we live in the best region in the best state in the best country in the world. Understandably, many others believe the same thing, which has led to a steady influx of residents over the years. This has placed enormous pressure on the district's roads and public transport systems. The previous Labor governments failed to plan for the impact of these population increases. I will do my best to find solutions in these areas that are sustainable and long-lasting.

Like the vast majority of Queenslanders, the residents of Everton are aspirational. They want to improve their lot in life. They want their initiative and hard work rewarded. They want their government facilitating their success, not stifling it. I believe that only a Liberal National Party government can provide the environment that allows these aspirations to be met.

The residents of Everton are crying out for cost-of-living relief. Water, electricity, gas and public transport costs have skyrocketed in recent years, making it more and more difficult for people to make ends meet. They recognise that these increases are in no small part due to the economic incompetence of the previous government. This ineptitude was best illustrated by the obscene waste that was the day-to-day practice of the former administration. As the CEO of a non-profit organisation for the last six years I was angered by this waste, as were the struggling families I now represent. I look forward to being part of a government whose economic competence will bring the financial relief that is so desperately sought.

I am incredibly grateful for the people whose hard work resulted in me being elected as the member for Everton. I was overwhelmed by the team of volunteers that we assembled over a 12-month period. It is not possible to thank them all, but I would like to place on the record my appreciation of the

hard work and sacrifice of at least 150 friends and party members. Of course, there is always a core group of supporters who organise, strategise and lead the campaign. I thank Bruce 'Bronco' Hooker, a man who if cut would bleed LNP; Sandy Landers, an experienced political operative who is now my senior electorate officer; Shirley Lehman, who managed the prepolling; Steve Mammarella, our enthusiastic Young LNP representative; Matt and Katy Constance and their children, Tiana and Tyler, whose enthusiasm and commitment has revitalised our local branch; and of course the irrepressible Michael Leighton, who led the charge as campaign director. Michael's political acumen and passion are simply unmatched.

Finally, I acknowledge the support of my wonderful family. I thank my mother, Hazel, for her undying loyalty to her son, even when he breaks every tradition our family has ever had. I acknowledge my mother-in-law, Glenice, for her ongoing support and encouragement. I remember my late father, Len, and father-in-law, Graham, men diametrically opposed in political persuasion but who, if alive, would be united in their pride for their son and son-in-law. I thank my children—Danielle, Claudette and her fiance Mark, Zachary and his girlfriend Sarah, and Miriam—for their patience and indulgence as they supported their father on another crazy project. I love them deeply. Last of all I thank my wife, Gayle, an amazing woman who has been by my side for more than 30 years. I thank you, darling, for your love and uncomplaining support for everything I have ever done in my life.

I was motivated to stand for the Queensland state government by sheer frustration. I was frustrated by the lies, the waste, the dishonesty and the utter incompetence of recent Labor governments. I along with my colleagues want to restore the public's confidence in the political process. This will only occur when we convince them that we are not here to serve our own needs but rather the wishes and the desires of our electorates. I am determined to put the service back into public service. I make a pledge today that, for as long as the people of Everton give me the privilege of representing them, I will serve them and the wider Queensland community with all my heart and soul. I thank the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Southport, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and he should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.55 pm): It is with a great sense of humility and pride that I rise today to deliver my first speech to the 54th Parliament of Queensland as a member of the Newman government. I am humbled by the trust that the people of Southport have placed in me and can assure them that I will not let them down. I am here today because they voted for change. Having won their votes, it is now incumbent upon me to earn their trust and respect. I also acknowledge the traditional owners of the Southport area—the Kombumerri and Ngarang-Wal people, people of saltwater and the Nerang River.

My parents arrived in Australia in 1952 with my older siblings Thea, John and Connie. They came looking for a new life and opportunities as far away from war-ravaged Europe as possible. My father, Matheus Cornelis Molhoek, a member of the Dutch air force at the time of German occupation, went on to survive the depravities and heartache of 2½ years in labour camps, Stalag B Muhlburg, about 80 miles south of Berlin, and Stalag 4C Brux. After a few years in Victoria my parents, like so many others since, decided the warmer climate and opportunities presented to them in Queensland were far more enticing, and so they moved north to Southport. My father, Ted, established a contracting business as a painter, signwriter and marine specialist. My mother, Margje, or Ria as she became known, cleaned the holiday homes of wealthy pastoralists and other holiday-makers. I was a surprise addition to their family, born over the back fence at Southport General Hospital in 1959, just three years before former member for Southport Mick Veivers made his rugby league Australian test debut in Brisbane and the same year the Gold Coast's first 10-storey giant high-rise Kinkabool was built.

My early years were fun but challenging. I remember travelling with my mother to Brisbane on the old steam train from Southport for visits to specialists due to my gammy legs. My older brother, John, would dink me up the Ferry Road hill on the back of his bike, making sure to keep my iron and leather clad legs clear of the spokes. Later, when my Forrest Gump style irons eventually came off, I enjoyed idyllic years of swimming, surfing, sailing and boating in and around the Broadwater, where my father painted many boats and did plenty of work around Marineland, Sea World and on buildings like the Sands, Iluka, Chateau and Tiki Village. As a child I enjoyed growing up around the Broadwater, and now it is up to me and my local parliamentary colleagues to give the Broadwater back to the people of Southport. Labor has neglected the Gold Coast's waterways, resulting in restricted access and amenity due to the build-up of sand. These waterways are vital to the region's economy and marine industry. Our government will act to ensure Gold Coast waterways are properly managed for the benefit of locals, boaters, fishers and tourists in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.

In 1918, with a population of 2,000, Southport was proclaimed a town and severed from Nerang. Southport flourished. The 1930s saw the construction of a new town hall in Nerang Street and two new bathing pavilions, one on Marine Parade and the second across the Broadwater in Main Beach. The postwar years saw Southport flourish, with the population nearly trebling to 7½ thousand in holiday

periods and 50 houses a month being built when postwar restrictions were lifted in 1952. Southport, the coast's oldest suburb, is home to long-established schools of St Hilda's for girls, the Southport School for boys and Guardian Angel Convent and Star of the Sea Primary School, which was established in 1898. Other schools include Southport State High School, Arundel State School, AB Paterson College, Aquinas College, Ashmore State School and Musgrave Hill State School, where each of my four sons—Timothy, David, Matthew and Andrew—were educated and where my youngest son is currently vice-captain.

My older boys attended Trinity College and are now students at Griffith University. My schooling was also in the electorate, where I attended Southport State Primary School and then Keebra Park State High School where I was among the first foundation students enrolled in 1973. It was at Keebra Park under the inspiration of Garfield Prowse, our principal, where my early leadership abilities were nurtured and I learnt the simple mantra and only school rule: do the right thing. It was also there that I developed my early love of rugby league. While I was a terrible player, unlike Mr Mander, that did not stop me from taking on the NRL and working with Michael Searle, Paul Broughton, Geoff Smith, Jim Raptis and others to establish the Gold Coast Titans in the National Rugby League. I am sure all Queenslanders were pleased to see the Titans register back-to-back wins for the first time since 2010 last weekend, with a strong 24-14 victory over the Knights in Newcastle.

While Southport's prominence may have waned a little in recent years compared with the apartment boom along the foreshore areas of the Gold Coast, it is today a sleeping giant. As we prepare for Southport's Centenary in 2018 and the Commonwealth Games that same year, we have before us a unique opportunity to leverage a new future for Southport and the Gold Coast and, with that future, more permanent jobs and greater economic prosperity. As the new local member, it is my sincere hope to lead that fight for Southport's revitalisation from the industrial areas of Ashmore and Molendinar to the health and knowledge precinct around Parklands and Southport's central business district. By working with local business leaders and residents and listening to these people, we have developed a simple plan for Southport. Southport will once again be the flourishing, vibrant central business district of the Gold Coast and internationally renowned for its standards of business accommodation, health care and tertiary education. Our priorities also include the restoration of law and order, standing up for families, finding more jobs and creating more opportunity. I will work towards the realignment of the Southport-Nerang Road and, with my colleagues, work to deliver a more robust tourism industry and deliver on our government's promise to double overnight tourism expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020.

As a former Gold Coast city councillor, I fought for the rapid transit light rail system and will continue to fight for improved public transport and connectivity with heavy rail. Greater connectivity is essential if we are to fully leverage the new Gold Coast University Hospital, the Games Village, our growing Griffith University, the redevelopment of TAFE, the Gold Coast campus of the University of Central Queensland and our almost 8,000 other Southport business based enterprises. The evolution of an improved rapid transit system will be an essential and sustainable lifeline for families in the north and west of the city. It will not only provide access to the beach and tourist spots but more importantly access to jobs in our core business areas.

My political journey began when my sister Connie took me to a protest rally against Gough Whitlam's proposed reforms to Australia's manufacturing industry and tariff reforms at age 15. I subsequently handed out how-to-vote cards for many greats of the old Queensland National Party, including Bruce Small, Ivan Gibbs and Eric Robinson, culminating in serving cups of tea at the opening of the Sir Joh House in Southport. Since then, I cannot remember an election when I have not supported the campaign efforts of Liberal and National candidates from Devonport in Tasmania in the nineties to Stuart Robert in Fadden and current members of this House from Mermaid Beach and Gaven.

After more than two decades as a broadcaster and senior executive, I decided in 2003 to run for the Gold Coast City Council. Cheered on by John Fradley, my great mate Geoff Smith and then mayor Gary Baildon, I was honoured to win the 2004 election for Division 4 and to represent the people of Arundel, Parkwood, Biggera Waters and Labrador. In my four short years as a Gold Coast city councillor and chairman of the city's Finance and Internal Services Committee, I was pleased to deliver four years of budget surpluses, reduced debt, almost \$3 billion of new city-wide infrastructure and many great local outcomes and facilities for the ratepayers of Division 4. In 2008 I contested the Gold Coast mayoralty and lost. Later that year I joined the LNP and in November 2011 was preselected by my local branch to run for the seat of Southport. I could no longer stand back and watch Southport and Queensland deteriorate any further under Labor's mismanagement.

I grew up in Southport. I am raising my family in Southport. I love Southport. Under Labor, an estimated 13.5 per cent of all households are in housing stress. Not only has the cost of living escalated but so, too, have median house prices and median rents. According to the Department of Housing, statistics for the Gold Coast show that we have the highest number of households waiting for long-term social housing with 1,903 families in the very-high and high-needs categories, 700 more than Brisbane Central and 900 more than the Sunshine Coast, and 31 per cent of those waiting in South-East Queensland are on the Gold Coast. Is it any wonder the people of Southport and Queensland voted for change? Under Labor, unemployment in Southport recorded amongst the highest in Queensland at

10.4 per cent and personal income is typically thousands of dollars lower than that of average Australians. Is it any wonder that the people of Southport voted for change? Is it any wonder that the people of Southport turned to the LNP and Campbell Newman's can-do plan to get Queensland back on track? I am proud to be part of the Newman government and firmly believe in our plan to build a four-pillar economy, lower the cost of living for families, deliver better planning and infrastructure, revitalise front-line services and restore accountability in government. Our can-do commitments to make tourism No. 1 again, getting the construction industry back on track and reducing unemployment to four per cent in six years are just what the Gold Coast and Southport need.

I am also pleased to be part of a government which plans to double food production in Queensland by 2040. As someone who married into an agricultural family, I appreciate only too well the challenges faced by many on the land. I met my wife, Melinda, at the Rockhampton Baptist Tabernacle in 1981. Woolworths based me at Northside Plaza as a young manager to open new stores in Gladstone, Hervey Bay, Blackwater and Emerald. Melinda's parents, Helen and John Pierce, are third generation graziers and farmers. Her sister Robyn Rich and husband Jim have Walal Station at Charleville and Mount Ravenswood on the Burdekin. Her brother Gary and wife Joyanne have Currawong near Baralaba. In the 1970s Melinda's dad cut railway sleepers to keep the family afloat at a time when poor cattle prices and drought combined to make things really tough. They later moved west to Triangle at Banana where our sons received an education into life on the land from their many aunts, uncles and cousins on properties around Central Queensland. When there was mustering, castrating, inoculating and branding to be done, Melinda would get back in the saddle with her dad. And me? Well, I would put on the kettle and babysit the kids.

Last year under Labor, Southport's Magistrates Court recorded almost double the number of protection orders in respect of domestic violence, and these numbers do not even take into account the thousands of child protection notifications recorded, further highlighting the appalling failure of Labor to protect families and our children. In May 2004 an older lady from Arundel came to see me one morning at the local shopping centre about her granddaughters. These two young girls and 11 others had been systematically sexually abused by their coach while others allowed it to happen. It was this incident that led me to renowned child safety campaigner and advocate Hetty Johnston and my subsequent board role with Bravehearts. No child deserves to be robbed of their innocence. A modern, flourishing society such as ours should never be excused for allowing this to occur, nor should we watch on idly and allow our women to be bashed in their own homes nor allow drug dealers and unscrupulous licensed venue operators to prey on our sons and daughters.

We have been given great responsibility. It is up to us to deliver a safer Queensland. It is up to us to make Queensland the safest place to raise a child. In this light I cannot adequately express how humbled I was to receive the Premier's call and request to work with Minister Tracey Davis as Assistant Minister for Child Safety. We need to get Queensland families back on track. Under Labor we have seen two major inquiries into child safety. Under Labor over 150 recommendations were adopted, spending has increased almost fiftyfold and yet we are still to see any real improvement in the care and safety of our children.

I am pleased that the Premier has committed to establishing a new inquiry into child safety and I welcome our government's commitment to the introduction of a two strikes policy for sexual predators who commit serious sex crimes against children. Where Labor has failed, we must not. We must provide our kids with a more rounded education and teach our boys what it really means to be men. We must protect, honour and cherish our women. We must work harder to create a society where all people are valued, regardless of gender, race, religion or ethnicity.

Over the past years I have been blessed to have had some great mentors and friends—people like my 'other' dad, Fred Stallard, Paul Broughton, Brian Willesdorf, Bruce Lindley, Rhys Holleran, the member for Mermaid Beach, Ray Stevens, Pastor Garry Mac, Bravehearts child protection hero Hetty Johnston and, more recently, my incredible branch president, James Kennett. Aside from the challenge of mentoring my own sons, who incidentally are individually growing up to become fine young men, I will in turn commit to mentoring and raising the next generation of leaders and work with others from Southport to establish meaningful mentoring programs for our young people.

I am so grateful that the people of Southport have chosen me as their new member and I am immensely proud to present myself to this parliament as the new member for Southport. However, I would not be here today had it not been for the generous support of my branch and Southport SEC: Bernard Ponting, Bruce Duncan, Bruce McIver, my many friends and volunteers and the support of members from the Surfers Paradise and Broadwater LNP branches. They are all part of the reason I am here today and I say thank you to each and every one of them. I especially want to thank the Gold Coast Young LNP, led by Herman Vorster and his wife, Melissa. To my campaign team, I want to make special mention of Stephen Petith, who gave up his studies to work almost full-time for the latter part of 2011 and the early months of 2012. I also want to acknowledge the role of James and Elaine Kennett, Don Ross, Jenna Rathbone, Wayne Moran, Jan Knox, Darryl McConaghay, Glen and Angeline Ayrton, Geoff Smith, Liz and Gary Crouch, Craig Devlin, Mitch Redford—my battle ground coordinator—and the LNP campaign team. I thank all of them for helping me win this seat.

Lastly, and most importantly, to my amazing wife, Melinda, of 26 years and our four sons, David, Tim, Matt and Andrew, thanks for folding and delivering all those campaign brochures, thanks for putting up with grumpy old dad and thanks for sharing our home and this journey with me. Last weekend I told the boys that, in light of all I have been learning about the plight of some children across Queensland in recent weeks, perhaps I am not quite the grump they thought I was and perhaps they were a little more fortunate than I believed them to be.

I would like to close with two of my most favourite quotes: a verse given to me on my 21st birthday and the words of George Bernard Shaw. The first is from 1 Corinthians 15:58—

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is in vain.

The second is the words of George Bernard Shaw—

This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first full day in parliament the other week. I could not help but reflect on what an awesome privilege it is to be here in this House—a working-class kid from Southport, the son of an immigrant painter, elected by my community. What an honour. What an immense privilege. My commitment is to not only represent the people of Southport and the Gold Coast well, but to advocate and fight for the restoration of Christian and community values, to be a champion for our women, our children and for families and to cheer on the next generation.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Waterford, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr LATTER** (Waterford—LNP) (8.14 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, firstly, I would like to congratulate the honourable Speaker of the House on her appointment. May I also congratulate our Premier, Campbell Newman, and my esteemed colleagues for their part in what has become one of the greatest landslide victories in the history of our political landscape. I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and the land within which my electorate of Waterford is contained. I respectfully acknowledge the elders, both past and present.

I would also respectfully acknowledge my predecessor, the former member for Waterford, Mr Evan Moorhead. While we saw in Queensland one of the dirtiest campaigns this state has ever seen, while Queensland was dragged through personal attacks on candidates and their families, the campaign in Waterford was not by any stretch of the imagination one of those campaigns. I commend Mr Moorhead, his staff and supporters for maintaining what was between us—both Evan and I—a campaign that maintained its dignity and professionalism, where first and foremost the interests of our community were the priority.

For me personally, to be here today as the member for Waterford is both rewarding and humbling. It is for any one of us a great honour and privilege to hold office and to represent our community in such an esteemed position. I pledge to my constituents, the residents of my electorate, that I will not forget that. This honour is particularly humbling as I am the first conservative member to hold the seat of Waterford.

Waterford means more to me than a successful election. It is more to me than a job or a role. It is more than a seat of parliament; Waterford is my home. I have grown here. I live there and I am raising my family there. Waterford is not just a community; Waterford is my community. Waterford is an area that contains great diversity. From the varied multicultural backgrounds, the hopes and aspirations of our young and the experience and wisdom of our aged, there is strength in this electorate, as there is across the city of Logan. There is a great strength in the sense of community that permeates throughout Waterford—in our schools, our P&Cs, our community centres and groups, our PCYC, our seniors groups, our Soroptimists, Lions, Rotary and Quota groups, our chambers of commerce and junior chambers of commerce. From school leaders to community leaders, there is a pride and a willingness to help our friends and neighbours, a willingness to work hard, to build our sense of community, to give of our own time and to volunteer to further the causes of these great organisations.

While we saw in Queensland following those floods in 2011 what it was to be an Australian and the tremendous efforts of those volunteers, it is with a great sense of pride that I acknowledge those in Waterford who give of their time and who volunteer tirelessly every day in my community. It is Frank Barnes and others like Frank who I have in mind. It is that rich diversity and the moral compass of those volunteers who work against and despite the reputation and negative perceptions of Logan who make up the unique fabric of Waterford in what I believe is our great city of Logan. Again, may I say how humbled I am that the people of Waterford have entrusted me to advocate for those issues and the

causes that they hold dear. To those who did not vote for me, may I also say that they, too, I represent and will represent to the fullest of my ability.

With regard to my being here, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the work that my campaign team put in. Indeed, I simply would not be here without their tireless efforts. There was no glorious campaign in Waterford. There were no great amounts of money thrown into the Waterford campaign and it was, in fact, fairly humbly resourced. The strength of this campaign was borne upon the hard work and dedication of friends, family and volunteers in what was a back-to-basics, grassroots campaign over 12 months. To David Pellowe and the Pellowe family, I say thank you. To John Broadhurst, to Shane von Senden, to Lance Bare, Kevin Walters, Jim and Robin Gallen, to Terry Millful, Couda Chappel, I say thank you. To the Logan women's group, to the Waterford SEC and the Logan Business Branch, I say thank you. To all those who volunteered on the Waterford campaign, I say thank you.

There are also those who I feel warrant a special mention for their assistance and guidance throughout my campaign. To the honourable John Paul Langbroek, Minister for Education, may I firstly offer my congratulations and may I also thank you. Thank you for taking my call; thank you for your guidance and support. To Mark Boothman, member for Albert, to the Boothman family and to the Albert campaign team, I thank you for your support and for your friendship. To Luke Smith, councillor for division 6 Logan City Council, to Andrea and the girls and to Kevin, I thank you for your support and for your friendship. To Burt van Manen, federal member for Forde, to Pam Parker, mayor of Logan, and to your respective family, friends and supporters, I say thank you. To my friends and former colleagues of Brisbane City Council, to the MIPO team, the city property team and to my friends in the Brisbane city legal practice, I say thank you. To Doug Muir and Mary-lou Badeaux, colleagues and friends who provided me with support and guidance and who continue to do so, I thank you.

In the spirit of being a true politician I would also like to take the opportunity to talk about myself. As a child and student some may find it hard to believe that for the most part the report cards of my early years all read the same: Michael is a great student but is shy and does not mix well. I can attribute the change to a number of things: years of training in martial arts, my enrolment in the performing arts, the active pursuit of school leadership and, of course, the loving strength of family. But my inspiration in politics I can limit to a particular point in my life and to two particular people. As a school captain in the second senior year for Windaroo Valley High, I met my local politicians and was greatly impressed by their active involvement in my school, with me and with my community. These politicians were the then federal member for Forde, Kay Elson, and the former state member for Albert, Bill Baumann. As a young man it greatly impressed upon me their willingness and desire to work with and for the betterment of my community. I saw in Kay and Bill a path to follow, an opportunity for me to be able to be and to do something greater than work towards my own ends. I had been inspired. The seed for change, the desire to work harder for the greater good and the need to help others was well and truly planted. I then set about living a life and working towards gaining the experience that I felt would serve me well when the time came for me to stand up and represent my community. I feel that those experiences will serve me well in this new chapter of my life.

I am of a large family, a family that has had much to offer by way of varied experiences. Through the highs and lows of any family we learn and we grow and it is those around us who shape the person we are and have the potential to become. My parents, young when they became parents, gave of themselves all that anyone could ask of parents. They gave and continue to give their love, their discipline and their loyalty to my brothers and I, even if from time to time we may lose sight of that. My parents were never wealthy, but may I acknowledge that my brothers and I were never without. Their sense of selflessness can be attested to by many. While not many outside of my immediate family will know, and one of my younger siblings will never know, one of the greatest defining influences on the sort of person I am or was to become was, in fact, the death of one of my brothers. I am the oldest of six, but five of us remain. At a very young age the loss of George Geoffrey to SIDS was to have a profound impact on my parents and my family. At an age far younger than most would appreciate, it became incumbent upon me to grow beyond my years to take on a support role that was to later blur the lines between parents and child to son and friend. I do not begrudge those tragic circumstances; they were, as I mentioned, a defining influence. For me, my parents, whom I love dearly, are also dear friends. I thank them both for their love, their guidance, their fierce loyalty and their friendship. To my brothers, George, James, Luke and Bradley, you will know that my involvement in your lives has often blurred between the roles of an older brother and a parent, but neither were without a great sense of pride and love in the men that each of you has become or, in the case of my younger brother, the man you are becoming. To your respective partners, Kayla, Melissa and Megan, to each of you I extend my love and appreciation for the support you have provided.

To my wife Jayne, who has been with me since we were both students in high school, I simply would not be standing here without your support and understanding. While I was a young inexperienced, and somewhat terrified father, I can say nothing—nothing—means more to me than our children: my daughter Gabriella and my son Maximilian, or Max. Jayne, you and I have been through a great deal together. We have had highs and lows, as any couple has, but no-one knows me better than

you do. You are my wife, an outstanding mother, but you are also the greatest friend I have. I love you and I thank you. To my daughter and to my son, while you are both too young to understand the path that our family now takes, I must first apologise and beg of you your later understanding for the long days and nights, for the times that I will not be there, but it is my hope that the times that I am there are all the more special for that reason and that you come to know that the reason I do all that I do is in the hope that for you and for all others there will be a future worth having.

I thank my mother-in-law, Doreen, and all of my family on both sides for their acceptance, love and support. I thank the Trabys and the Thompsons, whom I consider to be family, for their love and support. I am where I want to be. I am doing what I want to do. I am the member for Waterford and I would have it no other way. To the Premier, members of the cabinet, my friends and colleagues I say simply this: we have a great deal of work to do and I, for one, am looking forward to getting on with the job.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Burleigh, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.30 pm): Today I rise to give thanks to the Governor for her address on the opening day of parliament and to pledge my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the people of Queensland, and most of all to the residents of Burleigh Heads, Palm Beach, Varsity Lakes and Miami, the suburbs that make up the electorate of Burleigh. I rise a very humble man, fully aware of the faith the good people of Burleigh have placed in me as their local representative, their local issues champion. Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I add my congratulations to the member for Maroochydore for taking her place as the first female Speaker of this House, an honour that is well deserved. My best wishes go out to the former member for Burleigh, Christine Smith, as she moves into retirement and full-time enjoyment of her grandchildren. If I can be remembered in the electorate with similar fondness as that with which Christine is held, I will be a happy man.

As I stand here, I am reminded of the words of Ronald Reagan when he spoke to the surgeons who were about to operate on him after he was wounded in an assassination attempt. He is quoted as saying, 'Please assure me you are all Republicans'. As I look around this chamber today, I am heartened to note that most of the critics who will judge my speech tonight are friends. My commitment to the people of Burleigh, to the people of Queensland and to members here present is to participate constructively in this place and to act in an honest, forthright manner, always keeping in mind the best interests of the people of the electorate of Burleigh and the people of this great state of Queensland.

With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, tonight I will give those present an insight into who I am and what I stand for. I was born in Bega, New South Wales, the first born of Jim, a banker, and Marie, a nurse. I have younger siblings, Chris and Joanne. Honourable members will be surprised to know that I met my wife, Sally, in Goulburn, New South Wales, around 45 years ago. We were next door neighbours and found ourselves walking to school together when we were about six years old. To this day I am still blamed for exposing the reality of the tooth fairy and Father Christmas to an innocent six-year-old, who has now been my wife for over 30 years. We have three children: Timothy and Jessica, who are 26, and our son Hayden turns 21 this Sunday. I know members will think I am too young, but Tim and his partner Aimie have provided Sally and I with a grandson, Joshua, who is heading towards his second birthday. I encourage all present to look forward to the grandparenting stage. That is the stage when you can say, 'Enough!' and hand them back. Joshua is wonderful and we truly adore him.

A few weeks ago I watched Q&A and an audience member asked Joe Hockey about living on the north shore of Sydney and how he would best promote the Australian egalitarian ethos. That made me think about how I would respond to that question. If I were to be totally honest, I would have to say that my philosophy of life does not support egalitarianism. While I believe we are all born equal, I have to say that, from then on, the decisions our parents make in our early lives, followed by our decisions, determine where we sit in society. My parents taught me about aspirations and how to strive for a better life. Those are important lessons that I have passed on to my children. They are lessons that have carried me through life and that have contributed to the person I am now. Undoubtedly, there will be members in this chamber and visitors in the gallery above who will ridicule me for this attitude, but I place on the record my overriding philosophies of life. The opinions and decisions I make in this place will reflect those philosophies.

I believe in the right of people to make their own choices in life. Regardless of whether or not I agree with them, they have a right to their own opinion and their own choices. I believe in small government with minimal regulation. I believe in a hand up from government, not a handout. In basic terms, I believe good government needs to ensure the population is secure from interference from the action of others. If a government does just that one thing, I believe it succeeds.

One of the key choices I believe a person should be free to make is to work hard, earn a good living and improve the living standard of their family. I do not believe that they should be made to feel ashamed or, indeed, ridiculed because of that choice. I believe this great country of ours is in danger of becoming a nanny state. Presently, too many people rely on the government for handouts for survival.

Previous governments have encouraged this attitude and for many people it has now become a way of life. Our ageing population cannot afford for this to continue. If we are not careful, there will not be enough taxpayers left to fund our ongoing social responsibilities.

On 24 March I was elected as the new member for Burleigh and I will always be eternally grateful to the people of Burleigh for the honour they have bestowed upon me. The electorate of Burleigh is made up of Burleigh Heads and sections of Palm Beach, Varsity Lakes and Miami. We are blessed with some of the best beaches and parks in Queensland. To educate the young people of Burleigh we have nine schools. To protect the people of Burleigh we have one fire station, one ambulance station and one CIB station. We have 13 active community groups in the local area and to care for our citizens and visitors on our beaches we have six surf clubs. Burleigh is the home to Surf Life Saving's Surfcom and the Gold Coast City Council's lifeguard headquarters. Surf Life Saving is an association that is dear to my heart, having been a lifesaver for more years than I can remember. Until recently, I was the president of the Pacific Surf Life Saving Club in Palm Beach, a position I have relinquished with great sadness.

When I think about surf-lifesaving, I start to think about volunteers in general. I hope that during my time in this place I might be able to promote the concept of volunteering. With that in mind, this new government, a government of which I am part, needs to consider how it is that we treat volunteers. Over the past few years I have volunteered in a number of community roles and the greatest frustration I have felt is with the restrictions put on me as a volunteer by all levels of government bureaucracy. In my opinion, it is time to return to the situation where personal responsibility is paramount. It should not be the role of government to protect ourselves from ourselves. We need to be free to make our own decisions and, literally, to sink or swim with those decisions. Red tape is getting in the way of our volunteers and, if we want to keep those people doing the job they are doing, it is time we set them free. Let personal responsibility be the defining rule, not red tape.

The seat of Burleigh has a village atmosphere to it and that village atmosphere needs to stay as the defining feature of the area. With that concept fully in mind, there are a number of issues I will strive to solve during my time in this place. Firstly, the Tallebudgera boardwalk from Fleay's Fauna Reserve to the coast has recently had a very expensive makeover and yet it does not seem to go anywhere. It has been the victim of government's uncompromising regulation overcoming good sense and personal responsibility. I intend to do all I can over the next few months to see that the Tallebudgera boardwalk is reopened to the public from Fleay's fauna park to the beach.

Secondly, petty vandalism in the form of break and enters is out of control, with one local example being a tennis club that is within walking distance of my office being broken into eight times in the last two and a bit weeks—twice this past weekend and apparently again last night. Thieves are breaking in doing thousands of dollars worth of damage to the facility just to steal a few cans of alcohol, and they are doing this night after night. The police do not have the resources to deal with these crimes. Their response times are unacceptable and I am angry about that. It is not the police officers' fault; it is ours. We urgently need to give them the resources they need do their job properly.

A cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast would seem to me to be a no-brainer. Public transport is of course another big issue in my electorate, as it is in the whole of Queensland. I am a firm believer in the KISS principle—keep it simple stupid. To work, public transport must take you from where you are to where you want to go, be reasonably priced and convenient. If it is not, it does not get used and it may as well not be there. That leads me to the much discussed rapid transit system under construction on the Gold Coast.

To meet the criteria I have just discussed it is clear to me that the rapid transit system must cover the Gold Coast from one end to the other, not a small section in the middle. It must connect to other forms of transport and therefore must be linked to heavy rail and the airport. This concept can be delivered by extending the rapid transit system from Broadbeach, where it is scheduled to terminate under stage 1, to Burleigh and then out to Varsity train station. This could be stage 2, with stage 3 being the replacement of the proposed heavy rail with light rail from Varsity station to the airport using the rail corridor already designated.

Mr Deputy Speaker, now is the time to act. Queenslanders have given our government a clear mandate to do so. We have a mountain of problems ahead of us—everything from cost-of-living pressures to the safety and security of our families and properties, unemployment, a declining tourism industry and lots more. These problems are not isolated. They impact all electorates, not just my own.

I am a passionate man and might I say I have the tissues to prove it. I want to be part of a government that brings this state back to being a leading force not only in this country but also that contributes to the advancement of the world. From our dedicated police, ambulance and fire departments across our state to the teachers who develop the youth of tomorrow, to all the volunteers who willingly give their time to support many of our charities and not-for-profit organisations, we can and we must all play our part in making this happen because the alternative is something we dare not think about, nor should we accept.

The constituents of Queensland have spoken loud and clear. They did not just simply tick a box on election day. They, I believe, made a profound statement to all levels of government that a change

was needed. The electorate of Burleigh has been neglected for too long by the past government. Crime has increased, unemployment has risen and many small businesses have closed their doors. Trades men and women are making the daily trek up the M1 to find employment.

My electorate has many wonderful assets that can be better utilised. Better utilisation of our existing infrastructure can assist in creating environments where our youth can have fun in a safe environment, provide small business with an opportunity to be successful and provide a beating hub for the community to gather and be social.

Winning the seat of Burleigh came at considerable personal cost to my family and myself both financially and emotionally—six years of my life, three elections, numerous pairs of shoes worn out doorknocking and the people of Burleigh having to put up with my ugly mug being constantly seen on cars, corflutes, flyers and even billboards around the electorate. There is a long list of people I would like to thank for their support, hard work and encouragement over the last six years.

First and foremost, to my family—my wife, Sally, who has put up with a grumpy husband for the last six years mostly, I must say, with good grace—mostly, I said. My children—Timothy, Jessica and Hayden and their partners Aimie, Simon and Anna, and our gorgeous grandson Joshua—have endured the ups and downs of political campaigning for six long years. They have been with me in rain, hail or shine, on the side of the road, hand-folding and stuffing letters, out in the middle of the night setting up polling booths—they have done it all. To my parents, Jim and Marie, for standing with me at prepoll—full-time for two elections and part-time for this one. To my siblings, Joanne and Chris and their families, for the hours spent on polling booths and their continued love and support.

A big thank you to Mark Henry, my campaign manager for the 2006 and 2009 election campaigns. Mark was right by my side every step of the way during those two campaigns and can justly take a large part of the credit for our success in this campaign. Mark, thank you. To Darren Macintosh, my campaign manager at this election: mate, you're a legend and I will never forget what you have done for me. Darren was always there keeping me going just when I needed that extra shove along. Darren has a future in politics himself, and I can't wait to repay the favour when his time comes. To Darren and his wife, Jessica, thank you for the time you sacrificed for me.

To Gloria Johnson, Corali and Peter Stevenson, and Norman Dunstan who all worked in my office during the campaign: I can never repay you for the effort you put in. Thank you. To my mates Ray Skalski, Ken Clark and Jon Ingall who all constantly said to me, 'I can't understand why you would want to be a politician,' yet they helped me out constantly because they were my mates. Guys, thank you. To my booth captains, booth workers, prepoll workers—over 150 in all—thank you for your support. I would not be here today without your help.

I would like to thank the returning MPs on the Gold Coast for their encouragement and support over the last three elections, and can I particularly single out Jann Stuckey, my close friend and mentor. Jann has always given me sound, often blunt, advice—something I am most grateful for.

To the LNP campaign team, led by James McGrath, Michael O'Dwyer and specifically Mitch Redford, who looked after my campaign directly: all of us here owe you a very big thank you. To Mr Bruce Duncan, regional chair of the Gold Coast LNP: your support and organisational skills have played a large part in the success of all members of the Gold Coast team.

The members of the Young LNP amazed me during the state campaign with their vitality and enthusiasm. Ably led on the Gold Coast by Hermann Vorster, these wonderful young people were seen everywhere—in every electorate on the coast and in their spare time, which there was not much of, in Brisbane. To the visionaries of the LNP, Bruce McIver and Gary Spence: your vision of a united Liberal and National Party and forethought to bring us a leader like Campbell Newman have got us here today, and to Lawrence Springborg for your determination in forming the LNP, I salute you.

Lastly to my best friend, Lisa Stoo'e, who was with me right from the start. Even though she fundamentally does not believe in politics, she supported me because she believed in me. She was with me for the first two campaigns and with me in spirit for this one. She then came over from Western Australia for a month to help set up my electoral office. Lisa, thanks for your love and support. Your friends here miss you and it is time to come home.

Mr Deputy Speaker and honourable members, Queensland is open for business again and it is time for all our lost friends to come home. Mr Deputy Speaker, may I say via you to the Premier: Premier, I am aware that many of us are here today in great part because of you. You deserve our faith, our friendship, our support and, above all, our loyalty. You have mine unconditionally.

Mr Deputy Speaker, may I finish with a quote from Benjamin Disraeli, 'Though I sit down now, the time will come when you will hear me.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Beaudesert, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and he should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (8.49 pm): I come to this place today as the third member for Beaudesert and am proud to state that, for the first time in two years, the LNP once again represents this great electorate. One of my predecessors, the Hon. Kev Lingard, was Speaker of this House during his 25-odd years in parliament. He was elected as the member for Fassifern in 1983, Fassifern being one of at least three formerly constituted electorates which now make up the electorate of Beaudesert, including the Albert electorate. His predecessor was the Hon. Sel Muller, who was also privileged to serve as Speaker. It should be pointed out that the Hon. Sel Muller succeeded his father as the member for Fassifern, the Hon. Adolf Muller having represented the Fassifern electorate from 1935 until his retirement in 1969.

From 1896 to 1899 the member for Albert was a man called Robert Martin Collins, who was also my wife's great-great-grandfather. Robert Collins was renowned in the pastoral industry in this state and is largely credited with the establishment of national parks in Queensland, to preserve the natural environment he held dear around his home in Mundoolun, which is now in the Beaudesert electorate. I make reference to the history of my electorate and its members because I am proud to continue the work carried out by all of these former members, and I pay tribute to them today. That there were only three members of parliament from 1935 to 2009 speaks volumes about the stable, steady representation afforded to the community by those members, and I hope that the electorate I now represent will see fit to support me as their representative for some years to come.

I congratulate Madam Speaker on her historic appointment as Speaker, the first female Speaker of this House.

The Beaudesert electorate has always been the heart and soul of Queensland and this parliament. Indeed, to see Queensland in a day you only need a good tour of the Beaudesert electorate. We have it all, from the rainforest at Binna Burra and waterfalls on Tamborine Mountain to Gondwanaland in Lamington National Park at the back of Beechmont and the fertile agricultural plains of the Albert and Logan river valleys; the hills of the Main Ranges and the Border Ranges; the ocean views of Beechmont; the unique environment of Kooralbyn and country towns like Boonah, Kalbar and Rathdowney; the magnificence of the vegetable belt in the Fassifern, looked over by the Great Dividing Range and Cunninghams Gap; and the growing centres of Beaudesert, Jimboomba, Cedar Grove, Cedar Vale and Mundoolun. An hour from Brisbane but definitely Queensland country, this is the Scenic Rim of Queensland.

The Beaudesert electorate has always been at the heart and soul of coalition governments. No party other than the LNP and its predecessors has ever won an election in this seat. I make this point to illustrate that my community has been steadfast in its support for our side of politics, and we who are now in government must never take their loyalty for granted.

The election of 2012 heralded an historic event, and this is the first election to result in a Liberal National Party government. May there be many more to follow. It is a long way from my time spent as a student at the University of Queensland in the year 2000 and the disastrous election of 2001. In those days there were not many Young Liberals on campus and even fewer National Party members. The student union was very much dominated by left wing students, and it was here that I had my first combative encounters with the Labor Party and our other political opponents in student elections. On reflection, the rough and tumble of student politics—it can be very rough and very personal—was crucial experience for later years.

Queensland has given us their trust because Queenslanders gave us credit for our policies and those who make up our government team. There is no doubt that this credibility exists because of the creation of the LNP in 2008. As one who grew up on a dairy farm in a National Party family but ended up at university in the Liberal Party, I see myself as the epitome of the merged party, including its traditions of liberalism and conservatism, and I thank all those in both our former parties who worked so hard to ensure the greater good was achieved. In particular I thank Bruce McIver and Gary Spence, along with the Minister for Health and many others, including the members for Gregory, Condamine and Warrego, who have been crucial to the development of a united LNP.

Sir Winston Churchill is quoted as having said, 'The problems of victory are more agreeable than those of defeat, but they are no less difficult.' And so now it is with the LNP in government, which must address the difficult problems left to us by the Labor Party. In particular, this LNP government must look after rural and regional communities constituting my electorate and similar communities across Queensland, repaying the overwhelming support given to the LNP.

The Beaudesert electorate is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland. Families are moving in and springing up in new estates all over the place. And the community in Beaudesert reasonably expects that it should be able to give birth to children in Beaudesert. I am here to fight for them—to cut the cost of living and to deliver adequate hospital services in Beaudesert, increased public transport options across the electorate, the Beaudesert bypass and improved policing. I will be fighting to ensure the government gives us a fair share of state resources and infrastructure spending, such as the Mount Lindesay Highway upgrade, as our communities evolve gradually into more urbanised communities.

I will work to get the government off the back of our small businesses and our primary producers. Our unique natural environment in the Scenic Rim—the rainforests, national parks, mountains and superb and fertile agricultural lands—dotted with small and vibrant communities all over, should not be exposed to the impacts visited by resource industries. I thank the Premier and Deputy Premier for their commitment to implementing policies which recognise there are some areas where resource industries should not be developed. I will work on behalf of the electorate to ensure these important natural resources are preserved for future generations.

The tourism sector is growing in the Beaudesert electorate. There is a lot on offer, from hiking in the ranges bordering New South Wales or water sports on Moogerah, Maroon and the new Wyaralong dams, to wineries, lavender farms, farm stays, nature retreats, B&Bs and proper country shows. No offence to the member for Moggill, but the Brookfield Show is not a proper country show. I issue an open invitation to all members to visit the region on the doorstep of Brisbane, and I look forward to working with the government to boost tourism on the Scenic Rim.

A key part of the Beaudesert electorate's economy is our primary producers—not just farms but also the wider economy in the towns of this electorate which rely on primary industries. Australia needs primary industries, and I will support those industries. The government must work to bring cost relief to all small business, especially power and water costs, and through COAG and other dialogue the government should drive an agenda to sustain our primary industries through reforms to the labour market and to trade practices law to provide a fair bargaining position for small business and to quarantine laws to provide for proper quarantine checks on substandard imported produce. This is also about fairness in the economy.

Many of my constituents are family run primary producers and small businesses. They are the hardest working people in our country, yet the former government has given them power price rises of 60 per cent over five years. This is murderous to a dairy farmer who runs refrigeration equipment 24 hours a day, a small business which runs a factory reliant on electricity or a carrot grower who irrigates using electric pumps 24 hours a day. I generally agree with free market ideology, but that ideology comes to naught if we as a nation cannot sustain ourselves. What protection is there for primary producers who have invested a lifetime in their farms? None. Their revenue is free to go down and their costs are free to go up. That is the free market for them. This is simply unjust when one considers the regulations put in place to support other participants in our economy. This is not just about me standing up for my community; it is plainly about ensuring we have a future in this country where we can feed ourselves. This is a political decision to be made, because at the moment the market is trending in the wrong direction.

The Beaudesert electorate also has a large equine industry. From racing, pacing, showjumping and eventing to polo and cutting, across all breeds and many pony clubs, we have them all. And it is estimated that up to 2,000 jobs depend on equine activities in the Beaudesert region. Beaudesert has a proud history of racing, and I assure the Beaudesert community that I will work for them to see this industry go ahead.

I was raised in a family of four sons on a dairy farm at Marburg. My father and grandfather worked our small farm from around 1927 until 2001. My mother is a teacher, so I can well appreciate the dedication teachers have to their vocation.

Life on the farm when I was young had a fairly strong routine to it. Like many farmers, dad worked long hours and he worked hard. My parents worked hard to provide for their family. Their family was their responsibility, not the responsibility of anybody else. I believe this self-reliance and hard work ethic has been passed down through the generations from my ancestors, most of whom were immigrants to Queensland from a region of Prussia in what is now Germany. These immigrant families were granted small allotments of land which they were required to clear, improve and make productive. Many farms in my home town of Marburg, a town the member for Ipswich West now looks after, like the towns of Boonah and Kalbar in the Fassifern Valley where my wife grew up and where we now live, were settled by these German families, many of whom had fled economic depression, rising militarism of the Kaiser and religious persecution. They set sail to what was then a very remote place all on the chance of a better life. We should pay tribute and remember these pioneers.

Standing in this chamber I look back on generations past, including my great-great grandfather Isaac Ham who served as mayor of Ipswich in 1905 and my late grandfather Victor Krause who served over a decade on Moreton Shire Council in the 1960s and seventies, and all of the pioneers who built this state. I am inspired to make Queensland a success again. We need to reward people who work hard and give them incentives to do so. After attending Ipswich Grammar School, a fine institution where the values of self-discipline, pride and diligence were engrained by all of the teachers like Jon Snow and the late Dick Rima, I studied law and accounting at the University of Queensland and worked in Brisbane and overseas as a solicitor. Further educational opportunities are in abundance in Australia, but we must ensure we invest wisely in our economy to create an economic incentive for individuals to increase their knowledge. Without that incentive, history shows us that our society will not move forward.

To my parents, Robert and Janet Krause, I thank them for their never-ending love and support and for the sacrifices they made in their own lives to provide my brothers and me with the best opportunities in life. I thank them for instilling in me a sense of right and wrong. There are so many debts to them which I can never repay. I remember my departed grandparents, Victor and Gertrude Krause and Len Ham, who was a farmer and a coalminer. All three of them were staunch conservatives and would be absolutely delighted—and amazed—to see me in this place today. I also remember my wife's grandmother, Joan Philp, a most enthusiastic supporter, who passed away only a week or so after the election. I think she voted for me! I acknowledge and thank my grandmother, May Ham, for her support in my life and who, at 94 years of age, still lives in her home and is an example of love and dedication to family. I thank my parents-in-law, Peter and Janet Philp, for their continuous support and guidance over the years, particularly in the election campaign in Boonah.

My brother David and his wife Emma, who are sitting in the gallery tonight, deserve special thanks for their work on the campaign. He once said to me that politics was a mug's game. A few months later he attended a function, joined the party and was hooked. It looks like he was the mug after all! Thank you also to brothers Paul and Tim and their wives Sarah and Alison. Paul lives in London but is a terrific media adviser. Through time zone differences, he reads all of the papers in Australia before I awake and emails me if there is anything I need to know. My brother-in-law at Condamine, Luke Philp, and his wife Jennifer deserve a thank-you for their contribution to the campaign.

To all who assisted on my campaign, thank you. There are so many, but I pay special tribute to Sheila and Lloyd Venz, campaign director Bob Harper and his long-suffering wife Rhonda, Mitch Redford, James McGrath, Leanne Allen, Darrell and Brenda Dennis, Liz Dittman, Mark and Bernadette McCabe, Glenn Abbott, Marjorie Yarrow and Kate Seymour, Ken Turnbull, Colin Lagoon, Julian Creighton, Jon Forbe-Smith, John Dunn, Trevor and Jan Pfeffer, Patsy Bell, Ron and Gail Waters-Marsh, Ruth Doyle, Kath Mulders, Laurie Veitch, Greg McKenzie, Robbie and Julianne Murphy, David and Gloria Brennan, Ollie Johnson, Clive and Summer Todd, Phil Lowe, Amy Hanson and Chris McLellan. I also thank Scott Buchholz, the member for Wright, and John Brent, Mayor of the Scenic Rim. David Russell QC gave me the spur on I required in 2010. Thank you. Thank you to National Australia Bank, my former employer, for its indulgence during the long unofficial campaign. To Kate Olgers, Nigel Ward, Scott Mackay, Rukshi Jayawardena, John Lowrey, Ann Choi, Lynda Jardine, Tanya King and Brooke Howard and even Bruce Hollas, thank you for your support. I thank each and every member of the Beaudesert electorate. The people of this electorate have big hearts and will give a fair go to anybody who is willing to genuinely represent them. I am thankful for the frequent offers of cold water while doorknocking in the summer heat. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

I have lived and worked in other places and I cannot think of any place where so many volunteers give so much to their community than in the Beaudesert electorate. Whether it is Rural Lifestyle Options, an organisation which provides a live-in home for children and adults with severe intellectual or physical impairment, or Beaucare, Caddies or Bluecare or Centacare or Quota, Zonta, Rotary or Lions or the many sporting bodies which produce world-class athletes, the list goes on. I could not name them all here in the allotted time. I thank all of these volunteers as representatives of the wider community for their hard work. I thank community groups such as the Tamborine Mountain, Beaudesert and Boonah Men's Shed, the Beaudesert University of the Third Age, the Rathdowney Bowls Club, Jimboomba, Boonah and Beaudesert Rotary and Boonah Chamber of Commerce as well as the staff and residents at Wongaburra, Star Gardens and the Churches of Christ Village, among many others, who were willing to have me visit them.

To all of my constituents, I give you this pledge: I will always listen to your concerns and do my best to address them. You are my first concern in any legislation which comes before this House. I will not pack up my tools and run away if the interests of the electorate are not always addressed—that is politics sometimes—and I will continue to doggedly represent you. All of you understand that you cannot always get everything you need at once, but you can rely on me to keep coming back, like a pitbull terrier attaches itself to the trousers of an intruder, to ensure you have a voice which is heard.

I will not take the electorate for granted, and nor should the LNP ministers now in government take it for granted. I acknowledge there are many issues and challenges which the government must address in my electorate—exploration permits for mining and CSG which should never have been granted, restoring hospital services in Beaudesert, giving real cost relief to families and farmers, upgrading many main roads and building new transport options into growth areas near Jimboomba and Boonah, cutting the cost of doing business so our tourism operators, our owner-drivers in the transport industry—a group of people I know the member for Gregory holds dear—our builders and our small businesses can thrive, and the list goes on. There is so much to do. But if we do not have a plan to tackle these problems, there are opponents of the LNP who will seek to replace the LNP from rural and regional communities, threatening once again to split the non-Labor forces in Queensland. We all know, in the LNP, that such forces do only Labor's bidding, for division only serves to get Labor back in power. There are no prizes for holding the most seats in opposition. I say simply to the Premier and his ministers: if you play straight to Beaudesert, Beaudesert will play straight to you. Today I thank the Premier for leading the LNP to government in Queensland. History will mark you as a truly remarkable

Queensland politician. Thank you for visiting and campaigning with me in the electorate. I am sure you and I agree with the following principles enunciated by the 15th Premier of Queensland—

I believe the Government ought to be like a good merchant or a good citizen who always pays his way and never expends more than his income. I say it is this continual borrowing, lending and spending of large sums of money that is sapping the independence of the people of the country and destroying ... self-confidence ...

The 15th Premier of Queensland was Sir Robert Philp, an entrepreneurial businessman and politician who was also my wife's great-great grandfather. I wholeheartedly agree with his statements and sentiments, which are as relevant today as they were when he stated them at the turn of the last century. Premier, not only are you the first to become Premier from outside the parliament; history will remember your courageous decision to give up the Lord Mayoralty to lead the LNP in Queensland—a selfless, determined decision to do what needed to be done to put things right.

I thank our heavenly father for his blessings given to this country and our family. It is my prayer that, with his help, I will be a worthy custodian of his creation—for that is what we all are in this House.

There is one person I must thank above all others for her support, endurance and guidance. She is my mate and the best sounding board I could ever ask for. She keeps me grounded—incredibly so—and keeps my chin up when things get tough. My wife, Kit, has taken on a lot in the past two years as we travelled through preselections and an election campaign to arrive here today. As I said to my wife on our wedding day, thank you for accepting me as I am. The coming years will be a time of challenge and change for Queensland, for the electorate and for our family. To you and my little boy, Rory, I treasure you above all things and I am privileged to have you by my side as we work together for our community and for Queensland to secure a future for our children and the generations to come. That is what I am here to do—to secure the future for our community, its families, as well as my own, its industries, its environment. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to represent the heart and soul of Queensland which is the electorate of Beaudesert.

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.09 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate, I request that you convey to the Speaker my congratulations on her election to that high and respected office. While all members of this place have a responsibility to behave in a manner that reflects positively on the House, the Speaker is particularly burdened with the responsibility of ensuring that the traditional impartiality and dignity of that office is preserved. I would note that, as the first woman to be elected Speaker of the Queensland parliament, another first in a long list of firsts for women from the conservative side of politics has been added to. The first woman elected to this parliament, the first woman appointed to cabinet in this parliament, the first woman to be a Deputy Premier and now the first woman to be elected Speaker is a track record for which the LNP can be proud in terms of the participation of women in politics—and all on merit.

I am truly humbled and honoured to have been returned as the member for Hinchinbrook. I thank the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate for their support. I intend to repay that support by continuing to provide the strong representation to all of my constituents that they deserve and that I have endeavoured to provide since I was first elected. I am pleased and proud for the third time to pledge my loyalty to our most gracious sovereign Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to her representative in the great state of Queensland, Her Excellency the Governor, and to the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate. I am particularly pleased to do so in this the year of Her Majesty's diamond jubilee celebrations. For the third time in an address-in-reply I reaffirm my view that our current constitutional arrangements have served the people of Queensland and the people of Australia well and I am a strong and committed advocate for retaining our present constitutional arrangements in the interests of good government.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the people who assisted me in being returned as the member for Hinchinbrook. In the first instance I thank the people who make up the branches and the committees of the LNP in Hinchinbrook. They are dedicated supporters of our party and they helped me enormously during the recent election campaign. I am very grateful for their support. There were also many people who are not members of the LNP who volunteered their time and who supported me during the election campaign. I am also very grateful to those people. It was wonderful to have so many who are not directly connected with the LNP express confidence in me and, once again, I will do my best to repay that confidence.

I would in particular like to extend my thanks to my campaign directors, Nat La Spina and Marc Rowell, whose support and guidance once again proved invaluable. Nat La Spina is well known to many longer serving LNP members in this House and is respected in North Queensland as someone who has stuck with us through thick and through thin, in good times and in bad times, and who has demonstrated unwavering loyalty to our party. Marc Rowell is also well known to many longer serving LNP members in this House and I was very lucky indeed to have him as a mentor of mine, who encouraged me and who has been a great source of feedback and advice. Marc is my immediate predecessor in this place, a person who is well respected by both sides of the House, and I understand that he continues to take a very strong interest in politics and the fortunes of the state of Queensland, particularly North Queensland. I would also like to put on the record my thanks to Bryce MacDonald and Wally Skinner, two members of my party who gave me very strong support during the election campaign.

As always, my family were unfailing in their support for my endeavours. I wish to express my gratitude to my mum and dad, Lloyd and Lorraine, for their love and encouragement. They have made a lot of sacrifices for me in the past and, amazingly, they insist on continuing to make sacrifices to support me in my public life and I am doing everything that I can to make them proud of me. They worked hard to give me the opportunity to get a good education and instilled in me the values and principles that guide me. For that, I am very grateful and I thank them. I also thank my brother and my good friend, Graham, who is a reluctant participant in politics but who is someone whose support I know I can always rely on and who enjoys his self-appointed role of keeping me grounded. All members in this place should understand and appreciate the importance of the support we receive from our friends and family. They make significant sacrifices for us to be able to discharge our duties.

The other source of support without which we could not do our jobs is the support that we receive from our staff. I would like to put on the record my appreciation for the dedication of my staff in the Hinchinbrook electorate office, Leisa Menegon, Jess Exelby and Lorraine Valinoti, who really are dedicated to their jobs and are genuinely committed to serving the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate. Leisa, Jess and Lorraine are fantastic staff and I am truly fortunate to have them. They put up with a lot in their demanding jobs. Indeed, they put up with me—as indeed all of my colleagues do. I also look forward to working with my new ministerial staff, led by my chief of staff, Susan MacDonald, and the many staff and officers of the newly re-established Department of Natural Resources and Mines, led by director-general Dan Hunt. On that note, I ought to say how much of an honour and a privilege it is to have been asked to join the first Newman LNP cabinet as the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and I thank the Premier for that opportunity to accept his invitation to join his cabinet.

I was pleased to listen to Her Excellency the Governor touch on the importance of issues concerning my portfolio in her speech to open the 54th Queensland Parliament. As the Governor mentioned, the resources sector is a cornerstone of the state's economy, particularly in regional areas. As minister, I am indeed determined to ensure that Queensland benefits from growth in the resources sector and that it develops in a responsible and orderly fashion. The LNP recognises the need for sustainable growth in this sector and the importance of it being a safe place to work. The priorities in this area for the LNP are indeed to address pressing skills shortages, improve the efficiency of regulatory and approval processes, restore confidence in the sector's social licence to operate and restore Queensland's reputation as a preferred destination for investment. I will seek to address these priorities by working with my ministerial colleagues where we share areas of mutual interest.

The Governor was right to observe that land and water are the fundamental building blocks of our environment, communities and economy. As the responsible minister, I am determined that the natural resource management policies of this government will plan for the prudent conservation and utilisation of land and water resources. Most importantly, I am determined to ensure that my department will manage our natural resources in a transparent and accountable way based on science and equity. I see as a matter of urgency the need for the management of our natural resources to return to a more balanced approach that affords some respect for private property rights as we pursue our sustainability objectives in parallel.

Perhaps more than in any other area of public policy, the approach of the LNP with respect to land and water management will be in stark contrast to the ideological, politically driven agenda of the former Beattie and Bligh Labor governments and their disgraceful alliance with the extreme Greens. Over the past 14 years the Labor-Greens alliance has waged a relentless and often fanatical assault on the private property rights of Queenslanders who, for over 150 years, have utilised our natural resources to support their families, create jobs, build communities and generate wealth for Queensland. That alliance has undermined confidence and created great uncertainty for industry but, more concerning, has caused great pain, frustration and anger in the lives of good, honest, hardworking Queenslanders. I would note that this has been most keenly felt in rural and regional communities. The Labor-Greens alliance has hammered the bush and I for one have had enough of it. I am looking forward to being part of a new government that will work to heal these wounds.

I share the concerns of the Deputy Premier, the member for Callide, which he expressed during his contribution to this debate, for the welfare of country towns and country people across Queensland. However, it will be no surprise whatsoever to continuing members of this House that I have a significant bias towards, a particular concern for and a major preoccupation with the welfare and circumstances of the towns and people of North Queensland. I was born and raised in the mighty sugar and banana farming town of Tully and for several years now I have lived in the wonderful town of Ingham in the heart of the Herbert River district. Both sides of my family have lived in North Queensland for several generations. I am passionate about the people, the communities and the industries of North Queensland. From the Bohle River and the northern beaches of Townsville in the south to the Johnstone River in Innisfail in the north, the Hinchinbrook electorate and North Queensland is my home; it is the place that I love and it is the place that I will always fight for.

On the evening of 2 February and in the morning of 3 February last year category 5 tropical Cyclone Yasi slammed into the Queensland Coast in the heart of my electorate, with the eye crossing

just after midnight at Mission Beach, making its way over the town of Tully before moving out over the Great Dividing Range and further west. Wind gusts of up to 285 Kilometres an hour punished these communities. Rainfall totals of almost half a metre in 24 hours were recorded in the same area, compounding the misery of people left without roofs, windows or doors. The town of Cardwell endured the wrath of a five-metre storm surge which caused enormous damage, devastating this wonderful, peaceful, close-knit little community. As I mentioned earlier, I live in Ingham and I spent the evening in my home hoping for the best but fearing the worst. What we experienced that night is something that we never want to experience again. As I stated last year in this place during the condolence motion debate, I was scared. It has been a truly upsetting and difficult experience to endure this period of response, recovery and reconstruction with my own community. I have witnessed, endured and struggled on with my constituents while they have valiantly held their heads up, helped each other and done everything they can to rebuild their lives. Undoubtedly it has been the most difficult year of my life. I thank in particular the Deputy Premier and the member for Burdekin who have taken an interest in my welfare and circumstances during this time. It has been a harrowing personal experience to witness the violence that was done to the place where I grew up, the sporting grounds that I played on, the creeks and rivers that I swam in and, perhaps the most difficult of all, the schools that I attended. The beautiful rainforests that are a feature of my electorate were stripped bare of vegetation and 15 months later they are only now taking steps towards reestablishing themselves. It is a most welcome development for the local community in my electorate.

I confess that I have regularly felt inadequate and sometimes powerless when faced with what seemed to be insurmountable challenges facing my community in the wake of Cyclone Yasi. The clean-up process and the recovery process, the insurance issues and the countless other challenges have combined together to create a heavy burden on the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate. I offer my sincere apologies to the people of my electorate if I have not been everything that they think I should have been as their local member over the last 15 months. I can fully accept that there may have been things that they wanted me to do or wanted me to say that I could not do or I did not do. And I say to them with all sincerity that it was not for want of trying and working for and fighting for you. I can after 15 months say that I have done my best.

My election as the member for Hinchinbrook in 2006 was a humbling experience. I was equally humbled and grateful to the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate when they returned me in 2009 and for the faith they have placed in me to represent them again in this place following the election in March this year. As I have always acknowledged during address-in-reply debates, while the Hinchinbrook electorate has been held by the LNP since 1960 it has never been a safe seat, with the margin at times being healthy while at others the margin has been wafer thin. The most recent election demonstrated once again that the Hinchinbrook electorate is not a safe seat for the LNP. The people of Hinchinbrook expect strong and effective representation and as such it continues to be my challenge to demonstrate to my constituents that I am worthy of their support. I have never taken their support for granted in the past and I will not take it for granted in the future.

The people of Queensland have elected a new LNP government. I will work hard to be an effective voice in this place for the people of Hinchinbrook. I take this opportunity to reaffirm my undertaking that I will do my best to further their interests and to provide them with the strong representation that they deserve. The new parliament is a very different place from the previous two that I have been a member of. I offer my congratulations to the Premier on his election as the member for Ashgrove for which he campaigned strongly and diligently as a local candidate against what were particularly vicious personal attacks by Labor and the extreme Greens. I note that in defeating the former member for Ashgrove the Premier dispatched a former Labor minister who did much to harm farming families and rural industries in my electorate and in North Queensland and I thank him in that regard. I offer my congratulations to my friend the Deputy Premier, the member for Callide, recognising that the election result has been particularly satisfying for him after 14 continuous years on the wrong side of this chamber, a sense of satisfaction which he understandably has failed miserably to mask since polling day. I compliment the Deputy Premier on his role in that success. I congratulate the Treasurer, the member for Clayfield, on his appointment to that important role and acknowledge the serious burden that he carries to provide leadership within the government, supported by his fellow cabinet ministers, to address the serious financial challenge confronting the Newman LNP government, a legacy of the disgraceful mismanagement, waste and reckless spending of the former Bligh Labor government.

I must say that it is a wonderful thing to have more LNP voices in the parliament from North Queensland to support advocacy for that region of this state. My friends, the member for Burdekin and the member for Mirani, have been carrying that burden in this place, along with myself, for some time. I offer a particularly warm welcome to the members for Cook, Barron River, Cairns, Townsville, Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Whitsunday. Members who know me well will also be aware that I would be being less than honest if I did not express a particular satisfaction with the arrival in this House of the new members for Beaudesert, Nanango, Maryborough and Burnett and the reasons for that particular satisfaction. I also offer these new members a warm welcome. Lastly I offer a special welcome to the new member for Pumicestone who is also the Assistant Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The

assistant minister has already proven herself to be a great asset to me as the minister and to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Mr Johnson: She's better looking than the minister.

Mr CRIPPS: I take the interjection from the member for Gregory. She is indeed better looking than the minister. The member for Pumicestone will take a particular interest in matters concerning the coal seam gas industry and the state government's interests and responsibilities in respect of abandoned mine sites. In conclusion, I say to all new LNP members of the 54th Parliament, you are first and foremost representatives of your electorate. That principle is the foundation of our representative democracy. I would say to you also that you have allowed yourself to be identified with the values and the policies of the LNP in the course of being elected, and your constituents have endorsed those values and policies at the recent state election. You are part of a team that has outlined a vision for this state. Let us set about this hard work as a team to clean up Labor's appalling mess and get Queensland back on track.

Debate, on motion of Mr Cripps, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (9.29pm): I move ~~That the House do now adjourn.~~

ESA Alpha Rho Mackay

Mr MULHERIN (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.29 pm): On Friday, 27 April I had the pleasure of attending the 18th annual changeover dinner for ESA International Alpha Rho Mackay Branch Inc. ESA Alpha Rho Mackay is part of an organisation that started in 1929 in Jacksonville, the United States of America. ESA stands for Education, Service to the Community, and Association and Friends. One of its original goals was to prepare its members to meet the challenges of an ever changing world. It sought to educate women through studying books. After World War II, it expanded its educational focus to philanthropic work.

More than 80 years later, ESA continues to meet this original goal through educational leadership and service programs that were born from the organisation's commitment to making a positive difference for its members and the causes they support. ESA was chartered in Australia on 10 December 1963 by Dorothy Banks. Next year it will celebrate 50 years of service in Australia. Across Queensland there are six branches: Proserpine, Redcliffe, Maryborough, Gin Gin, Brisbane South and, in my electorate of Mackay there is the Alpha Rho branch.

The Mackay chapter first started in 1992. With an increase in members, it was chartered on 11 December 1993. Four of the current members are foundation members. It is a small but dedicated group of women from the Mackay region who tirelessly fundraise for many causes in Mackay. In the past year, the 18 members have volunteered 5,768 hours. This year they raised \$75,000, which was distributed to various Mackay and Sarina organisations, including the Sarina Chaplaincy, the Mackay Chaplaincy, the Mackay State Emergency Services Volunteer Marine Rescue, the Mackay Base Hospital Oncology Ward, Breast Screen Mackay, Mackay Meals on Wheels, Sarina Meals on Wheels and the RACQ CQ Rescue Helicopter Service. The group has also fundraised for state projects including for the Queensland Cancer Council's Daffodil Day, Biggest Morning Tea and Pink Ribbon Day, and the Leukaemia Foundation's Lavender for Leukaemia.

I congratulate them on their fundraising efforts and their donations to worthwhile charities in the Mackay region. I commend the work of the outgoing president, Karen Francis, and her committee and welcome the new president, Rhonda Turner, and her committee who will continue ESA's excellent work in the Mackay community.

Food Relief North Queensland; Townsville and Thuringowa Transport Solutions

Mr COX (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.33 pm): I reiterate the comments of the member for Barron River about Martin Luther's words with regard to what you do for others. Basically, that is what I want to talk about in relation to the people of Thuringowa who do things for others. Food Relief NQ is a not for profit organisation that supplies food to over 76 welfare agencies throughout North Queensland, including the St Vincent de Paul Society and the North Queensland Combined Women's Services, to name just a couple. The organisation purchases food surplus from local wholesalers and distributes it to welfare agencies throughout the north.

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with the manager of Food Relief NQ, Ray Roberts, to tour the facility and to meet with some volunteers. Like other not for profit organisations, it could not carry out this vital service in the community without the dedication of all the volunteers. One of the roles of the