



State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

2012-13 Budget Estimates

Volume of Additional Information

MINUTES



State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Meeting No. 17 held on Wednesday, 12 September 2012 at 11.46am

Meeting Room, Parliament House

Members present

Mr Ted Malone MP, Chair
Mr Tim Mulherin MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Scott Driscoll MP
Mr Michael Hart MP
Mr Seath Holswich MP
Mr Rob Katter MP
Ms Kerry Millard MP
Mr Bruce Young MP

In attendance

Dr Kathy Munro, Research Director
Ms Erin Pasley, Principal Research Officer
Ms Mary Westcott, Principal Research Officer
Ms Rhia Campillo, Executive Assistant

1. Apologies

Nil

2. Estimates

2.1 Adoption of timetable for Estimates process

A copy of the proposed timetable was distributed to committee members.

On the motion of Mr Driscoll, seconded by Mr Mulherin, the committee resolved to adopt the draft timetable as distributed to members including:

- that members' 'questions on notice' be forwarded to the Research Director by 10:00am on Thursday, 20 September 2012;
- that Ministers' answers to questions on notice taken at the hearing, and any additional information about an answer given at the hearing, are forwarded to the Research Director by 5:00pm on Friday, 12 October 2012.

2.2 Estimates public hearing program

A copy of the draft public hearing timetable was distributed to committee members.

On the motion of Mr Mulherin, seconded by Mr Holswich, the committee resolved to adopt the draft hearing schedule as distributed to members for the public hearing on Wednesday, 10 October 2012.

2.3 Attendance of non-committee members

Members who are not committee members may, with the committee's leave, ask questions at the hearing (SO 181(e)).

On the motion of Mr Mulherin, seconded by Mr Katter, the committee resolved that non-committee members be given leave to attend to ask questions during the hearing.

2.4 Media guidelines

The committee noted that it resolved to adopt guidelines for media coverage and rules for the radio and television broadcasting of all of its public meetings and hearings at its first meeting on 30 May 2012.

2.5 Ministers' use of ancillary materials

The committee agreed that while it does not object in principle to the use of ancillary materials, the following guidelines should be complied with:

- the materials should not be of a size or nature which could create safety or security issues (e.g. they impede movement within the Chamber, impede access to and from the Chamber, require power cords to be run across the floor, are difficult to move into and out of the Parliamentary precinct);
- if the materials contain or depict information, that information should also be presented to the committee in documentary or other acceptable form; and
- advance notice should be given to the Research Director of the nature of any ancillary materials the Ministers propose to use, so that the committee can assess its compliance with the above.

Adjournment

At 11:58am, the committee adjourned to Wednesday, 10 October 2012 at 8:00am in Room A.35.

Confirmed on 25th day of October 2012



Ted Malone MP
Chair

Attachment 1 – Draft Inquiry Timetable

Estimates Inquiry Timetable

TIME/DATE	DETAILS
10.00am – Thurs 20 Sep 12	Questions on Notice to be provided to the Research Director (SO 182(1) & 182(2))
10.00am – Tues 9 Oct 12	Answers to Questions on Notice to be provided to the Research Director (SO 182(3))
8.00am – Wed 10 Oct 12	Pre-hearing meeting
9.00am – Wed 10 Oct 12	Public Hearing (date set by House)
5.00pm – Fri 12 Oct 12	Answers to Questions taken on Notice at hearing to be provided to the Research Director (SO 183(3)(b))
5.00pm – Tues 23 Oct 12	Draft Report forwarded to Chair
9.00am – Wed 24 Oct 12	Chair's Draft Report circulated to members
10.00am – Thurs 25 Oct 12	Committee meeting (by teleconference) to consider Chair's Draft Report
10.00am – Fri 26 Oct 12	Statements of reservation/dissenting reports to be provided to the Research Director 'within 24 hours after the committee's report is adopted' (SO 187(3))
No later than – Mon, 29 Oct 12 (date set by the House)	Tabling of report and volume of additional information Report will be tabled out of session (SO 189)

Attachment 2 – Draft Hearing Program



STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING TIMETABLE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2012

PORTFOLIO:

TIME:

DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning	9.00am – 11.00am
Break	11.00am – 11.15am
Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Coordinator-General)	11.15am -12.15pm
Queensland Reconstruction Authority	12.15pm – 12.45pm
Break	12.45pm – 2.00pm

MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY

Department of Energy and Water Supply	2.00pm – 4.30pm
Break	4.30pm – 4.45pm

MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games	4.45pm – 7.15pm
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MINUTES



State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Meeting No. 21 held on Wednesday, 10 October 2012 at 8.29am
Room A.35, Parliament House

Members present

Mr Ted Malone MP, Chair
Mr Tim Mulherin MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Scott Driscoll MP
Mr Michael Hart MP
Mr Seath Holswich MP
Ms Kerry Millard MP
Mr Bruce Young MP

In attendance

Ms Erin Pasley, Acting Research Director
Ms Linh Luong, Principal Research Officer
Ms Mary Wescott, Principal Research Officer
Ms Rhia Campillo, Executive Assistant.

Apologies

Mr Rob Katter MP

Confirmation of minutes

On the motion of Mr Holswich, seconded by Ms Millard, the committee resolved that the following minutes be confirmed and placed on Comdocs:

- meeting of 5 October at 9:03am
- meeting of 5 October at 11:50am.

Correspondence

On the motion of Mr Hart, seconded by Mr Young, the committee resolved that inwards correspondence be accepted and outgoing correspondence be endorsed and placed on Comdocs.

Estimates Public Hearing

Answers to Questions on Notice

Answers to questions on notice were received and circulated to members.

Members noted that Standing Order 182(8) provides that answers to questions on notice are deemed to be authorised for release by portfolio committee and published upon the commencement of the committee's public hearing, unless the committee expressly orders otherwise.

The research director advised that there were no confidentiality issues relating to the answers to questions on notice.

The committee noted that all questions on notice would be published.

Background material

The committee noted that the secretariat had circulated

organisational charts; Schedule 7 (Chief Executive Officers); lists of witnesses and Administrative Arrangements relevant to the portfolios under consideration were circulated to members.

4.3 Public hearing procedures

Members noted:

- Public Hearing timetable (Attached).
- A quorum is five members, including at least one non-government member. Members should advise the Chair if they need to leave the hearing for a period of time because if the committee is inquorate, proceedings must be suspended.
- The hearing should be adjourned for any committee deliberations, which are to be held in private.
- Members may ask the Minister, Director-General or Chief Executive Officer questions (SO 181).
- All questions taken on notice must be taken by the Minister (if asking a question on notice, please write the question on the forms provided).
- A Minister or any witness may only table a document at the committee's hearing with leave of the committee (SO 184(2)); any document tabled at a portfolio committee's hearing is deemed to be authorised for release by the committee unless the committee orders otherwise (SO 184(3)).
- The 'Chairperson may, after warning, order any member whose conduct in their opinion continues to be grossly disorderly or disruptive to withdraw for a stated period.' (SO 185(1)).

Attendance of non-committee members

The committee noted that pursuant to Standing Order 181(e), the committee had granted leave for non-members to attend the hearing and ask questions.

Members noted correspondence received from Ms Jackie Trad MP, Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, and Mr Curtis Pitt MP seeking leave to attend the committee's hearing.

Other business

Nil.

Adjournment

At 8:37am, the committee adjourned. The next meeting will be at a time and place to be advised.

Confirmed on 25th of October 2012



Ted Malone MP
Chair



STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2012

Public Hearing Timetable – 10 October 2012

PORTFOLIO

TIME

DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning	9.00am – 11.00am
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Break	11.00am – 11.15am
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Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Coordinator- General)	11.15am -12.15pm
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Queensland Reconstruction Authority	12.15pm – 12.45pm
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Break	12.45pm – 2.00pm
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MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY

Department of Energy and Water Supply	2.00pm – 4.30pm
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Break	4.30pm – 4.45pm
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MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games	4.45pm – 7.15pm
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MINUTES



State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Meeting No. 22 held on Wednesday, 10 October 2012 at 4.35pm
Room A.35, Parliament House

Members present	Mr Ted Malone MP, Chair Mr Tim Mulherin MP, Deputy Chair Mr Scott Driscoll MP Mr Michael Hart MP Mr Seath Holswich MP Ms Kerry Millard MP Mr Rob Katter MP Mr Bruce Young MP
In attendance	Ms Erin Pasley, Acting Research Director Ms Linh Luong, Principal Research Officer
Apologies	Nil.
Deadline for questions taken on notice by the Minister for Energy and Water Supply	<p>The committee <u>considered</u> the Minister's request for an extension on questions taken on notice during the hearing.</p> <p>On the motion of Mr Mulherin, seconded by Mr Katter, the committee <u>resolved</u> to extend the deadline for the questions taken on notice until Monday, 22 October 2012.</p> <p>The committee <u>noted</u> the secretariat would advise the Department of the revised date.</p>
Other business	Nil
Adjournment	At 4.37pm, the committee adjourned.

Confirmed on 25th day of October 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Malone".

Ted Malone MP
Chair

MINUTES



State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Meeting No.25 held on Thursday, 25 October at 1.42pm
Room A.31, Parliament House

Members present

Mr Ted Malone MP, Chair
Mr Tim Mulherin MP, Deputy Chair (via teleconference)
Mr Scott Driscoll MP (via teleconference)
Mr Michael Hart MP
Mr Seath Holswich MP (via teleconference)
Mr Rob Katter MP
Ms Kerry Millard MP
Mr Bruce Young MP

In attendance

Dr. Kathy Munro, Research Director
Ms. Mary Westcott, Principal Research Officer
Ms. Rhia Campillo, Executive Assistant
Mr Neil Laurie (1.58pm – 2.10pm)

1. Apologies Nil

Chair's Draft Estimates Report

2.1 Consideration of Chair's draft estimates report

The Chair presented his draft report for consideration.

The Committee deliberated.

On the motion of Mr Malone seconded by Mr Driscoll, the committee resolved to adopt the Chair's draft report No. 10 2012-13 Budget Estimates as a report of the Committee, and that the Chair will table the report out of session in accordance with Standing Order 217 on Monday 29 October 2012.

2.2 Statement of Reservation and Dissenting Reports

The Chair advised members of Standing Order 187(2) which provides that a member may add a reservation or dissenting report to the committee's report after it is adopted by the committee. The Chair requested that in order to assist with printing deadlines that the statement of reservation be submitted to the Research Director by 10 am on 26 October 2012.

Mr Mulherin advised that he intends to lodge a statement of reservation to the report by 10am on 26 October 2012.

2.3 Additional material to be tabled with the Report

Members were provided with copies of:

- Minutes of meetings

- Questions on Notice and answers to Questions on Notice
- Documents tabled at the hearing

On the motion of Mr Hart seconded by Mr Katter, the committee resolved to table with the report, a volume of material titled “Additional information” containing:

- Minutes of meetings
- Questions on Notice and answers to Questions on Notice
- Documents tabled at the hearing
- Letter of clarification from Minister for Tourism, Small Business, Events and the Commonwealth Games correcting errors of fact in her Statement made at hearing.

3. Proposed amendments and publication of transcript

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and the Department of Energy and Water provided feedback on the proof transcripts from the public hearing. They proposed some minor amendments to the transcripts.

On the motion of Mr Katter seconded by Mr Hart the committee resolved to accept the proposed minor amendments to the transcript.

Correspondence was received from the Hon Jann Stuckey regarding some minor amendments as well as errors of fact she sought to amend. Copies of the proposed amendments were provided to members and a summary of the key amendments are listed below. Members were asked to consider whether to accept the proposed amendments:

- Page 1: delete the word ‘over’
- Page 1: replace ‘eight’ with ‘nine’
- Page 3: delete ‘a business case and design’ and replace with ‘the pool design phase has commenced’
- Page 3: delete ‘The procurement is actually not a government decision.’ And replace with ‘it is not my department’s decision’
- Page 5: delete ‘who many may remember as a medal winner himself’. (incorrect statement)
- Page 5: replace ‘games’ with Australian Commonwealth Games Association
- Page 5: insert ‘and officials’

The Committee discussed the matter. Mr Mulherin expressed concerns that the changes requested by Minister Stuckey went beyond the conventions of minor corrections to the Hansard transcript and were, in the main, errors of fact which should be acknowledged and corrected by the Minister on the public record. The committee discussed the concerns and requested authoritative advice from the Clerk.

The meeting adjourned at 1.55pm and resumed at 1.58 pm when the Clerk arrived.

The Clerk suggested that the preferred approach to resolve the situation was for the

Committee to request that Minister Stuckey send a further letter to the committee identifying the errors of fact made during her estimates statement and providing the correct information. The Committee could then table this document in the volume of "Additional Information" accompanying the Report.

On the motion of Mr Driscoll and seconded by Mr Young, the Committee resolved to request the Minister to provide a letter of clarification from the Minister for Tourism, Small Business, Events and the Commonwealth Games correcting errors of fact in her statement made at the Estimates Hearing.

On the motion of Ms Millard and seconded by Mr Katter, the committee resolved that, pursuant to section 50 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the committee authorises the publication of the public hearing transcript of 10 October 2012, as amended.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

On the motion of Mr Mulherin, seconded by Mr Katter, the committee resolved to authorise the Chair and the Deputy Chair to confirm the minutes of this meeting.

5. Adjournment

At 2.15pm the committee adjourned to meet immediately afterwards to consider other committee business in the same venue.

6. Confirmed



Mr Ted Malone

Chair



Mr Tim Mulherin

Deputy Chair

Tabled Tim M
10-10-12

Opposition, mining company slam Qld govt

Tony Bartlett and Gabrielle Dunlevy
Published: February 27, 2009 - 12:59PM

The Queensland government's tax policies on the mining industry have been condemned by the opposition and a mining company which on Friday announced 130 job losses.

As Labor and the Liberal National Party campaign ahead of the state election on March 21, Queensland Magnesia (QMAG) has announced major production cuts at its Kunwarara mine and Parkhurst processing plant in Rockhampton in central Queensland.

The mine will cease contract mining activities and the processing plant will operate at only 30 per cent capacity, with 130 people being cut from the workforce - which now drops to about 220.

QMAG expects production to remain at these levels until the middle of 2009.

Managing director Alan Roughead singled out the government's tax policies for criticism.

"It is particularly disappointing that the Queensland government increased the royalty rate on magnesite by 200 per cent in July 2008," Mr Roughead said in a statement.

"Despite this increased tax being implemented while we are facing extremely difficult economic circumstances, the Queensland government has declined our repeated requests to reduce or defer this significant increase.

"Now is not the time for governments to be increasing taxes and charges."

Ms Bligh said the job losses at QMAG confirmed the global financial crisis is "well and alive" in Queensland.

"I think Queenslanders understand that the world economy is collapsing and that Queensland will not be immune from it, but I have a plan to continue driving activity in the economy," she said.

Opposition mines spokesman Jeff Seeney said the QMAG job losses underlined the "greedy Bligh government's golden goose attitude to mining".

"This is so typical of the Bligh government's approach to the mining industry, it has seen it as the golden goose, with no thought for tomorrow, no thought for the inevitable tough times," Mr Seeney said.

"Every time the treasurer had a budget hole to fill he whacked up the mining royalties and now miners and their families and their communities are suffering the results."

Meanwhile, Telstra has also closed a call centre on the Gold Coast.

Ms Bligh encouraged employers to do all they can to avoid slashing jobs and promised the government's rapid response team will be available to everyone who's lost their job.

"But we need to be honest with ourselves, we are facing the worst global downturn in 70 years," she said.

This story was found at: <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/opposition-mining-company-slam-qld-govt-20090227-8jtz.html>

Tabled.
10/10/12 cp.

82.5

7 June 2012

Thursday

June 2012						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2012						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

7 Thursday		Notes
From 5 Jun		
PARLIAMENT SITTING		
7 am	Depart Brisbane 06:00am King Air Pilot Sch. 4(4)(6) mobile Sch. 4(4)(6) Arrive	
8 00		
9 00		
10 00	Meeting with Minister Tony Burke MP Lvl 8, 70 Phillip Street, Sydney Contact Sch. 4(4)(6)	
11 00	Depart Sydney Airport Mascot King Air flight	
12 pm		
1 00		
2 00		
3 00	Adani Abbott Point and Dudgeon Point DP +Harsh Mishra & Samir Vora Room A:31 Parliament House Brisbane Jeff Seeneey	
4 00	4.20pm Mary to fly Brisbane to Beloela Sch. 4(4)(6) Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson - re Caloundra South Development A:31 Parliament House: Jeff Seeneey	
5 00		
6 00	Rio Tinto, CSIRO and GBR Reef Research Project launch Piver Lounge, GoMA - South Bank Jeff Seeneey	
5.30am - 6:00am Depart Parliamentary Annexe with Cyndi + Jeff Popp, John Wiseman		
7:00pm - 8:00pm Board of Treasury Drinks (Tim Nicholls MP)(Room B29 Parliament House)		

Tabled
10.10.12 af.



Media release

Minister for Energy and Water Supply
The Honourable Mark McArdle

Friday, April 13, 2012

Media Release - Government to Review Bulk Water Prices Immediately

Energy and Water Supply
The Honourable Mark McArdle

Friday, April 13, 2012

Government to Review Bulk Water Prices Immediately

The State Government will immediately review South East Queensland (SEQ) bulk water prices, with options for a new price path to be brought back to Cabinet by 31 May 2012.

The review, determined after Cabinet consideration this week, will be undertaken by the Queensland Water Commission (QWC) and Treasury as part of the Newman Government's commitment to lowering the cost of living for families in SEQ.

Minister for Energy and Water Supply, Mark McArdle, said he had contacted water corporations including Unitywater and Queensland Urban Utilities, and Redland, Gold Coast and Logan councils to inform them of the review.

"It's very clear that the cost of living in Queensland has skyrocketed under the previous Bligh Labor Government," Mr McArdle said.

In 2008 the previous Government endorsed a 10 year bulk water price path for 2008/09 to 2017/18 for the SEQ Water Grid, with bulk price increases set so that all councils and entities could reach a common "destination" price by the end of the price path in 2017/18.

Mr McArdle said the Bligh Government had left SEQ families a parting financial blow.

"We know Labor's legacy has created a significant financial impact on families," Mr McArdle said.

"That is why we have immediately moved to undertake this review with options for a new price path to be brought back to Cabinet very soon."

The Newman Government committed to a Lower Cost of Living for Families Package prior to the election which included reducing the cost of water for families in SEQ through its Four Point Water Plan:

- 1) Amalgamate the four bulk water entities into one entity to reduce the cost of supplying water;
- 2) Hand back control of water distribution and retailing to councils who previously did a far better job of managing water resources than the Bligh Government;
- 3) Write off non-performing water grid assets to reduce sharp price rises.

- 4) Adopt a 40 year price path to repay the Bligh Government's \$7 billion water grid debt over the economic life of the assets, which will also reduce the cost of water.

Media contact: Michelle French, Media Advisor - 3896 3690

Tabled - cp.
10.10.12



File Ref: 444895

5 June 2012

The Honourable Mark McArdle MP
Minister for Energy and Water Supply
GPO Box 15456
City East Qld 4002

Dear Minister

I refer to your letter of 8 May 2012 in which you issued a Direction under section 253AA of the *Electricity Act 1994* requiring the Authority to provide:

- (a) the price in 2012-13 for Tariff 11 based on a flat structure, without the Government's decision to freeze the tariff, and inclusive of the cost of the Commonwealth Government's carbon tax; and
- (b) an estimate of the total cost impact of the Commonwealth Government's carbon tax on the Tariff 11 prices for 2012-13.

The table below shows the Authority's estimate of a flat, carbon-inclusive Tariff 11 for 2012-13 and the total cost impact of the carbon tax on that Tariff 11 price.

The flat Tariff 11 is based on the flat residential network tariff Energex submitted to the Australian Energy Regulator for 2012-13. Other costs included in the flat Tariff 11 were calculated using the same methodology the Authority has used in its Final Determination on Notified Electricity Prices for 2012-13.

Table 1: Flat Tariff 11 and carbon costs in Tariff 11 for 2012-13 (excludes GST)

<i>Cost category</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Variable charges</i>
	<i>c/day/metering point</i>	<i>c/kWh</i>
Flat Tariff 11 (carbon tax inclusive)	78.578	20.134
Impact of carbon tax in flat Tariff 11		2.381

The impact of such a tariff on customer bills, and the distribution of impacts across customers, is shown in the Chart at **Attachment 1**, together with the impact of the previously proposed inclining block tariff and the recently approved tariff which added carbon costs to the existing tariff. It should be noted that this analysis is based on supplying customers in Energex's network area, but it is likely to provide a reasonable reflection of customer consumption and impacts across Queensland.

In summary, the respective increases are as follows:

Table 2: Percentage increase in customer bills

<i>Annual Customer consumption (kWh)</i>	<i>Previously proposed Inclining Block Tariff</i>	<i>Existing tariff plus carbon cost</i>	<i>Flat tariff</i>
1,000	52.7%	7.9%	61.4%
2,000	24.9%	9.3%	35.4%
3,000	13.2%	10.0%	24.4%
4,000	6.7%	10.3%	18.3%
5,370	3.9%	10.6%	13.4%
6,000	5.7%	10.7%	11.8%
8,000	9.7%	10.9%	8.4%
10,000	12.2%	11.0%	6.3%
20,000	27.6%	11.2%	1.9%
30,000	32.9%	11.3%	0.4%

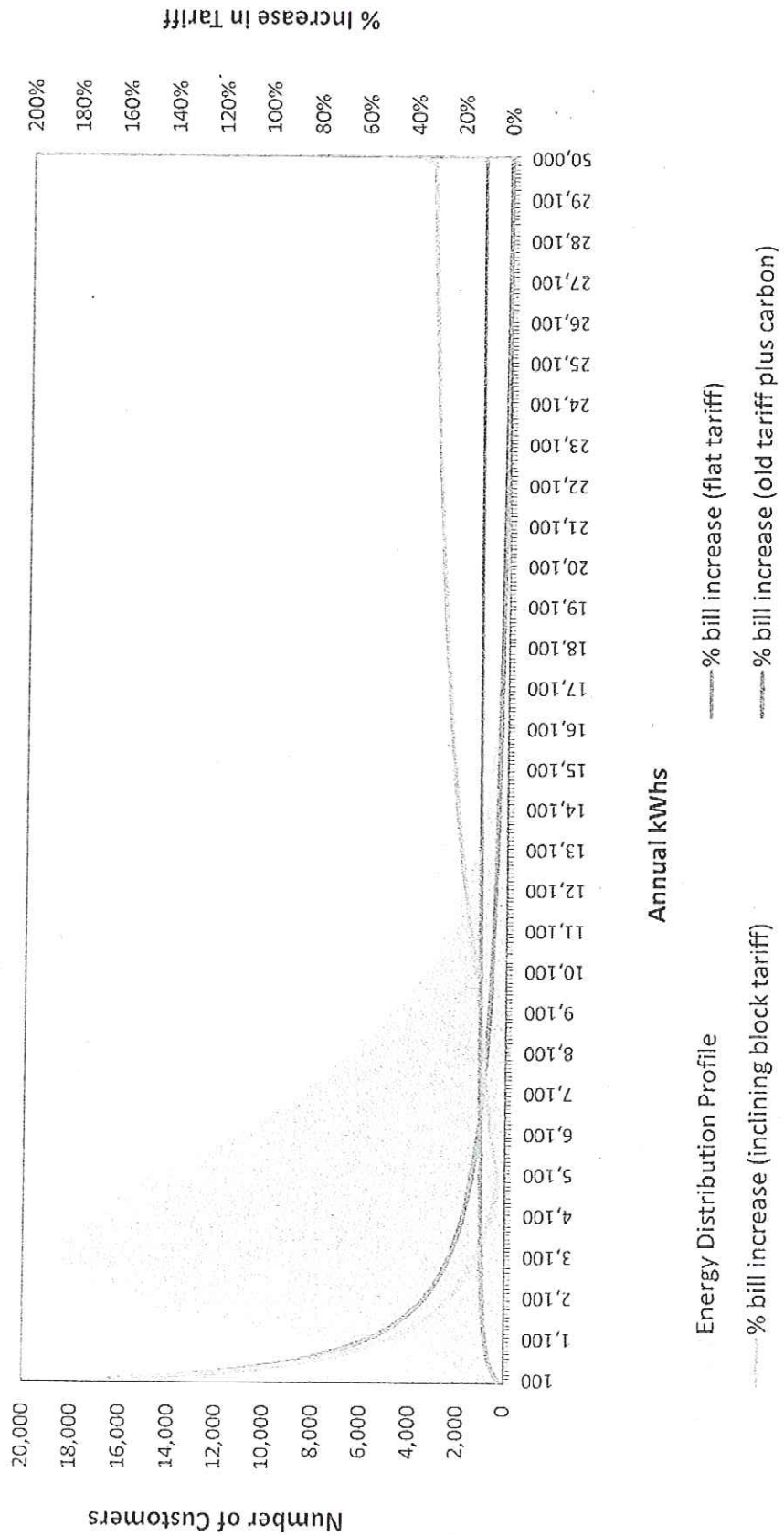
If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Brian Parmenter
Chairperson

Impact of New Tariffs

Oct 2010 - Sep 2011



Tabled 10.10.12 ef

LNP CANDO ACTION: TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTRICITY PRICING

PART OF OUR PLAN TO
GET QUEENSLAND BACK ON TRACK



Under an LNP Government Queensland electricity bills will display the impact of the Federal Government's Carbon Tax and the cost of green energy schemes on families' cost of living.

The Labor Carbon Tax will impact on all Queensland households, cost jobs and lead to massive price rises.

The current tired 20 year Labor Government refused to stand up for Queenslanders and fight against the Carbon Tax which will directly increase Queensland families' cost of living.

The LNP is opposed to the Carbon Tax and believes Queenslanders are entitled to know how much the Federal Labor-Green Carbon Tax will add to their cost of living.

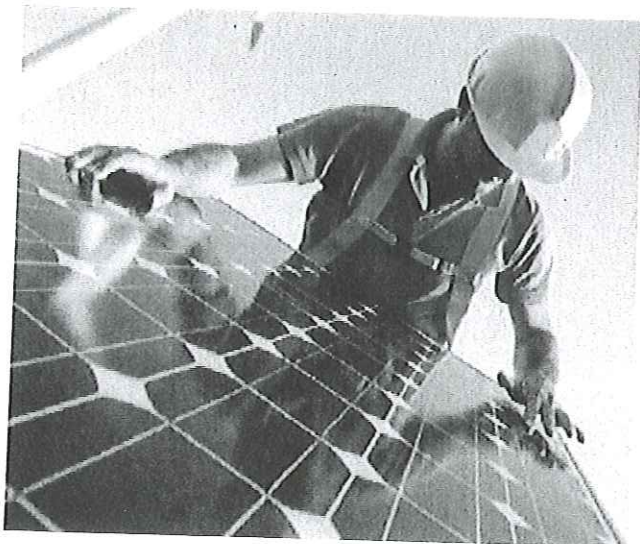
By ensuring the impact on households' cost of living is included on the bill, families will be

able to determine whether the Federal Government compensation is sufficient and to ensure more transparency in the cost of green energy schemes.

From 1 July 2012 power companies will be required to list the estimated cost of the Carbon Tax and green energy schemes on each household's bill. This information will be open and transparent, and consistent with the approach taken in NSW.

In addition, the LNP has announced plans to cut the cost of electricity for Queensland families by reforming tariffs.

It's time for a change. With your help the LNP will get Queensland Back on Track.



LNP Policy Commitments:

- Oppose Labor's Carbon Tax
- Ensure Queensland electricity bills include information on the cost of the Carbon Tax and green energy schemes
- Lower the cost of living by freezing car rego, reforming electricity tariffs and reducing the cost of water to save Queensland families up to \$330 a year

continued overleaf »

www.lnp.org.au

**Carbon pain a must
for tourism, says Bligh**
SUCK IT UP

Gold Coast Bulletin 12/07/11

**Cost of climate tax 'could
drive farmers from the land'**

The Australian 26/07/11

Labor failure:

The tired 20 year State Labor Government has refused to join the LNP in standing up our state and fight for Queenslanders against this job destroying Carbon Tax.

- X Queensland will be hit harder by the Carbon Tax than the rest of Australia
- X It has been indicated the Carbon Tax will cost Queensland around 21,000 jobs by 2020
- X Queensland's economy will lose a predicted \$500 billion by 2050 as a result of the Carbon Tax
- X Electricity costs for all Queenslanders will rise as a result of Carbon Tax and continue to rise into the future
- X ACIL Tasman has predicted the Carbon Tax will cost Queensland taxpayers \$1 billion in lost royalties from coal mines alone by 2020
- X Public Transport fares will increase as a result of the Carbon Tax's impact with Victoria and NSW having already predicted fare increases of \$150 a year
- X It is predicted the Carbon Tax will add between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to the cost of building a new home
- X The Transport Workers Union has labelled the Carbon Tax a "death tax", saying truck drivers would be unable to pass on the \$150 to \$200 a week impact of the tax

**Qld to fare worst
under carbon tax**

Australian Financial Review 24/08/11

**Campbell Newman vow
to fight carbon tax**

The Australian 14/02/12

**Carbon tax
power pain
on way**

Courier Mail 24/08/11

**Bligh must put state
first in carbon debate**

Courier Mail 12/07/11

**LNP CANDO ACTION: TRANSPARENCY
IN ELECTRICITY PRICING**

Authorised by M.O'Dwyer, 66 Bowen St, Spring Hill, Qld, 4000.

www.lnp.org.au

LNP CANDO ACTION:

Transparency in Electricity Pricing

Frequently Asked Questions



Why is the LNP moving to ensure the cost of the Carbon Tax and green schemes are listed on household's electricity bills?

The LNP is committed to restoring accountability in Government and lowering the cost of living for families.

It is anticipated that when the Carbon Tax begins on 1 July 2012 this tax, in combination with green energy schemes, will result in around an additional \$300 to the typical household electricity bill every year.

Approximately half of this cost is attributable to the Federal Carbon Tax, while the balance is from green energy schemes, primarily the Federal Renewable Energy Target.

The LNP believes the Government should be open, transparent and accountable to the community about the impact of government decisions on families' cost of living. That is why we opposed the tired 20 year State Labor Government's move to hide the itemisation of the state bulk water charge on water bills, in a thinly veiled attempt to shift blame for the cost rises resulting from their failed restructure of water entities to local government.

For this reason we will ensure that power companies under a CanDo LNP Government will be required to list on each household's bill the estimated impact of the Carbon Tax and green energy schemes on the cost of electricity.

Queenslanders are set to be hit harder by this job destroying Carbon Tax than the rest of Australia and the Bligh Labor Government refuses to stand up for Queenslanders against her Labor Mates in Canberra.

Unlike Labor, the strong and united LNP team have a positive and long-term plan for Queensland.

We will grow our four pillar economy, cut unemployment to 4%, reduce payroll tax and slash red tape to help get Queensland back on track.

How will the Carbon Tax impact Queenslanders and their jobs?

Queensland is set to be hit harder by the carbon tax than the rest of Australia.

According to Treasury figures and The Australian Queensland's economy will lose a predicted \$500 billion by 2050 as a result of the Carbon Tax and electricity costs for all Queenslanders will rise as a result of Carbon Tax, and continue to rise into the future.

ACIL Tasman has predicted the Carbon Tax will cost Queensland taxpayers \$1 billion in lost royalties from coal mines alone by 2020, and the Carbon Tax will cost Queensland around 21,000 jobs by 2020.

Public Transport fares will increase as a result of the Carbon Tax's impact with Victoria and NSW having already predicted fare increases of \$150 a year and it is predicted the Carbon Tax will add between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to the cost of building a new home.

The Transport Workers Union has labelled the Carbon Tax a "death tax", saying truck drivers would be unable to pass on the \$150 to \$200 a week impact of the tax.

LNP CANDO ACTION:

Transparency in Electricity Pricing

Frequently Asked Questions



What form will the advice on the household electricity bill take?

Power companies will be required to list on each household's bill the estimated impact of the Carbon Tax and green energy schemes on the cost of electricity from 1 July 2012.

The NSW Government has already announced that they will be undertaking a similar initiative to ensure that the impact of the Carbon Tax on the cost of living is more open and transparent.

The advice to consumers will make the cost impact of the Carbon Tax and green energy schemes open and transparent. It will be consistent with the approach taken by NSW and will follow consultation with the electricity retail industry.

What are the green energy schemes that will be included as part of this calculation?

The majority of the cost of green energy schemes is as a result of the Federal Renewable Energy Target (RET) which is increasing steeply.

In addition, a small proportion of the cost from green energy schemes are state programs, including the Solar Feed-in Tariff and the Queensland Gas Scheme.

Wide Bay

Tabled 10.10.12 ep



● **\$17.6 million** in joint Queensland and Australian Government funding towards the \$50 million construction of a deviation on Back Creek Range near Gin Gin, due for completion in June 2014.

● **\$535,000** of \$1.6 million to complete the Cherbourg Community Health Centre.

● **\$185.8 million** for local government recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

● **\$160,000** for health and wellbeing and sport and recreation programs for Indigenous Queenslanders.

● **\$3 million** of \$17 million to widen pavement at various sections on Eidsvold-Theodore Road in Eidsvold, due for completion in June 2013.

● **\$1 million** for a Safe Haven facility in Cherbourg for children, young people and their families experiencing domestic and family violence.

● **\$2 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Kingaroy Hospital.

● **\$1.5 million** of \$3.6 million to replace the ambulance station at Kingaroy.

● **\$8.2 million** to expand and improve social housing.

● **\$126,000** to North Burnett Regional Council to construct recreational facilities at Cania Dam at Monto.

● **\$150,000** to construct a shade structure, change rooms and a referees' room for basketball in Bundaberg.

● **\$530,000** to undertake land, weed and pest management, sustainable agriculture and water quality initiatives in partnership with local natural resource management groups.

● **\$4 million** of \$12 million to upgrade pavement on a section of the Isis Highway between Bundaberg and Childers, due for completion in June 2014.



● **\$118,000** to construct a grass athletics track, lighting and irrigation at Burrum Recreational Reserve, Torbanlea.

● **\$1.7 million** of \$2.1 million to build staff accommodation at St Helens State School.

● **\$300,000** to replace an amenities block at Granville State School.

Key	
●	Community
●	Economic development
●	Education
●	Environment
●	Health
●	Infrastructure
●	Law and order

Lowering the cost of living for Queensland families

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● **\$63 million** in 2012-13 to **freeze electricity tariff 11**, saving families up to \$120 a year on their power bills.

● **\$132.3 million** over three years to **freeze car registration fees** for more than 2.5 million family vehicles.

● **\$917 million** over three years to reinstate the principal place of residence stamp duty concession, **providing savings of up to \$7,175 when buying a home.**

● An additional **\$97.7 million** over four years to **boost the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme** which assists patients accessing specialist medical

services not available within their local area.

● **Repeal the Industry Waste Levy** to reduce the burden on businesses and protect jobs.

How is the money spent?



Queensland State Budget 2012-13

Wide Bay

Regional Budget Statement



My fellow Queenslanders,

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The Budget very clearly outlines a program:

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It is a program that will:

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- grow a four pillar economy
- lower the cost of living for families
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Treasurer and Minister for Trade

Statewide Highlights

Grow a four pillar economy

- \$20 million to implement a Tourism Investment Strategy, focussing on destination marketing and inward tourism attraction.
- \$10 million over two years to safeguard marine resources.
- \$7.6 million over four years for agriculture and horticulture research and development to increase the productivity of Queensland's key export sectors.
- \$3 million for regional Queensland events.
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- \$6 million over four years to employ an additional 15 biosecurity officers.
- \$2 million to attract new aviation businesses and routes into Queensland, including six new flights each week from China.
- Increase the First Home Owner Grant on new homes from \$7,000 to \$15,000, supporting housing construction.
- Increase the payroll tax exemption threshold from \$1 million to \$1.6 million, over six years, to help 20,000 businesses and support thousands of jobs in Queensland.

Revitalise frontline services

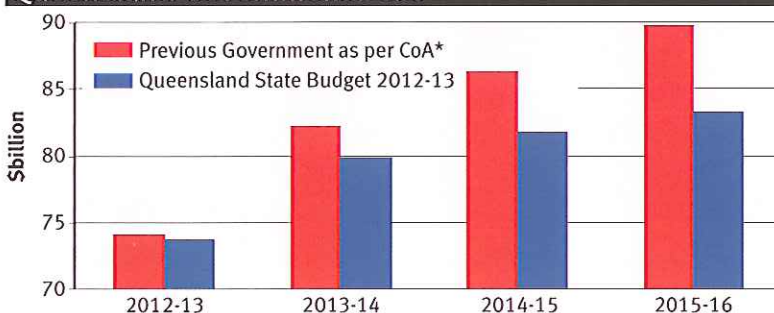
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Queensland State Budget 2012-13

Townsville

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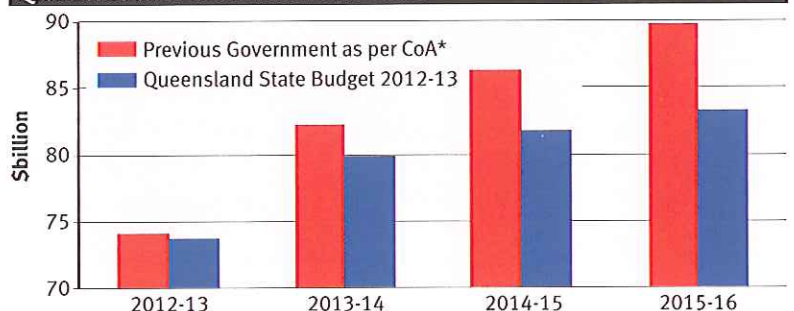
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Townsville

• **\$498,000** to employ local coordinators under the Sport and Recreation Jobs Plan Program.

• **\$58.1 million** in joint Queensland and Australian Government funding, towards the \$334 million Townsville Hospital expansion, due for completion late 2014.



Townsville Hospital

• **\$1.9 million** to Townsville City Council to complete the upgrade of Flinders Street Mall.

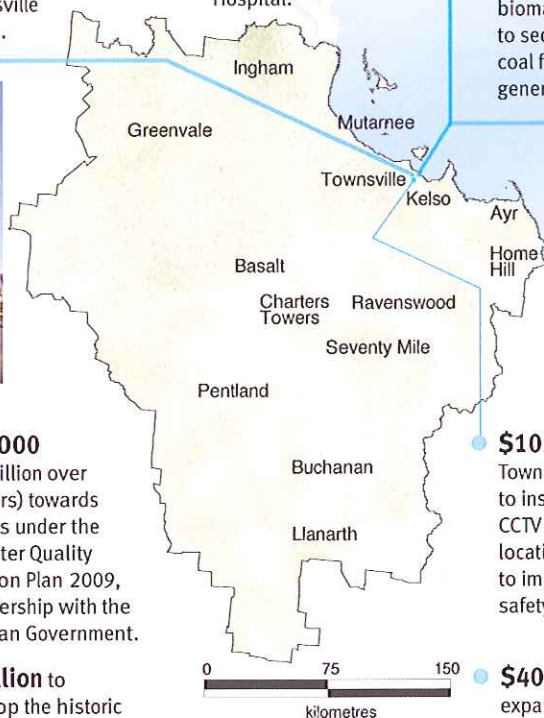
• **\$3 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Charters Towers Hospital.

• **\$14.8 million** over three years to establish paediatric intensive care services at Townsville Hospital.

• **\$8.3 million** to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Marine Park's Field Management Program.



• **\$2.5 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Ayr Hospital.



• **\$870,000** (\$2.9 million over four years) towards activities under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009, in partnership with the Australian Government.

• **\$2 million** to redevelop the historic Jezzine Barracks.

• **\$833,000** to replace a patrol catamaran in Townsville.

• **\$30.4 million** to continue expanding the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville.

• **\$3.4 million** of \$3.7 million to relocate the Stanton Lodge Program to Townsville State High School.

• **\$275,000** to James Cook University to establish an algal biomass plant designed to sequester CO₂ from coal fired electricity generation.



• **\$690,000** for capital works at the Townsville Sports Reserve.

• **\$19.3 million** of \$23 million to fit out a new leased building in Stanley Street, Townsville, due for completion in 2013.

• **\$39.6 million** towards the \$85 million in joint Queensland and Australian Government funding to lengthen and deepen Port of Townsville's Berth 10, due for completion in June 2013.

• **\$178 million** for local government recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

Key	
Community	Blue circle
Economic development	Orange circle
Education	Purple circle
Environment	Green circle
Health	Red circle
Infrastructure	Black circle
Law and order	Blue circle

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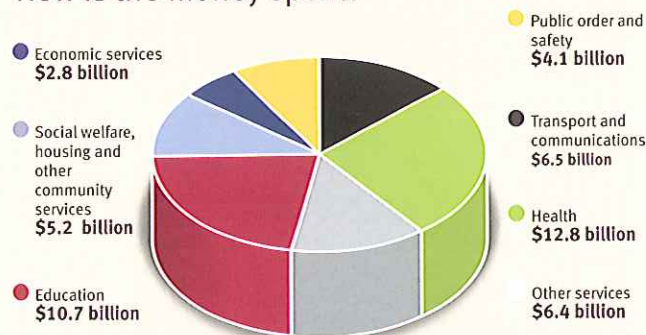
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Queensland State Budget 2012-13

Outback

Regional Budget Statement



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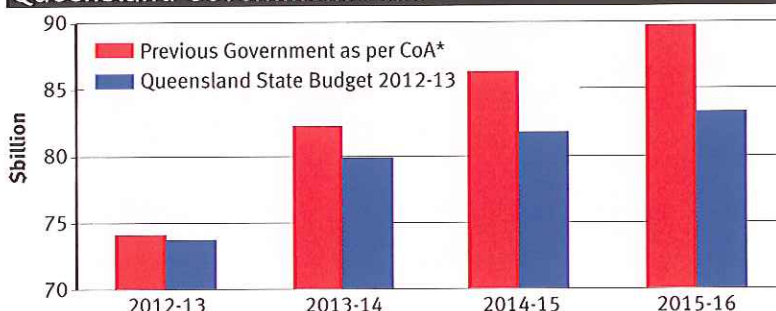
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Queensland Government Debt



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Outback

● **\$2.9 million** of \$3.4 million for the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council for water provision projects.

● **\$2.8 million** towards the \$6.9 million aged care annex at Cloncurry Hospital.

● **\$25.2 million** of \$62.6 million for the Mount Isa Health Campus redevelopment.

● **\$14 million** towards the \$28 million Mount Isa Rail Line enhancement, due for completion in 2014.

● **\$7 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Longreach Hospital.

● **\$6 million** by the Queensland Government and \$4.8 million by the Australian Government to protect the Great Artesian Basin by tackling water wastage.

● **\$2.4 million** of \$10.2 million towards the two-lane sealed section of Kennedy Developmental Road from The Lynd to Hughenden, due for completion in late 2014.

● **\$1.5 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Thursday Island Hospital.

● **\$4.3 million** for Safe Haven facilities and associated infrastructure in Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Coen for children, young people and their families experiencing domestic and family violence.

● **\$4 million** to Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council for a new multi-purpose centre, primarily for sports and recreation which may also be used as a shelter during natural disasters.

● **\$4.1 million** for Flinders Shire Council to upgrade the Hughenden sewage treatment plant and extend sewerage infrastructure to north Hughenden.

● **\$150,000** for industrial land demand studies in the Galilee Basin.

● **\$8.3 million** to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Marine Park's Field Management Program.

● **\$3.3 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Charleville Hospital.

● **\$6.6 million** for Murweh Shire Council to deliver flood mitigation works for Bradley's Gully in Charleville.

● **\$870,000** (\$2.9 million over four years) for activities under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009, in partnership with the Australian Government.



● **\$2.8 million** towards \$16.8 million to engage 40 additional Indigenous Rangers focussing on protecting pristine waterways and protected species.

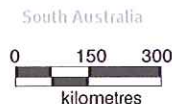
● **\$5.6 million** to establish safe houses and associated support infrastructure, in Mornington Island, Torres Strait, Thursday Island, Doomadgee, Cooktown, Aurukun and Kowanyama.

● **\$6.5 million** of \$8.5 million to pave and seal sections of the Wills Developmental Road between Julia Creek and Burketown.

● **\$200 million** for local government recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

● **\$624,000** to employ local coordinators under the Sport and Recreation Jobs Plan Program.

Key	
●	Community
●	Economic development
●	Education
●	Environment
●	Health
●	Infrastructure
●	Law and order



● **\$122.8 million** to expand and improve social housing including \$116.1 million in remote Indigenous communities.

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How is the money spent?



Mackay

- **\$2.3 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Sarina Hospital.

- **\$14 million** for the Whitsunday Regional Council to upgrade the Cannonvale and Proserpine sewage treatment plants.

- **\$833,000** to replace a patrol catamaran in Whitsunday.

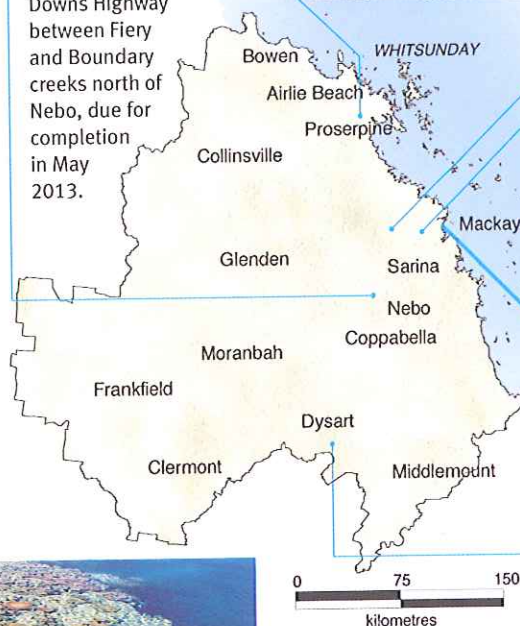
- **\$182.2 million** for local government recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

- **\$870,000** (\$2.9 million over four years) for activities under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009, in partnership with the Australian Government.

- **\$1.5 million** of \$2 million to complete electrical upgrades and replace air conditioners at Proserpine State High School.

- **\$2.4 million** towards the \$7.1 million pavement widening of the Peak Downs Highway between Fieri and Boundary creeks north of Nebo, due for completion in May 2013.

- **\$11.9 million** of \$22 million towards planning for additional coal terminals, due for completion in June 2013.



- **\$5.4 million** to the Whitsunday Regional Council for upgrades to the Bowen and Proserpine water treatment plants.

- **\$8.3 million** to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Marine Park's Field Management Program.

- **\$19.3 million** (\$30 million over three years) to upgrade the Kinchant Dam spillway for safety purposes.

- **\$578,000** of \$1.2 million to complete the redevelopment of the Walkerston auxiliary fire and rescue station.

- **\$1.5 million** to enhance mental health services in Mackay.

- **\$3.1 million** to the Mackay and District Agricultural Pastoral and Industrial Association to upgrade the Mackay Showgrounds.

- **\$400,000** of \$2.2 million to complete electrical upgrades and replace air conditioners at Dysart State High School.



- **\$3.9 million** to expand and improve social housing.

- **\$84.7 million** towards the \$408.3 million Mackay Hospital redevelopment.

- **\$34.5 million** of \$38.6 million to complete the new Mackay Northern Beaches State High School.

- **\$1.5 million** for the new permanent coroner's office in Mackay.

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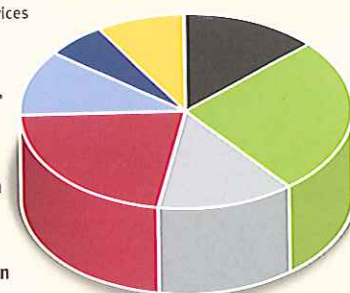
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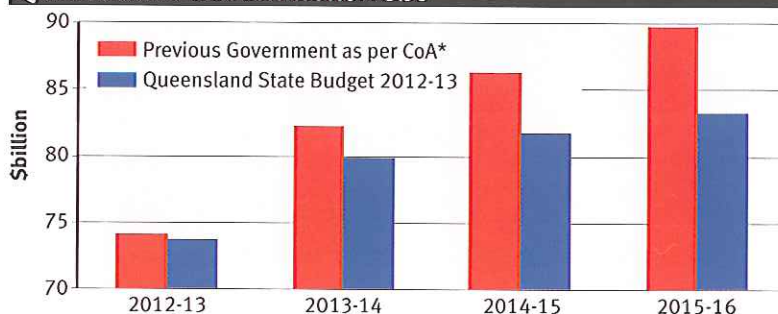
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- \$60 million (\$495 million over four years) to help local governments and communities manage the impacts of rapid growth in the resources sector.

Queensland Government Debt



* Queensland Commission of Audit Interim Report - June 2012. The CoA position represents the policy settings of the former Government and the starting point for the current Government.

Cairns

- **\$6 million** for Cassowary Coast Regional Council to upgrade and augment their existing water treatment plant.

- **\$380,000** towards \$1.5 million to improve crocodile management in Queensland, focusing on increased public safety and the long-term sustainability of the crocodile population.

- **\$529,000** of \$3.3 million to replace the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Mareeba.

- **\$36.1 million** to expand and improve social housing.

- **\$202.5 million** for local government recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

Key	
●	Community
●	Economic development
●	Education
●	Environment
●	Health
●	Infrastructure
●	Law and order

- **\$500,000** towards the \$2 million upgrade of the intersection of Captain Cook Highway and Port Douglas Road, due for completion in June 2014.

- **\$3.6 million** of \$3.8 million to build additional classrooms at Whitfield State School.

- **\$2 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Mareeba Hospital.

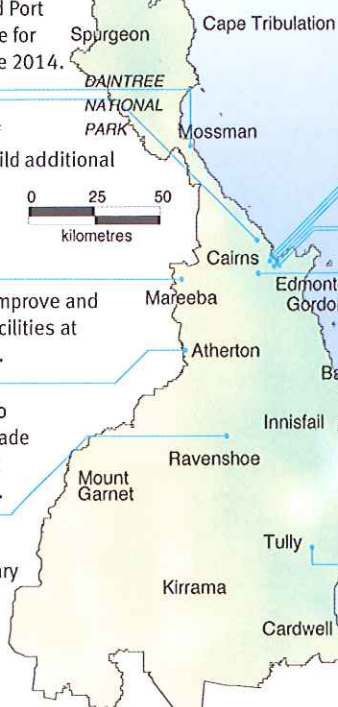
- **\$9.9 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Atherton Hospital.

- **\$1.2 million** to replace the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Millaa Millaa.

- Funding to attract three new China Eastern flights per week from Shanghai to Cairns and three new seasonal China Southern flights per week from Guangzhou to Cairns via Brisbane.

- **\$600,000** to upgrade the roof at Cairns State High School.

- **\$28.3 million** of \$442.8 million to expand and redevelop the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.



- **\$833,000** to replace a patrol catamaran in Cairns.

- **\$4 million** (\$15 million over 4 years) to recruit extra health specialists and revitalise frontline health services.

- **\$99 million** towards the \$446.3 million Cairns Base Hospital Redevelopment, due for completion in 2015.

- **\$1.3 million** for a new State Emergency Service Headquarters in Cairns.

- **\$10.5 million** towards the \$23.3 million foreshore development at the Port of Cairns, due for completion in June 2014.

- **\$300,000** to complete a residential facility in Whiterock that provides extra out-of-home care options for children in care with complex and extreme needs.

- **\$5.3 million** of \$6.3 million to continue the replacement of facilities at Tully State High School damaged by Cyclone Yasi.



- **\$40 million** over four years to improve cruise and military ship access to Trinity Inlet.

- **\$500,000** for the temporary deployment of 20 additional police officers until 31 December 2012 as part of Operation Escalate.

- **\$870,000** (\$2.9 million over four years) for activities under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009, in partnership with the Australian Government.

- **\$8.3 million** to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Marine Park's Field Management Program.

Lowering the cost of living for Queensland families

In recent years Queensland families have been bearing the burden of rising living costs.

This Budget addresses these pressures by providing savings for a number of essential services.

Queenslanders will find savings when they turn on their lights, turn on their taps, register their car or buy a new home.

Together these initiatives deliver real relief to families, potentially saving each family hundreds of dollars every year.

- **\$63 million** in 2012-13 to **freeze electricity tariff 11**, saving families up to \$120 a year on their power bills.

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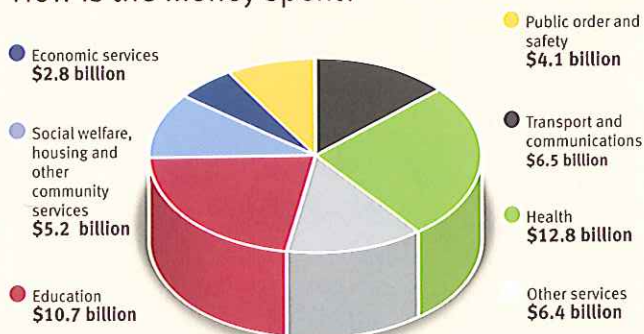
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services not available within their local area.

- **Repeal the Industry Waste Levy** to reduce the burden on businesses and protect jobs.

How is the money spent?





My fellow Queenslanders,

This Budget is the most important in a generation. It builds a brighter future for Queensland.

We inherited an unsustainable financial position which we have to correct.

The Government is committed to lowering the cost of living for Queenslanders while at the same time investing in frontline services. We will continue to find new ways to deliver services in a more effective and efficient manner.

This Budget breaks the addiction to years of debt and deficit and starts Queensland on a path to regaining the AAA credit rating – which will save us hundreds of millions in interest payments each year which can be diverted to service delivery.

The Budget very clearly outlines a program:

- for families
- for Queensland business
- for regional Queensland.

It is a program that will:

- help keep the cost of living down
- reinvest in our schools
- deliver better health services
- support people with a disability

and targets a 4% unemployment rate over six years.

This Budget also fulfils our pledge to Queenslanders at the recent election to:

- grow a four pillar economy
- lower the cost of living for families
- deliver better infrastructure and planning
- revitalise frontline services
- restore accountability in government.

The Government is committed to getting Queensland Back on Track. This Budget provides the strategy to do just that.

Hon Tim Nicholls MP
Treasurer and Minister for Trade

Statewide Highlights

Grow a four pillar economy

- \$20 million to implement a Tourism Investment Strategy, focussing on destination marketing and inward tourism attraction.
- \$10 million over two years to safeguard marine resources.
- \$7.6 million over four years for agriculture and horticulture research and development to increase the productivity of Queensland's key export sectors.
- \$3 million for regional Queensland events.
- \$11 million for land, weed and pest management, sustainable agriculture and water quality initiatives.
- \$6 million over four years to employ an additional 15 biosecurity officers.
- \$2 million to attract new aviation businesses and routes into Queensland, including six new flights each week from China.
- Increase the First Home Owner Grant on new homes from \$7,000 to \$15,000, supporting housing construction.
- Increase the payroll tax exemption threshold from \$1 million to \$1.6 million, over six years, to help 20,000 businesses and support thousands of jobs in Queensland.

Revitalise frontline services

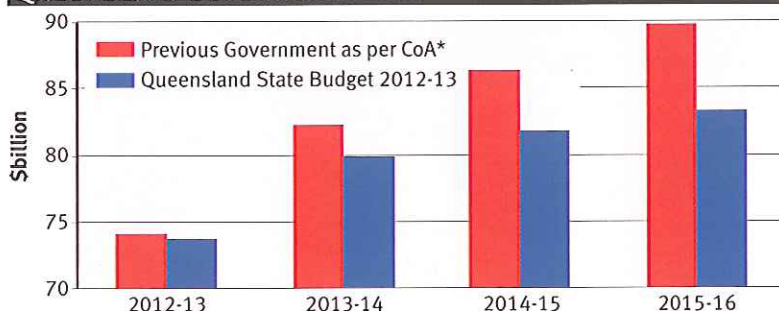
- State funding for specialist disability services will increase by 3 per cent from \$931 million in 2011-12 to almost \$959 million in 2012-13.
- \$15 million to assist elderly parent carers of people with a disability.

- \$44 million to provide better access to emergency and specialist care.
- \$51.6 million to improve and upgrade health facilities in regional and remote areas.
- \$34.7 million to provide 300 new police as part of an additional 1,100 frontline police over the next four years.
- \$53.6 million over four years to roll out the equivalent of a full-time teacher aide to an additional 150 Prep classes each year in areas of greatest need.
- \$28.9 million over four years to enhance maternal and child health services to provide additional access to home visits and community clinics in the first 12 months following birth.
- \$750,000 over three years to the Women's Legal Service to support vulnerable Queensland women.

Deliver better infrastructure and better planning

- \$2 billion for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.
- \$1 billion over 10 years to upgrade the Bruce Highway, focussing on improving safety and flood immunity, subject to a cost sharing agreement with the Australian Government.
- \$1.3 billion to construct, expand and redevelop hospitals across Queensland.
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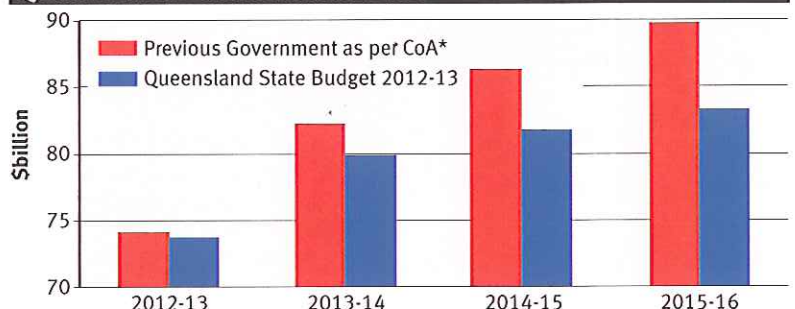
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Queensland Government Debt



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Fitzroy



- **\$85.5 million** towards the \$176.3 million upgrade of the RG Tanna Coal Terminal, due for completion in June 2017.

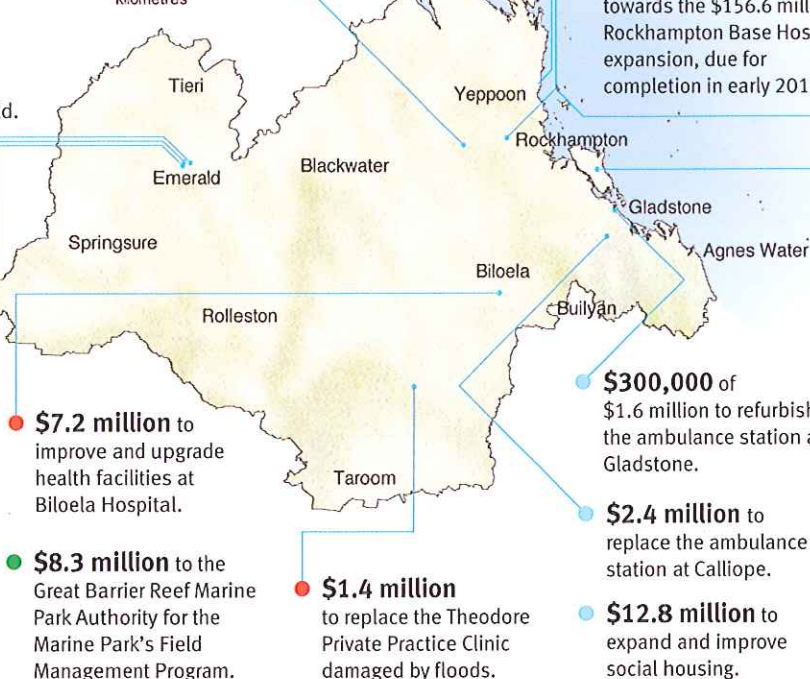
- **\$1 million** of \$3 million to replace the ambulance station at Emerald.

- **\$1.1 million** of \$4 million to replace the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Emerald.

- **\$8 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Emerald Hospital.



0 75 150
kilometres



- **\$7.2 million** to improve and upgrade health facilities at Biloea Hospital.

- **\$8.3 million** to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Marine Park's Field Management Program.

- **\$5.1 million** to refurbish and enhance water supply and irrigation distribution to Nogoa, Bundaberg, Emerald and Upper Burnett.

- **\$2.4 million** for additional water treatment capacity to minimise discharge and seepage from the open cut pit at Mount Morgan Mine site.

- **\$205.1 million** for local government recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

- **\$24.5 million** to acquire land for significant infrastructure corridors and industrial development.

- **\$1.3 million** of \$1.4 million to enhance the administration block at Farnborough State School.

- **\$32.4 million** in joint Queensland and Australian Government funding towards the \$156.6 million Rockhampton Base Hospital expansion, due for completion in early 2014.

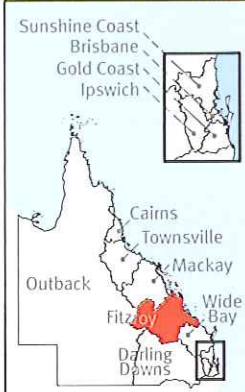
- **\$300,000** of \$1.6 million to refurbish the ambulance station at Gladstone.

- **\$2.4 million** to replace the ambulance station at Calliope.

- **\$12.8 million** to expand and improve social housing.

- **\$1.4 million** to replace the Theodore Private Practice Clinic damaged by floods.

Regional Budget Statement Regions



- **\$30.3 million** towards the \$50 million grade separation for road and rail at Malchi Nine Mile Road on the Capricorn Highway, due for completion in January 2013.

- **\$8.2 million** (\$47.6 million over two years) to build a water pipeline from the mainland to Curtis Island.

Key	
Community	
Economic development	
Education	
Environment	
Health	
Infrastructure	
Law and order	

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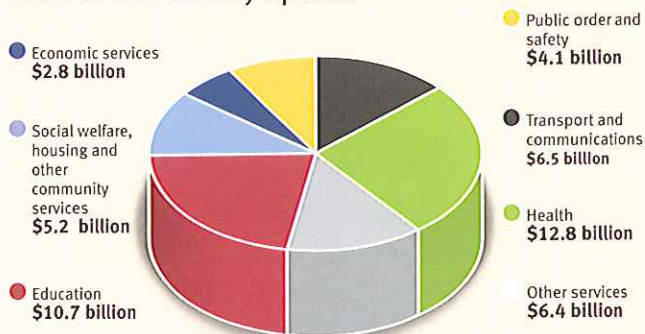
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services not available within their local area.

- **Repeal the Industry Waste Levy** to reduce the burden on businesses and protect jobs.

How is the money spent?



- October 2009 - Online advertising magazine **Creativity** listed **Tourism Queensland** an equal 7th with Mars confectionary in its Top 10 advertising brands for the year. Queensland was the only destination brand awarded, falling behind Coca-Cola, Nike, Volkswagen, Burger King, Ikea and Unilever
- June 2009 - Best Job In The World won **eight (8) Cannes Lions** International Advertising Festival Awards in Cannes, France (5 Gold and 3 Grand Prix)
- Tourism Queensland voted **Best Australian State Tourism Organisation** four years in a row (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010) by the Australian Society of Travel Writers

Tourism Queensland Awards 2012 - 2013


Ceremony	Award	Organisation	Base	For/team
Site International Conference in Beijing, China	Site Crystal Award for "Most Effective Incentive Marketing/Promotional Campaign-Industry" - 15 September 2012	SITE Global	US	Million Dollar Memo - Tourism Queensland
2012 Australia Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) National Travel Industry Awards	Australia's 'Best National Tourist Office' for a fifth year in a row - July 2012	Australia Federation of Travel Agents	Australia	Tourism Queensland

Tourism Queensland Awards 2011 - 2012

Ceremony	Award	Organisation	Base	For/team
UK Travel Marketing Awards	Tourism Queensland has won 'Best Trade Media Advertising Campaign' for the trade campaign 'Q Factor' at the UK Travel Marketing Awards -25 March 2012	UK Travel marketing awards	UK	TQ UK and Nordic
Online - 'facebook STUDIO' January 2012	TQ's <i>Passport to Shine</i> campaign has been recognised in the 'facebook STUDIO' awards. <i>Passport to Shine</i> showcased the potential to reach a global audience via facebook and successfully launched Tourism Queensland's new brand to the world.	facebook	Global	Digital Marketing Manager: Sarah Whyte, Tourism Queensland Digital Marketing Coordinator: Tige Simmons, Tourism Queensland Director of Digital Marketing: Chris Chambers, Tourism Queensland

Tourism Queensland/Best Job In The World Awards (as at October 2013)

AWARDS SUMMARY

- 
- A small, stylized pencil icon with a purple eraser and a blue body.
- * **2012/2013** - 2 awards (1 Australian + 1 international)
 - * **2011/2012** - 9 awards (3 Australian + 6 international)
 - * **2010/11** - 9 awards (3 Australian, 6 international)
 - * **2009/10** - 79 awards (21 Australian, 58 international)
 - * **2008/09** - 23 awards (7 Australian, 16 international)
 - * **2007/08** - 9 awards (6 Australian, 3 international)
 - * **2006/07** - *2 awards (1 Australian, 1 international) *NB - this figure is an estimate only*

***TOTAL = 133 awards**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Queensland's Islands of the Great Barrier Reef have been voted amongst the world's top island destinations by the more than three million readers of high-end US magazine Travel+ Leisure
- Tourism Queensland voted **Best Tourist Office** four years in a row (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012) by the more than 3000 industry members of Australian Federation of Travel Agents at the NTIA 'National Travel Industry Awards'. Now inducted into the NTIA Hall of Fame.
- June 2010 - Best Job In The World won **two (2) coveted Black Pencils and two (2) Yellow Pencils** at the D&AD Awards in London. This is the first time Black Pencils have ever been won by an Australian campaign

China Travel Agent Magazine Awards – January 2012	Tourism Queensland has won the 'Destination Promotion in 2011' award with <i>China Travel Agent Magazine</i> .	China Travel Agent Magazine.	Travel Agent Magazine Editor	And XCOM.
the British Youth Travel Awards 2011 – December 2011	STA Travel, picked up the 'Most Effective Marketing Gold' award for a joint STA, Tourism Australia and Tourism Queensland 'Australian working holiday Queensland recovery campaign'.	British Youth Travel Awards	Australia/UK Office	UK, Ireland & Nordic Region and International Operations (Emma Dixon)
2011 AMI Awards for Marketing Excellence (September)	'state winner' Experiential and Brand Experiences - Tourism Queensland with XCOM Media	AMI	Aust	Marketing/Digital - for the 'Passport to Shine' campaign
2011 AMI Awards for Marketing Excellence (September)	'state winner' Multimedia and Interactive - Tourism Queensland with XCOM Media	AMI	Aust	Marketing/Digital - for the 'Passport to Shine' campaign
2011 AMI Awards for Marketing Excellence (September)	'state winner' Marketing Communication (business to consumer) - Tourism Queensland with XCOM Media	AMI	Aust	Marketing/Digital - for the 'Passport to Shine' campaign
TTG Travel Awards 2011 (August)	Two awards - the 'Tourist Board of the Year' and 'Trade Campaign of the Year' categories.	TTG	UK	Tourism Queensland (through the Tourism Queensland UK office)

WOTIF.COM AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE DESTINATIONS (JAN 12) - Queensland reaffirmed its position as Australia's favourite holiday destination, scoring eight of the nation's 20 popular destinations with online booking agent Wotif.com. Wotif's annual list of Australia's favourite destinations is based on more than 250,000 bookings per month by Wotif.com customers and recognised the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Cairns in the top 10. Also included in the Top 20 were Townsville, Port Douglas, Mackay and Airlie Beach.

TRIPADVISOR'S TRAVELLER'S CHOICE TOP 25 HOTELS IN AUSTRALIA (JAN 12) - Thirteen Queensland hotels featured in TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Top 25 Australian Hotels list. The list was developed based on millions of reviews and opinions from travellers on the popular travel review website. Queensland hotels in the Top 10: Akama Resort in Hervey Bay, Martinique on Macrossan in Port Douglas, Summit Apartments Airlie Beach, Kewarra Beach Resort & Spa in Cairns, Coconut Grove Apartments in Port Douglas. Queensland hotels in the Top 25: Pink Flamingo in Port Douglas, Oceans Mooloolaba, Sea Star Apartments in Airlie Beach, Peninsula Airlie Beach, Oceana on Broadbeach based on the Gold Coast, Elysium Apartments in Palm Cove, Saltwater Luxury Apartments in Port Douglas, and Marina Shores in Airlie Beach.

2012 TATLER TRAVEL GUIDE (Jan 12) – Popular UK lifestyle magazine *Tatler* acknowledged three Queensland properties in its “101 Best Hotels in the World for 2012” list including Hayman Island, Lizard Island and Makepeace Island. These Queensland destinations were amongst eight Australian hotel properties included in the 2012 *Tatler Travel Guide*.

GOOGLE AUSTRALIA'S MOST POPULAR TRAVEL DESTINATION SEARCHES FOR 2011 (DEC 11) – Google Australia revealed that Queensland was the most popular travel-related search in 2011, with four Queensland destinations making it into the top 10. Hamilton Island took out the top spot with Port Douglas, Hayman Island and the Great Barrier Reef also making the cut. Google Australia's most popular travel destination searches for 2011 were: 1. Hamilton Island, 2. Hawaii, 3. Byron Bay, 4. Blue Mountains, 5. Port Douglas, 6. Hayman Island, 7. Great Barrier Reef, 8. Uluru, 9. New York, 10. Las Vegas.

Tourism Queensland/Best Job in the World campaign awards 2010 – 2011

Ceremony	Award	Organisation	Base	For/team
It was presented on ITE HK 20 June 2011	Favourite destination of Cantonese 2011"	Southern Metropolis Daily	TQ HK	Queensland
Golden World PR Awards 2010	Awarded winner of International PR campaign, as well as the top award of the night "For Excellence", Grand Prize.	The International Public Relations Association (IPRA)	Aust.	Tourism Queensland
World's Best Awards 2011 "Top Ten Islands" category	Islands of the Great Barrier Reef ranked number five in the world	<i>Travel+ Leisure</i> (US magazine)	USA	Queensland - GBR
NTIA 'National Travel Industry Awards' 2011	Winner Best Tourist Office - National	AFTA 'Australian Federation of Travel Agents'	AUST	Tourism Queensland
16 th annual Communicator Awards	Social Media Award	International Academy of the Visual Arts	USA	Facebook profile
International Association of Business Communicators Awards	Excellence - Marketing Communications	International Association of Business Communicators	USA	Tourism Queensland/Best Job in the World
Corroboree Americas 2010	Most Supportive Tourism Board (3 rd year in a row)	Voted by North American Aussie Specialists	USA	TQ Americas
Australian Society of Travel Writers 2010 Awards	Best Australian State Tourism Organisation	Australian Society of Travel Writers (ASTW)	AUST	Tourism Queensland
Publicity in Germany – AUSTRALIEN Magazine	Best Nature and Outdoor Destination	Journey's 2010 – Readers Award of "Australien Magazin"	GERM	TQ Europe



Media release

The Honourable Jann Stuckey MP
Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

Location of venues for the 2018 Commonwealth Games

The Minister for the Commonwealth Games, the Hon. Jann Stuckey, and the Chairman of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC), Mr Nigel Chamier OAM, today said that no changes have or are being considered as to which cities will host Commonwealth Games events.

In recent days there has been speculation in the media with no factual foundation about the location of venues. GOLDOC and the State Government have been getting on with the job of planning and organising the Games and everything is going to plan. In fact, we are well ahead in many areas compared to other hosts at the same time.

Let us be very clear. Management is not investigating any change of cities for one or more venues; the Sport and Technical Sub-Committee of the Board is not considering any such changes and, the Board has had nothing on its agenda for consideration and nothing is scheduled.

Likewise, there have been no discussions about relocating venues to different cities with either the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA) or the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) (the international governing body of the Commonwealth Games based in London).

The commitments made during the bidding period and contained in the Candidate City File (CCF) stand. The file is a legally binding contract signed by the CGF, the Queensland Government, the ACGA and the Gold Coast City Council. No changes to the plan can be made without consideration by the ACGA and the CGF.

Indeed, in looking at future hosts, the CGF found the prospect of awarding the Games to a regional city, such as the Gold Coast, to be an attractive one as it was looking to widen the appeal of hosting the Games beyond national and state capitals post 2018.

In relation to the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, the Government is examining the possibility of accelerating the upgrading of the facility, in partnership with the Gold Coast City Council, to host the 2014 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships. Irrespective of the outcome of these deliberations, the centre will be upgraded well before the 2018 Commonwealth Games and aquatic events will be held on the Gold Coast.

In relation to sports being conducted in Brisbane, it has always been the case that two events will be conducted in the Brisbane local government area. This was outlined in the CCF which

was released publically on 11 May 2011 (see the end of the document for a link to its location).

In relation to shooting, the former Gold Coast City Council endorsed the use of Belmont Shooting Centre (in Brisbane) given its capacity to host multiple shooting disciplines. This represented significant financial savings rather than develop shooting facilities on the Gold Coast.

In relation to cycling and a velodrome, the Government examined the history of the financial viability of such facilities around Australia. It was found that a velodrome on the Gold Coast would have had significant ongoing operational costs for the Gold Coast City Council. It was therefore agreed by all parties that a velodrome at Chandler in Brisbane as part of a State cycling centre as advocated by Australian and Queensland Cycling would be the most cost effective option.

In relation to basketball and gymnastics - the former Council was asked whether the Gold Coast needed another sport and entertainment centre (8,000 to 10,000 seat capacity) which could be used to host Commonwealth Games gymnastics and the basketball. The Council undertook a study and informed the Bid Company that no such facility was needed and signed off on the final facility plan that saw gymnastics in a relocatable facility on the Gold Coast and basketball preliminary rounds being conducted in Townsville and Cairns.

As indicated in the Candidate City File, the Government is underwriting a net \$1.1 billion investment in the redevelopment of Parklands into a residential and commercial precinct; the acceleration of community and sports facilities on the Gold Coast; the upgrading of transport systems and, the staging of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Spending on these projects is projected to generate a \$2 billion economic benefit and generate up to 30,000 full time equivalent jobs. The Games will give the state tremendous international exposure; great new and upgraded facilities; a significant economic injection and a workforce with the skills, knowledge and contacts that we can use well into the future.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast will be three times the size of the 1982 Games in Brisbane. Just as Brisbane received a significant boost from hosting the Games 30 years ago – the Gold Coast will benefit in a similar way. The Government and GOLDOC are focussed on delivering a great Games, in a great city leaving great memories and great benefits for all.

[ENDS] 10 October 2012

Media contacts: Minister Stuckey's office: Lynette Keep, 0419 620 299,
lynette.keep@ministerial.qld.gov.au

GOLDOC: Tamara Morris, 0400 658 429, Tamara.morris@goldoc.com

Candidate City File download:

<http://www.goldcoastcity2018.com/content/Standard2.asp?name=Bid-Book>

Extract from Hansard 10 October, 2012-10-11
State Development Infrastructure and Industry Page 85

Ms TRAD: I will take that as a no, that you did not make representation to the Deputy Premier around cutting this program which supported regional small businesses. So my next question to you is this. I refer to your responsibilities as small business minister and page 3 of your SDS. Can you advise how many small businesses have shut their doors in Queensland in the last six months?

Mrs STUCKEY: I would need to take that question on notice. Those sorts of figures are not readily available to me. The figures that we rely on are usually quarterly figures from places like CCIQ. Again, those figures would not only be coming through that source so we are not able to give you exact figures for the last month. But I do remind the honourable member that under Labor we had the second highest exit strategy of any businesses that we ever saw. Quite frankly, the interest of the opposition right now in small business—after they choked them under 92,000 pages of red tape and did not utter a peep as they had to put off workers and had to reduce—is absolutely disgraceful.

Question -

Can you advise how many small businesses have shut their doors in Queensland in the last six months?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces information on business exits on a yearly basis. Statistics for the last six months are not available as yet.

The most recent information on business exits is found in Catalogue 8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2007 to Jun 2011, which was released on 31 January 2012.

The 31 January 2012 release provides information until 30 June 2011 and shows that in the 12 months from 2009/10 to 2010/11 there was a 0.7% decline in the number of small businesses in operation in Queensland. Queensland business exit rates were the second highest in Australia, with only the Australian Capital Territory higher. The next release of ABS data on business exits is expected to be January 2013.

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission does not provide information on business exits but does provide information on the total number of companies registered and the number of new company registrations by state on a monthly basis. This information is not separated into small, medium or large size businesses. Of note, in the six months from April to September 2012, the total number of registered companies in Queensland increased from 335,596 to 346,037 an increase of 10,441 registrations in the State.



Hon Jann Stuckey MP
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business
and the Commonwealth Games

Mr Ted Malone MP
Chairman
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Dear Mr Malone *Ted*

During our estimates hearing on 10 October I made a few unintended errors of fact during my responses to the committee.

As such, I wish to correct the public record and have attached a copy of the statements I would like corrected.

As you will note, the amendments I am requesting do not substantially change the context of my answers.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Jann Stuckey MP
Minister for Tourism, Major Events
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

ESTIMATES—STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE—TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

In Attendance

Hon. JA Stuckey, Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games
Mr P Turnbull, Senior Policy Advisor

Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

Dr R Eden, Director-General

Ms L Brown, Finance, Chief Financial Officer

Tourism Queensland

Ms L Coddington, Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation

Mr M Peters, Chief Executive Officer

CHAIR: Ladies and gentlemen, the committee hearing has now resumed. I welcome the minister and her departmental officers. The next item for consideration is the proposed expenditure for the organisational units within the portfolio of the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. For the benefit of Hansard I ask witnesses to identify themselves when they first speak and I ask that all mobile phones and pagers be switched off or on to silent mode. I now declare the proposed expenditure for the organisational units within the portfolio of the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Minister, if you wish, you may make an opening statement but I remind you that the time limit is five minutes.

Mrs STUCKEY: I do wish to make an opening statement. First I would like to acknowledge those present with me today. They are my director-general, Richard Eden, my senior policy adviser, Peter Turnbull, and Leith Brown, our chief financial officer. We have our statutory bodies and corporation heads with us today as well. I particularly acknowledge my assistant minister, Mr Gavin King, the member for Cairns.

It is with a great deal of pride that I come before the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee today to speak about an industry that is very dear to my heart and the hearts of thousands of Queenslanders. Having spent quite a number of years on the other side of this chamber, I am delighted to finally have the opportunity to highlight what the Newman government has put in place in a very short period to begin to rectify the pain and neglect that Labor inflicted on our tourism industry and 412,000-plus small businesses.

My Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games has a huge impact on the day-to-day lives of so many Queenslanders. This LNP government understands that. We went to the March election recognising tourism as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. We have wasted no time in putting it front and centre in the minds of all ministers and departments across government. We have set an ambitious goal to double overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020 on an annual basis and to restore Queensland to its rightful place as Australia's No. 1 tourism destination.

Our DestinationQ strategy is a genuine partnership between government, industry organisations and tourism operators designed to enhance and grow tourist numbers in all corners of our state. We created a stand-alone department for Tourism, something the previous government failed to do. We also established the tourism cabinet committee, a committee of five government ministers charged with the responsibility of bringing a legitimate whole-of-government perspective to tourism. In June this year we held the DestinationQ forum, the first dedicated tourism forum in Queensland in over 25 years and it was achieved in just our first hundred days of government.

But we have only just begun. The first budget of the Newman government, the most important in a generation, further enhances our commitment to this vital industry and the jobs it supports. Despite what the nay-sayers were predicting prior to the budget, we have delivered a much needed boost for tourism. We have committed more than \$68 million for Tourism Queensland including \$20 million for our tourism investment strategy, which focuses on destination marketing. We have more than doubled the funding for regional tourism organisations from \$3.1 million to over \$7 million. We recognise the importance of air travel in our great state. Our Attracting Aviation Investment Fund is already kicking goals, with \$8 million over four years and we have provided an eight per cent funding boost to take funding for Events Queensland to \$49.6 million in this financial year.

Comment [ML1]: The word over should be removed. Should be "from \$3.11 million to \$7 million".

Comment [ML2]: Should be "nine" per cent.

Small businesses across the state will also benefit from our \$9.6 million commitment to business to-government services, the centrepiece being our popular business and industry portal which I relaunched in June this year. The Newman government is committed to getting this state back on track and I welcome the opportunity to expand further on how my department is helping us to achieve this.

CHAIR: As there are three elements to your department, today I will try to split them into three blocks. We will have 30 minutes for the Commonwealth Games, 20 minutes for Small Business and about 90 minutes for Tourism and Events, but I will be flexible on that. I will hand over to the nongovernment member for Inala.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Minister, can I clarify something with you? At the hearing this morning the Deputy Premier had his assistant minister answering questions. Will your assistant minister be joining us at the table to answer questions today?

Mrs STUCKEY: No, he will not.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Minister, I refer to the SDS page 38 where it talks about the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. We know the importance of the Commonwealth Games being held on the Gold Coast and the significance of it being held on the Gold Coast. Minister, could you respond to claims in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* today where Daniel Meers states—

To make matters worse, we have a weak Commonwealth Games Minister.
Who needs an enemy when you have Jann Stuckey?

Can you comment on that, please?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question and her interest in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. As the honourable member has pointed out, there has been some speculation and a lot of misinformation in the paper. I would like to inform the committee today and the honourable member that absolutely no changes have or are being considered as to which cities will host the Commonwealth Games events. In recent days this speculation in the media with absolutely no factual foundation about the location of venues has been not only misleading but downright irresponsible. GOLDOC and the state government have been getting on with the job of planning and organising the games and everything, I am very pleased to say, is going to plan. In fact, we are well ahead in many areas compared to other hosts at the same time. Let us be very clear. Management is not investigating any change of cities for one or more venues. The sport and technical subcommittee of the board is not considering any such changes and the board has had nothing on its agenda for consideration and nothing is scheduled. Likewise, there have been no discussions about relocating venues to different cities with either the Australian Commonwealth Games Association or the Commonwealth Games Federation, which is the international governing body. The commitments made during the bidding period and contained in the candidate city file stand. The file is a legally binding contract signed by the Commonwealth Games Federation and— as the honourable member would know—the Queensland government at the time, the games federation here and also the Gold Coast City Council. No changes to the plan can be made without consideration by the two Commonwealth Games bodies. Indeed, in looking at future hosts, the Commonwealth Games Federation found the prospect of awarding the games to a regional city such as the Gold Coast to be an attractive one as it was looking to widen the appeal of hosting the games beyond national and state capitals post 2018.

In relation to the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, the government is examining the possibility of accelerating the upgrading of the facility in partnership with Gold Coast City Council to host the 2014 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships. Irrespective of the outcomes of these deliberations, the centre will be upgraded well before the 2018 Commonwealth Games and aquatic events will be held on the Gold Coast.

Further, in relation to sports being conducted in Brisbane, which is what the article referred to— and I understand it had me with a paint brush in my hand—it has always been the case that two events will be conducted in the Brisbane local government area. This was outlined in the Commonwealth Games Federation document, which was released publicly on 11 May 2011.

In relation to the sport of shooting, the former Gold Coast City Council endorsed the use of Belmont Shooting Complex, which is in Brisbane—

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

Mrs STUCKEY:—given its capacity to host multiple shooting disciplines. This represented significant financial savings as opposed to developing shooting facilities on the Gold Coast. As we are discussing what was also in the paper in relation to cycling and the velodrome, the government examined the history of the financial viability of such facilities right around Australia. It was found that a velodrome on the Gold Coast would have had significant ongoing operational costs for the Gold Coast City Council. It was therefore agreed by all parties that a velodrome at Chandler in Brisbane as part of a state cycling centre as advocated by Australian and Queensland Cycling would be the most cost effective option.

I would like to inform honourable members that in relation to basketball and gymnastics, the former council was asked whether the Gold Coast needed another sport and entertainment centre with 8,000 to 10,000 seat capacity which could be used to host the Commonwealth Games gymnastics and basketball. The council undertook a study and informed the bid company that no such facility was needed and signed off on the final facility plan that saw gymnastics in a relocatable facility on the Gold Coast and basketball preliminary rounds being conducted in Townsville and Cairns. As was indicated in the candidate city file, which clearly a number of people have not read, the government is underwriting a net \$1.1 billion investment in the redevelopment of Parklands into a residential and commercial precinct. The acceleration of community and sports facilities on the Gold Coast, the upgrading of transport systems, the staging of the 2018 Commonwealth Games—spending on these projects is projected to generate a \$2 billion economic benefit and generate up to 30,000 full-time equivalent jobs. The games will give the state tremendous international exposure, great new and upgraded facilities, a significant economic injection and a workforce with the skills, knowledge and contacts that we can use well into the future. The 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast will be three times the size of the 1982 games in Brisbane. Just as Brisbane received a significant boost from hosting the games 30 years ago last week, the Gold Coast will benefit in a similar way. The government and GOLDOC are focused on delivering a great games in a great city leaving great memories and great benefits for all. I thank the honourable member for asking me a question. I would very much like to table the statement that we released today to try to clear up some of the muckraking and nonsense that has been going on.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps if you had given that answer to the *Gold Coast Bulletin* when you remained silent along with Ray Stevens, Michael Hart, John-Paul Langbroek, Verity Barton and Alex Douglas the story may not have appeared. Obviously your silence was taken by the *Gold Coast Bulletin* as meaning that you were considering the future of some of these venues. I am very glad that you touched on the aquatic centre. I would like to explore that a little bit further with you now. You have said that you have committed to upgrading the aquatic centre and it will be ready in time for the 2014 Pan Pacific games. Can you outline to the committee the timetable for the construction because, obviously, work would have been started previously?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question and her interest in the Commonwealth Games. I might add that another reason I am really delighted to be here today is that in the 23 question times we have had in this new parliament—

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, I am asking a question specifically relating—

Mrs STUCKEY:—the opposition have asked 172 questions and—

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are stalling, Minister.

Mrs STUCKEY:—this is the first time they have shown any interest.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The timetable for the construction?

Mrs STUCKEY: I am happy to answer the honourable member's question. As she would know, a business case and design have been commenced. In fact, several hundred thousand dollars has already been spent on that design so that it would be able to go to tender.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What is the time line? It is due to be constructed by 2014.

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Chair, if the honourable member keeps interrupting, it will be extremely difficult for me to give her the answer that I am trying to give.

CHAIR: Member for Inala, if you can just ask a question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My question is the time line for the construction of the aquatic centre by 2014. I am happy for you to take it on notice if you cannot provide the answer now.

Mrs STUCKEY: The procurement is actually not a government decision. Our work is to do the design and planning, and it has gone out for that. We have the plans coming back to us. However—

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are the Commonwealth Games minister.

Mrs STUCKEY: However, in the bid book—if the honourable member read it she would see—it says that it will be built before the 2018 games. We are making every effort to fast-track—

Ms PALASZCZUK: You just said it would be built by 2014.

Mrs STUCKEY: I have never said that it would be built by—

Ms PALASZCZUK: For the Pan Pacific games. You said in your answer that it would be ready for the Pan Pacific games in 2014.

Mrs STUCKEY: I did not say that, and I ask—

Ms PALASZCZUK: So it is not going to be ready by 2014?

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Chair, I find these interjections from the honourable member really quite rude and ill-mannered. If she would like to read what I have tabled, she will see that we have not said that it will be started. We have said that we will be doing what we can to fast-track it, and that is exactly how it stands.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My question is: will the aquatic centre be ready for 2014 or will it be ready by 2018?

Comment [ML3]: Should read "the pool design phase has commenced".

Comment [ML4]: This statement should have been 'it is not my department's decision'.

CHAIR: You have asked your question now, so allow the minister to answer. Minister, I thought you had answered that question.

Mrs STUCKEY: I have answered it. We have a commitment in the bid book that the facility will be built by 2018 and we are making every effort to fast-track that and a decision has not yet been made.

CHAIR: Member for Inala, you have a limited amount of time. I suggest you move on.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Chair. I have a lot more questions about the Commonwealth Games. I refer to page 39 of the SDS about the Commonwealth Games. I ask the minister now to detail the timetabling for the sporting and accommodation infrastructure for the Gold Coast. You mentioned in your statement the sporting venues and you mentioned the accommodation. Can you now please present to the committee the time lines for the construction of those projects?

Mrs STUCKEY: I would be very happy to give you a lot more information on the time lines. There are two separate issues here, of course. There is the games village. I am not sure if the honourable member is interested in that at all—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

Mrs STUCKEY: That is going to house 6,500 athletes and officials. That is probably the biggest individual cost to the games. We are still securing venues and making those determinations and obviously doing the costings. The master planning is not due to be completed until April 2013. I am sure that as soon as it is we will furnish the honourable member with that information.

Ms PALASZCZUK: How many meetings with the chair of the Commonwealth Games have you had since becoming minister?

Mrs STUCKEY: I beg your pardon?

Ms PALASZCZUK: How many meetings with the chair of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games have you had since becoming minister?

Mrs STUCKEY: Too many to be able to add up right here! We also have a lot of conversations on the phone, but I have attended the board meetings. I attended a 3½-hour board meeting with Mr Chamier and the board last week. It was a very productive meeting. We are very aware of the importance of these games and the need for our planning to be on track. I would also like to acknowledge Mr Chamier. He is here in the chamber. I am sure you would be delighted to meet him after this session.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have met him several times.

CHAIR: Just before we move on, the minister tabled a document. Do I have leave to accept that document? Leave is granted. I refer to question on notice No. 6 and the SDS at page 38. Minister, can you explain the economic benefit to the Gold Coast and South-East Queensland in hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games? I think you have covered that fairly well, so if you want to shorten that answer, that would be fine.

Mrs STUCKEY: I would love to expand upon the economic benefits. As I have said, this is a huge project. It is also such an honour for a regional city such as the Gold Coast to win the bid for the games. The whole economy of Queensland is going to benefit. Some of it might even trickle over the border. Living in a border town, with an airport there, I am sure that there will be people who perhaps cannot find accommodation on the Gold Coast who go and support the Tweed. However, the development of key infrastructure is going to be a huge boost for people on the Gold Coast and beyond because, as we know, on the Gold Coast the two key jobs are construction and tourism.

The construction injection alone is going to mean a massive injection to the Gold Coast. It is estimated that some \$2 billion will be directly injected into the Gold Coast economy. Of course, that could not happen if we were not building and hosting a lot of events on the Gold Coast. It is going to provide some 30,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

I have found it incredibly interesting to see the number of entrepreneurs and people who have been calling us who really want to showcase their talents through this. There are also opportunities for our 60,000 or so small businesses on the Gold Coast to participate in project supply chains. There are also opportunities for businesses not directly related to the games delivery to advertise innovative design, practices and goods.

I note also that a range of goods and services are required to host these games, such as seating, fencing, linen, streetscaping, hospitality—and professional services of course will also be required. Hundreds of people have already contacted my department wanting to get on the list—and I am sure that Mr Peters is not too happy about the number of emails I have been sending his way—because people want to get in early, whether it is to supply the ice-creams or whether it is to do some carpentry. The amount of interest this has generated is phenomenal.

It is also very good for future job prospects. There will be thousands upon thousands of volunteers at these games. It looks pretty good on your CV to say that you have volunteered at something as special and prestigious as the Commonwealth Games. And of course there is the health factor, too. It inspires people to get active and healthy—get off the couch, get out there and watch and

Comment [ML5]: This figure includes officials

maybe take up one of these fantastic sports.

Ms MILLARD: I refer to page 5 of the SDS and the governance of the Commonwealth Games. Could you please outline the governance of the corporation and the experience and expertise of members of the Commonwealth Games board, in particular the chairman?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I note her enthusiasm, along with those on the government benches, to support these games in any way we can. This board was established in accordance with the host city agreement and ensuing state legislation on 10 May this year. It included consultation with the Australian Commonwealth Games Association and of course the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on these proposed appointments. The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation has an obligation to develop the games organisational plan by 31 December this year. As you have heard, work is progressing well, despite what you might read in the media, and will meet the deadline.

The Governor in Council approved the appointment of the following members of the Commonwealth Games board. As chairman we have Nigel Chamier, who, as members have already said, is well known around Brisbane. He has extensive experience in the financial property and development sectors for over 40 years. He has helped shape the \$215 million restoration of City Hall, the Central Plaza project, Riverside Centre, South Bank, and Ipswich central business district—well equipped indeed to head this important board. Of course, there is Sam Coffa as the deputy chairman of the board and is the Australian Commonwealth Games Association president.

There is also Stephen Conry, the Australian CEO and international director of Jones Lang LaSalle, a well-known firm; Catherine Tanna, who is chair of BG Australia, the company responsible for Australia's biggest coal seam gas project; Dennis Chant, who was on the original bid, and is managing director of Queensland Airports Ltd; Perry Crosswhite, the chief executive officer of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association; Mike Victor, [who many may remember as a medal winner himself](#), who is the [Australian Commonwealth Games Association](#) vice-president and president of the Queensland division of the association; and Glynis Nunn-Cearns, a Toowoomba girl, who is a former Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games gold medallist and executive director of the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association. The term of the appointment of these members is three years. They have recently appointed three committees to undertake the important work of marketing, finance and audit, and sports and technical.

Mr HART: Minister, I refer to page 4 of the Service Delivery Statements and the progressing of the preparations for the Commonwealth Games in 2018. I realise that you have already touched on the village, but can you expand more on the preparations for the construction of the games village?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member and I acknowledge, being a Gold Coast member, his absolute excitement about having these games here. Also, I commend him for his dedication to his community—surf-lifesaving in particular, who are going to be an important part, obviously, of some of our sports.

It was important, once we had appointed the board by 11 May, to reassess the games village site. Again, there was a lot of media speculation around that and why it was chosen above other previously considered sites. In all, there were 13 originally considered. Six were ruled out straightaway due to insufficient size. A project of this size, for 6½ thousand [athletes](#), obviously would require a fairly large area—unless you are going to go into very high-rise, which was certainly not on the cards. The remaining seven sites were assessed on six criteria, and that brought the selection down to three. Following the board's unanimous recommendation, I announced on 29 May that the games village will be built on the site of Parklands. Of course, this site was also identified in the bid book. The business case for the village, honourable members may be very interested to know, is progressing well. I will be making further announcements about that in coming weeks.

It is a complex project. It will include a mix of permanent and modern relocatable athlete accommodation. The mix will be determined by the private sector developer, identified through a procurement process. This year's budget of course, then, will predominantly focus on the village planning process. Tenants and users have been advised that activities at Parklands will cease in time for the work to start in 2013. It was not easy for the people who have been using this site for many years to learn that they needed to be relocated. They were advised of this by the former government and we, since day one, have had an open-door consultation policy with these groups to make sure we are able to move them to other locations that are suitable and appropriate in a timely manner. So to date I have met with representatives from the Parklands Trust, from the Gold Coast Show Society, from the Big Day Out and from the harness racing club, and we are working hard to see that these parties are all treated fairly, in close consultation with our mayor and council.

Mr HOLSWICH: Minister, I refer to the SDS at page 3 and references there to the Commonwealth Games. You have talked already about the benefits in the lead-up to the games and the holding of the

Comment [CGCUser6]: Mike was not a commonwealth games medal winner

Comment [ML7]: and officials

games themselves, but can you identify what steps have been taken to ensure that the successful delivery of the Commonwealth Games provides an ongoing legacy for Queensland?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for his interest as well and also the commitment he has been making to small businesses in particular in his electorate. As we all know, small businesses are going to be big benefactors of this significant international sporting event. It is indeed a unique opportunity for the Gold Coast, for Queensland and for Australia. I think it is important to remember here that these games are Commonwealth Games that all of Australia can put its name to that are being held in Queensland and hosted by Gold Coast city, and sometimes I think that gets lost in the interpretation. The games will provide all of us with the opportunity to create and build new opportunities. I recently hosted Prince Imran, who is head of the federation, here in June and the Prince tired of some of the negative press. He actually made the statement that we do not need a Rolls Royce games; what we need is a Toyota games. I think maybe somewhere in-between will be what we actually end up with. What he meant was that we did not want to build white elephants that will not see the participation and visitation that you would expect to get at Olympic Games venues.

With the man's experience and that of the board, we took that advice, and that is another reason why we are being extra careful as we review all of our venues to see that the infrastructure improvements we make to them are going to be adequate but not something that will not be used in the future. It is critical that we leave a positive legacy for the Gold Coast after these games, and we fully intend to do that. We are putting together a games legacy for Queensland document which will outline this vision and I urge everyone to take part in that and contribute so that we can get a fantastic legacy and put on the best games that the world has seen.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. I now pass back to non-government questions from the member for Inala.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Chair. Minister, before we were discussing the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. I asked you whether or not the aquatic centre would be ready for 2014 and you said to me that the aquatic centre would be ready by 2018. Is that correct?

Mrs STUCKEY: That is correct.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I now draw attention, Minister, to your press release where it says—
In relation to the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, the government is examining the possibility of accelerating the upgrading of the facility in partnership with the Gold Coast City Council to host the 2014 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships. That is in direct contradiction to what you said to me in answer to my question.

Mrs STUCKEY: The honourable member might be having a bit of a problem understanding the wording here. We are examining the possibility of accelerating. That is exactly what we have said.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So it could be ready by 2014 now?

CHAIR: That is what she said.

Mrs STUCKEY: I made it very clear that we were doing everything possible to fast-track it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Can I call up the CEO of the Commonwealth Games corporation? I would like to ask some questions of him. Mr Peters, welcome to the estimates hearing. I would just like to get some further clarification from you please just to be completely clear. I am particularly interested in the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. Is it the intention to have that aquatic centre up and running by 2014? What processes have been put in place to meet the 2014 deadline?

Mr Peters: I thank the honourable member for the question. As far as the organising corporation is concerned, the facility plans are in line for 2018. Any negotiations in relation to 2014 have been dealt with by the government department.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Were there any moves or any discussions about not upgrading that aquatic centre?

Mr Peters: Again, with due respect, it is not an issue the corporation is dealing with. It is the government department and minister's department that is dealing with all of the negotiations and discussions.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Okay. I will ask the director-general. Director-General, were there any discussions about not upgrading the aquatic centre and looking for an alternative venue?

Dr Eden: Not to my knowledge. The discussions that we have been exploring and the activity we put in place in terms of early planning is to investigate whether we could accelerate creation of the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in time for the Pan Pacific games. So the work that the department has been doing is to see whether we could use the facility to also be the host of the Pan Pacific games in 2014 as well as 2018. So our effort has been to think, 'It's a very short window of time. Do we have enough time to do the planning, the procurement and the construction for that to occur?' In May this year the department kicked off the planning work early knowing that if that decision was not made by the government that planning work was not wasted and would still be used for the construction for 2018.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So just to clarify, there were never any discussions between you and the minister or you and the Commonwealth Games board about not upgrading the Southport aquatic

centre?

Dr Eden: No.

Mrs STUCKEY: For the Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: For the Commonwealth Games?

Dr Eden: No.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you. Mr Peters, I have some further questions for you. Could you please outline the timetables for the upgrades of the sporting and accommodation centres for the Commonwealth Games?

Mr Peters: The time lines that the bid company put forward in the bid book are the time lines that our board has been working to. Again, the delivery of facilities and infrastructure as outlined in the bid book is the responsibility of government agencies through the minister's department.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to when countries come out here to do their training before the Commonwealth Games, are you looking at any regional centres that could host particular countries for their training—for example, Toowoomba, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville? Are you looking at how you can involve those other places, because it is the Commonwealth Games for the Gold Coast but it is also an opportunity to involve other parts of Queensland?

Mr Peters: Certainly those opportunities will be created. There are many cities around the state that can host pre games training. As part of the bid process, there was a commitment of £5 million to assist countries prepare their athletes for the 2018 games and the Commonwealth Games Federation is presently working to develop guidelines of how that money would be best utilised. But there is no doubt that there will be numerous numbers of countries and athletes coming here pre games to train. One of the priorities for us is to put together an information booklet on what exists within Queensland for that pre games training.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Minister. The next question will be from the government side.

Mr DRISCOLL: Minister, I refer to question on notice No. 3 and the SDS at page 1 relating to the fact that Business to Government Services facilitates business contact with Queensland government services. Can you please elaborate on how Business to Government Services is assisting Queensland small businesses?

Mrs STUCKEY: I understand that we have moved into the Small Business block now?

CHAIR: That is right.

Mrs STUCKEY: Thank you. I thank the honourable member for the question and note his very longstanding interest in small businesses and support of them through his associations. As I have said before, there are some 412,000 plus small businesses here in Queensland and the LNP is unashamedly pro small business. Unfortunately, what we have seen from Labor over the years is a total neglect of our small businesses. We even have a department with 'small business' in its name. We are not buried deep under some other department and fragmented. We understand that small business is at the core of every single industry sector and they are in every regional community across our great state. It underpins our four pillars of the economy undoubtedly.

We are in the process of developing a small business action plan along with a whole-of-government small business strategy. Our Business to Government Services provides small business with government services essential to starting and running a business including start-up options, which is very important for many businesses; business licensing of course and planning, together with legal requirements; how to manage your money and your finances; and also of course marketing and promotion to let people know that you are there. Our business and industry portal incorporates best practice tools and information, so our business online services allow businesses to complete forms online such as business licensing, liquor licensing searches, grants and support services and filing mining reports. It is quite remarkable what this portal offers. Then of course there is PlanSMART, which provides users with the essential research information that is tailored to specific business types and locations and it gives a clear picture of factors affecting potential success.

One that I am particularly proud of though and that we launched at the DestinationQ Forum in June is Tourism Pathways. We have added a specific portal to these services so that tourism operators will be able to find specialised businesses that are offered by various organisations. Business to Government Services can be accessed locally at one of our regional centres, through www.business.qld.gov.au or via the business hotline on 1300363711. Extra services that we provide are webinars and one-on-one coaching and mentoring. I might note that webinars are the latest technology to deliver information and educational seminars and the 2012-13 series of webinars will include business topics such as digital business strategies, pitching for investment and business continuity planning. This government is unashamedly pro small business and will continue to be so.

Mr YOUNG: Minister, I refer to question on notice No. 10 and refer to the SDS at page 4 and the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council. Can the minister please elaborate as to the membership

and purpose of this body?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question and acknowledge that he represents a truly exquisite region that relies very heavily on tourism and small business, and he has firsthand understanding of the challenges and difficulties that we see with small business. I am very pleased to say that the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council, known as the council, is a key source of advice on small business issues. This of course is in addition to the online services that I have just been speaking about. This council has been tasked with providing input on identified small business issues, providing feedback on proposed small business policies, and bringing to the government's attention systemic and emerging issues which impact on small business, and there were plenty under Labor! The council will be identifying future opportunities for the delivery of small business information, advice and services. The first meeting of this council was held on 5 September.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. I now call on non-government questions from the member for Inala.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I just have one final question, Minister, on the Commonwealth Games.

Mrs STUCKEY: That block of questions, I felt, Mr Chair, had been exhausted.

CHAIR: I cannot dictate where they ask a question from, so I have to allow them to go forward with them.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And the small business shadow minister is coming much later this evening as well. We were not advised of those time lines. Thank you. So my final question on the Commonwealth Games, Minister, is why did you sack Mark Stockwell, who was instrumental in securing the Commonwealth Games for the Gold Coast?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question.

CHAIR: Minister, before you answer—and you are more than able to answer the question if you like—the reality is that that has nothing to do with the portfolio we are examining right now in terms of the budget.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, it does; I am sorry, Mr Chair. I refer to the SDS referring to the Commonwealth Games and this is an examination of that portfolio.

CHAIR: Can you point to any financial situation that would allow you to ask that question?

Ms PALASZCZUK: He was the chair of the Commonwealth Games.

Mrs STUCKEY: He is no longer taking a wage.

Ms PALASZCZUK: But we can ask in parliament.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am happy to just give a brief answer there. Thank you, Mr Chair, because it is really an issue that does not fall at all under the budget. It is an issue that has been clearly, I believe, outlined in the past. It is obvious that the honourable member was not listening, though. With a new government and the need to put in a new board by 11 May, which was six months after the bid was won last year, it was determined that we were moving to a new phase which was, of course, the planning and delivery of the games. We would like to again place on the record, as we have countless times, our thanks to Mr Stockwell for the role that he played, along with so many others, in helping to win this bid. It is notable that we have involved people on the bid board on the committee and also in the subcommittees. So what was determined was the skill set that we required on that board was a set of different people. I think, on hearing Mr Chamier's qualifications and the way he was been embraced by all of those involved with progressing the games together with his very talented board, that it was a decision that we have made correctly.

Mr MULHERIN: As one of the economic ministers of the government, can you tell me what the four-pillar economy contributes to gross state production?

CHAIR: That is calling for an opinion on a policy.

Mr MULHERIN: No, I am asking the question about what does the four pillars contribute to gross state production.

CHAIR: I rule—

Mr MULHERIN: The minister is an economic minister—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Exactly.

CHAIR: That is a policy question.

Mr MULHERIN: We have heard during these whole estimates about tourism. She has small business—the service sector. I want to know what the four pillars of the Queensland economy that you have identified as a government, that are putting your focus on, contributes to the GSP.

CHAIR: Are you happy—

Mrs STUCKEY: I just remind the honourable member that the Treasurer was here yesterday.

Mr MULHERIN: But you are an economic minister, are you not?

Mrs STUCKEY: He would have had an opportunity to ask the questions about the four pillars at that time.

Mrs STUCKEY: You have two of the pillars.

CHAIR: I think the minister can answer however she likes.

Mrs STUCKEY: I have answered the question.

CHAIR: Next question.

Mr MULHERIN: For the information of the committee, it is 23 per cent. If you go up and down the supply chain, it is 46 per cent. Can you tell me, as an economic minister, what other things you are doing to grow the Queensland economy—the other 54 per cent that are not in that supply chain.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am very happy to discuss questions relating to tourism and my portfolio—

Mr MULHERIN: Small business.

Mrs STUCKEY: And what we are doing. What we are—

Mr MULHERIN: Small business—

Mrs STUCKEY: Through our online portals and our online services we are growing small business. We are assisting them in many ways.

Mr MULHERIN: Are you looking at economic opportunities—

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Chair, I am not prepared to engage in these interruptions—

Mr MULHERIN: You do not know. That is why.

CHAIR: Member for Mackay, you are haggling the minister. If you can ask a straight question, I am sure the minister will answer it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Minister, I refer to page 4 of the SDS, which relates to DestinationQ and your answers to questions on notice Nos 11 and 13. I note that the professional conference organiser, Tony Charters and Associates, was contracted to organise the DestinationQ forum. Can you confirm if that was the money contracted to Management Solutions in your response to question No. 13 and question No. 11?

Mrs STUCKEY: I will just take a moment to have a look at that question. I might ask the director-general to—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sure. There is \$220,000 there. How was that split up?

Mrs STUCKEY: Just before I get the director-general to do that, there was actually half a million dollars estimated in the budget for this conference. This conference has been brought in well under budget, considering what it has generated. I am sure the director-general will be able to supply you with a bit more information.

Mr Peters: Management Solutions is the trading name of Tony Charters, who was appointed as the professional conference organiser for DestinationQ.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So how was that broken down? Was that \$12,000 by the department and the remainder was to Tony Charters?

Mr Peters: I will need to have a look at that and get back to you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Okay. Minister, I understand you widely credit Mr Tony Charters with being the co-author of the LNP's tourism policy. I understand his personal company was awarded a public contract worth \$200,000 for running the DestinationQ tourism partnership. Can the minister please advise the hearing why Tourism Queensland was not given carriage of arranging the DestinationQ conference in Cairns and why taxpayers' money was spent duplicating the capability of conference management that already exists within Tourism Queensland?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Mr Charters, along with many other industry people, assisted in our policy development. As many honourable members will know, I travelled from Coolangatta to Cooktown virtually while I was surveying small businesses but also consulting with tourism operators. So when it came to having to—not having to, wanting to—host the DestinationQ forum it was important to be able to secure the services of a person qualified to run the type of forum that the Premier had indicated he wanted, which was indeed a working forum—not a bells and whistles, big speakers; it was very much a working forum—and I will be very happy to elaborate on that.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Minister, who decided to award the contract—

Mrs STUCKEY: I would like to further respond that Tony Charters was selected through a fairly rigorous process. If you would like to know a little bit more—particularly the figures you have quoted, which I believe to be incorrect—I would like the director-general to inform you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sure. I am just going by the answer to the question on notice, but if you could elaborate that would be great.

Mr Peters: I can break down the \$220,000.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, thank you.

Mr Peters: It is \$93,196.56 for the professional conference organiser. It is \$73,801.25 for the venue and catering. It is \$17,003.45 for VIP and facilitator and content leader travel and incidentals—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, \$17,000 for VIP entry, was it?

Mr Peters: VIP facilitators and content leaders—the people who ran the workshops for us. It is

\$17,397.09 for website photography and video, because we live streamed throughout Queensland the event. It is \$6,663.22 for miscellaneous event and delegate expenses and it is \$12,001.39 for departmental staff and expenses and travel and accommodation to have people there to run the conference.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, so just to confirm, how much was given to Tony Charters' company?

Mr Peters: \$93,196.56.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And that was through a competitive tender?

Mr Peters: It was.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Minister, did you ask Tourism Queensland to provide you with an estimate of how much it would have cost them to organise the DestinationQ conference?

Mrs STUCKEY: I approached my department to guide—yes, to give me guidance, pretty much—on the best way to go about doing this and it was indicated to me that Tourism Queensland did not have the type of facilitator and organiser that was required.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I just have one final question.

Mrs STUCKEY: Can I also say that Tourism Queensland does not even run the annual awards for tourism; they are run by QTIC. So it is not really uncommon.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take it from question on notice No. 11 that a request for offer was put to five professional event management organisations. This question is to the director-general. Can you confirm whether or not all five of these companies submitted quotes?

Mr Peters: Four offers were received from the five invitations.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Four were received. And was Tony Charters' the lowest quote?

Mr Peters: There was an evaluation criteria for selection of the most successful candidate—

Ms PALASZCZUK: So was he the lowest quote? Yes or no.

Mr Peters: The difficulty was he—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Was he the lowest quote? Yes or no?

Mr Peters: For conference organisation—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, my question is very specific.

Mr Peters: No. There was one that was ridiculously low and that we did not think could actually perform the task.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is fine. Minister, I refer to page 47 of the SDS, which relates to the funding of Tourism Queensland. Can you please advise the hearing how many national and international awards were won by Tourism Queensland in the past 12 months?

Mrs STUCKEY: I would be more than happy to take that on question on notice so that I can give you the adequate detail, honourable member.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are the tourism minister. Surely, someone would have that information.

Mrs STUCKEY: I said I am more than happy to take that on notice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In September 2012 there was a Site Crystal Award for most effective incentive marketing promotion campaign. In July 2012 there was the Australian Federation of Travel Agents National Travel Industry Award for best tourist office. In March 2012, there was the Best Trade Media Advertising Campaign for the UK travel marketing award—

Mrs STUCKEY: If the honourable member knew the answer, she is making a mockery of the estimates.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am asking if the tourism minister knows the answer.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am more than happy to supply you with a list in case you have missed any out.

Mr MULHERIN: You are not across it.

CHAIR: The minister has indicated that she will take that on notice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you.

Mr MULHERIN: She does not appear to be across it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Given these awards, was Tourism Queensland highly regarded both nationally and internationally prior to you becoming the minister responsible?

Mrs STUCKEY: Tourism Queensland has been highly awarded across Australia for its performance in many ways across many things. It has set a benchmark for different areas, whether it is marketing campaigns, and I have to say that Tourism Queensland is so well known around Australia. What, of course, our government's intention—

Ms PALASZCZUK: So well known that you did not know any of the awards that they have won.

CHAIR: I think the minister has indicated what she will do in terms of making sure the record is correct.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you.

CHAIR: In terms of that question about Tourism Queensland, it is not pertaining to the budget for Tourism Queensland. I will just ask you to focus your question on the budget.

Mrs STUCKEY: Thank you, Mr Chair. However, I would like to place on record again what a magnificent operation Tourism Queensland is. It is going to be even stronger when our government proceeds with the merger of Events Queensland and Tourism Queensland in the near future.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Given that you actually do have a high regard for Tourism Queensland, why has there been a mass exodus of qualified and experienced Tourism Queensland board members and its CEO?

CHAIR: I think again—

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is complete relevance. The chair makes the decisions, not the other members of the committee.

CHAIR: That is right. Sorry, I do not need to be told what I can do. What relevance has that to—

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is entirely relevant. We are examining the budget of Tourism. There has been a large exodus of staff from Tourism Queensland. The minister has just said that she recognises the great work that Tourism Queensland does. I want to know why there has been this mass exodus and has the minister had anything to do with it.

CHAIR: I am happy for the minister to answer that but, really, it is not reflective—

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is highly relevant.

CHAIR: It has nothing to do with the budget

Mrs STUCKEY: I am happy to respond, even though the tone of the honourable member's question is quite impolite for estimates. What is important to note was that very soon after we won government it became apparent that the chair of Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland, who both sit under my department, told us that they were leaving. Don Morris from Tourism Queensland intimated to me at ATEC in April last year when I was the shadow minister that, 'No offence, but if you guys win government I have already said that I will not be continuing.' It was the same with Geoff Dixon. Soon after I was appointed to this portfolio, Geoff Dixon said exactly the same. He said that he would not be continuing. So both of those positions were declared vacant in August and we needed to find a new chair for both of those associations. What we have been able to do is appoint Stephen Gregg, who is extremely well known throughout the industry and is highly respected. Therefore, we have new leadership at the top. As far as staff exoduses go, there were a number of staff vacancies and, of course, some senior management have made their own decisions to not stay under the new leadership and the new regime.

CHAIR: I will now call on the member for Sandgate.

Ms MILLARD: I will bring us back to small business, which is where we were before we were lassoed back to the Commonwealth Games. I refer to SDS page 3 and red tape. Could you please advise on what action has been undertaken to assist small business with the reduction of red tape and regulations?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question and I acknowledge her for her background in small business and manufacturing in particular, an industry that took a real hit under the Labor government because they were pretty decimated. Not only did Labor not care about small business, it cared even less about manufacturing, as you and I have discussed on many occasions. I guess it would be fair to say that Labor actually suffocated small business, drowning them in more than 92,000 pages of red tape and regulations. The cost to the Queensland economy has increased from \$4.8 billion in 2007 to \$7 billion per year in taxes, fees and other charges. Some small businesses are spending over 500 hours a year complying with Labor's red tape.

In the first 100 days of this government we established the Office of Best Practice Regulation within the Queensland Competition Authority to ease the burden of red tape and regulation on business—unlike Labor, as I said, who chose to choke them. The payroll tax exemption threshold was raised from \$1 million to \$1.1 million over the next year and will continue to increase in increments of \$100,000 over the next six years up to \$1.6 million. Under the LNP, 90 per cent of Queensland employers will not have to pay payroll tax. It is a first positive step that we have taken towards pushing towards that \$1.6 million threshold. Importantly though, Mr Chair, it will help 20,000 small and medium sized business, which I know to the government's side of politics is very important. It will create over 4,000 jobs as well.

We have also abolished Labor's \$372 million industry waste levy, got rid of their useless sustainability declaration forms and reinstated the principal place of residence stamp duty concession, saving around \$7,000 on the purchase of the average family home. We have appointed a red tape reduction expert panel, which I know many honourable members on the government's side are contributing to, to look at liquor licensing, gaming, trading hours and noise restriction laws. My department has already made submissions to the expert panel with a key focus on trading hours, the Liquor Act 1992 amendments and food regulatory issues.

Mr HART: Minister, I refer to the Service Delivery Statement page 5 and DestinationQ. Can the

minister please explain why DestinationQ is required to revitalise relationships between the government, Tourism Queensland, regional tourism organisations and industry?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. DestinationQ is a whole-of-government strategy that is already breeding confidence in this neglected industry across our great state. As I have said before, I acknowledge the member for Burleigh for not only being a great community advocate but also knowing a fair bit about small business and aviation which, of course, is another focus of this government's policy. As we have heard before, tourism is one of the four pillars of our economy and, importantly, we recognise this and wrote our policy hand-in-hand with the industry. As I have said before, I travelled extensively around this state and I sat and talked to so many businesses—businesses in Cairns, businesses up in Far North Queensland, businesses in the Whitsundays—all with the same tale: they were shrinking, they were reducing, they were having to put off staff. But did Labor give a toss about all of those jobs that were being lost? No. Their response to that was just whack them with a bit more red tape and regulation. DestinationQ is the linchpin, member for Burleigh, of our policy. It will keep all of the ministers and our departments accountable and focused on delivering for tourism in our great state.

Already delivered as part of the DestinationQ initiative has been the establishment of a standalone department, our tourism cabinet committee, the DestinationQ forum, which I am sure you will hear more of, the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund and the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit. These initiatives have genuinely unified the industry in a way that we have not seen in this state for over 20 years.

Mr HOLSWICH: Minister, I refer to SDS page 8 and notes 2 and 3. Can you please outline how Queensland tourism benefits from the establishment of a dedicated tourism department?

Mrs STUCKEY: I am more than happy to talk about having a dedicated tourism department. I thank the honourable member for his question. It is really important to note here that under the Labor government there was no such thing as a tourism department. You might find that a little bit hard to believe considering tourism brings in billions upon billions of dollars in revenue, but tourism was all but ignored. You could say that the goose that laid the golden eggs was laying bricks, but nobody noticed and, more sadly, nobody in Labor cared.

My department has been created through the amalgamation of discrete components of the former DEEDI and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. It is the most efficient realignment of resources to deliver on the government's agenda for tourism, events, small business and delivery of the all-important Commonwealth Games. What it does is put the cabinet's focus directly on the tourism industry. As I have said before, it has given the tourism sector confidence—a confidence it has not seen. There is spring in their step and money in their tills. We have shown that the Newman government is serious about tourism and serious about small business.

What our department does is highlight the synergy between all of these, whether it is tourism, major events, small business or the Commonwealth Games. After all, they are intrinsically linked and should be ably supported by having a department that bears their name.

Mr DRISCOLL: Minister, I refer to SDS pages 6 and 7, departmental budget summary. Could you please advise how the tourism and small business sectors of Queensland have reacted to the Newman government's first budget?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. It has been a landmark budget. It has been the most important budget in a decade and particularly it has been so for tourism. What we have heard from industry right across the state has been a very positive reception. In fact, straight after the budget lock-up the chair of QTIC, Queensland Tourism Industry Corporation, Daniel Gschwind, said the industry was grateful for a \$20 million boost to attract more tourists. Of course this is our tourism investment strategy money that has been generously given in this budget. Daniel went on to say—
For us it's quite a lot. We are very modest in our demands of government when it comes to finances and we see this as a show of commitment, as a show of good faith to the industry and it will be well spent.

He should know. After all, we signed a partnership agreement with QTIC to support the industry.

Further, we heard from John Lee, who is the chief executive of the Tourism and Transport Forum. He said that the budget cements tourism as a pillar of the Queensland economy. He said—

Consistency of funding for Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland gives those organisations the certainty they need to plan ahead and gives the private sector the confidence to enter into corporate partnerships and cooperative marketing agreements.

He goes on to say—

In a tight fiscal environment, the Newman government is to be congratulated for backing its election commitments with funding to make tourism a pillar of the Queensland economy.

But there is more. Richard Munro, the chief executive officer of the Accommodation Association of Australia, said—

It is pleasing that the Newman Government and Tourism Minister Stuckey are continuing to show support for the accommodation industry through funding for major events.

Confidence is really starting to grow within the accommodation industry as a result of the support the government is providing.

David Goodwin, the president of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, who I think I spotted in the chamber a little earlier, said—

It is a significant outcome that the Queensland government has been able to deliver on its election promises without committing the State's taxpayers to a legacy of unsustainable debt and interest payments or increasing business costs.

From Cairns, where my assistant minister lives and so ably serves his electorate, the chamber of commerce said that the budget announcements were encouraging for their region. The president, Anthony Mirotsos, pointed out that the government is putting money where its mouth is, providing funds for the promises it made before the election. These are not our words, these are the words of the industry reinvigorated by this government's direction and commitment to tourism.

Mr YOUNG: Minister, I refer to question on notice No. 1 and SDS page 4, new aviation business and routes in Queensland. Can the minister expand on how the Newman government is attracting new airline routes to Queensland?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. The Attracting Aviation Investment Fund was an election promise. It is \$8 million to be spent over four years. I have to say that since it was announced, even before those funds became available, the skies started buzzing from Coolangatta to Cairns. It is interesting to note that the Gold Coast Airport were up 10.4 per cent on their passenger movements in July. Some 462,000 people went through in the month of July. The figures that we have just got through today indicate that the increase, rather than being 10.4 per cent in July, is closer to 20 per cent for this month just gone. Granted we have just had the September holidays so you would expect it to be good.

This Attracting Aviation Investment Fund is being used to secure new aviation business and routes into Queensland from identified markets that are our priority and we also want to enhance the existing partnerships. It provides incentive based funding linked to key performance indicators by airlines. The framework for this was approved on 1 May this year but did not come into being until July. This is how the process works: TQ identifies gaps in the market, it then notifies our department of possible application, a submission is then put to the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund Committee and the committee makes a recommendation to myself. This committee consists of the deputy director-general,

tourism division, Mr Paul Martyn; the deputy director-general, economic policy, projects and employment in the Department of State Development; and the managing director of Trade and Investment Queensland, Queensland Treasury and Trade. We also have advisers to this committee because we want to make sure that we are getting really good bang for our buck in securing some good routes here and that is the CEO of Tourism Queensland, the general manager of the tourism division in my department and also the director of market access and economics in TQ.

There are six principles, very importantly, that I would like to share, if I may, that form the governance framework of this fund and that is strategic investment, value for money, performance based incentive, evidence based incentive, leverage funding and strong stakeholder engagement. As we are all aware, China is becoming a very big market for us here in Queensland. New Zealand is still leading the way, but China is coming a very close second and will no doubt overtake that market soon. Other carriers that this fund is providing a stimulus for are Scoot, which is a low-cost carrier coming in direct from Singapore to the Gold Coast; Qantas has announced direct flights from Sydney to the Gold Coast; China Eastern has direct flights from Shanghai to Cairns. They will be landing in Cairns at the end of the month. There is great excitement there for our assistant minister and the members in Far North Queensland. China Southern has added some additional flights per week and Etihad Airways will be increasing its flights between Brisbane and Abu Dhabi. I think anyone would have to say that that is an amazing achievement in a very short space of time for this government and signifies that not only has small business gained confidence in this government, but the aviation, the airports and the airlines have as well.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Minister. I will now turn to the non-government questions and call on the member for Mount Isa.

Mr KATTER: Thank you, Mr Chair. Minister, I refer to statements made on page 3 of the SDS and ask you to reveal some of the initiatives in this budget that will stimulate outback tourism?

Mrs STUCKEY: What a large electorate you represent. I have to say, it really does take your breath away when you visit it. Certainly I have met some of the most genuine people you could ever hope to meet when I have visited. I am looking forward to attending the tourism awards in Longreach later this year. I hope that you will be able to be in attendance, because it is important that we recognise the spirit and the quality of what is happening in the outback. In fact, we saw the outback so important that they now have a seat on the Tourism Queensland board, held by Alan Smith—anyone who has met him doesn't forget him. He runs a fabulous business out there and is now sitting on the Tourism Queensland board. If you know this fellow, you will know that he will make it very well known that the outback needs to be recognised.

I would also like to acknowledge the outback representatives for turning up at the DestinationQ forum in uniform. They took over the centre of 320 delegates. I think there were 20-something of them, but I might be wrong there. It looked like a whole flock of them, anyway, because there were so many. They participated heavily in the DestinationQ forum. The honourable member may like to have a look on the DestinationQ website at some of the comments. Every single comment is up there, all 320 or more. You will see that some really good initiatives have come from there.

Also, of course, we have increased funding to our RTOs, our regional tourism organisations. I understand that the outback mob, our mob out there, are very keen to put in an application for some of that. When I was in Longreach only a couple of months ago, we increased the funding to the Outback Education Tour Subsidy Scheme. Kids in primary school are going to be able to visit the outback and have one of those experiences that is 'put in your pocket and keep forever'. There is a lot more happening in your space.

Ms TRAD: Minister, I refer to your response to question on notice No. 1, particularly in relation to the growth in the Chinese tourism market to Queensland. I note your department's aim to expand the aviation capacity in routes into Queensland. Minister, why have you been unable to secure direct flights from China to your hometown of the Gold Coast?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the member for the question. I am absolutely gobsmacked that she would show such an interest in my hometown of the Gold Coast.

Ms TRAD: I love the Gold Coast, Minister.

Mrs STUCKEY: Clearly the honourable member was not here when we said that figures are probably close to 20 per cent of flights that came into the Gold Coast last month. The Scoot carrier from Singapore is bringing in thousands more passengers. It is interesting to note that Qantas announced a Sydney to Gold Coast service after an absence of several years. Within a 48-hour—

Ms TRAD: Maybe the minister is unfamiliar with Asian geography. I am saying direct flights from China to the Gold Coast.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am trying to answer the question.

CHAIR: Member for Brisbane South, if you ask a question—

Mrs STUCKEY: The honourable member asked me about the Gold Coast and I am giving her an education of just how well our airport is going under the wonderful management of Paul Donovan and Dennis Chant. If she is interested in the Gold Coast and not just mucking around, I would like to inform her about the activity there.

When Qantas announced that they were reconvening to the Gold Coast from Sydney, they opened up a sale. I am sure that government members will be very interested to hear that in 48 hours some 24,000 tickets were sold. Importantly, we are still seeking to triangulate some services from China because, after all, getting them into Queensland is the first step and that is still on the radar. I think honourable members and this committee would agree that the skies are buzzing in recent months and we will continue to attract new airlines and also expand on existing routes. I think it is important also to note that as we increase this capacity, we also need to increase our accommodation.

Ms TRAD: Minister, how long do you think this triangulation process will take? What sort of yardstick have you set yourself to get direct flights from China to the Gold Coast?

Mrs STUCKEY: How long is a piece of string? When we start these negotiations, and I would very much like to give the honourable member a little bit of an education about how we go about doing this, as I am not sure if she was listening to how the aviation attraction fund actually works and the criteria—

Ms TRAD: I am talking about the targets you have set yourself, Minister.

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Chair, I am trying to answer.

CHAIR: I will protect you as much as I can, Minister. I am sure you are capable of doing that.

Mrs STUCKEY: The aviation attraction fund is the portal that new routes and, I suppose, assistance to expand upon existing routes needs to go through. Unlike Labor, we actually set aside this aviation attraction fund. What happens is that bids and suggestions for new airlines actually can begin years before we actually secure any services. When we are going to secure services, sometimes the airline decides that it is a very economically viable route and they will come. Other times we need to partner with the airports, with Tourism Australia, with the RTO where possible and, of course, with TQ very importantly, because they are the centre point for everyone. It is through that process that we are able to determine whether we are going to fund those things.

The other factor, of course, is whether suitable aircraft are available already. In the case of one bid that I understand the former government was trying to secure, for over two years they were in negotiations. Yet when I came on the scene and actually spoke to the people concerned they said, 'But we were never going to have that aircraft available until 2015'. A lot of negotiation needs to go on. Running aircraft is very expensive, as the honourable member for Burleigh would know, being an

aviation engineer. He would be able to tell you just how expensive it is. I think also with that lovely little gift called the carbon tax that you have all supported on the Labor side, you have increased the prices of airfares and fuel, and made Australia a less favourable destination in some senses, especially for intrastate travel across this great big state. In answer to your question, we will be getting those services as soon as we can, but I think you should take a look at what has been achieved in a very short space of time.

Ms TRAD: Minister, I refer to page 44 of the SDS. Given the massive growth in the Chinese tourism market, what are your plans to support the Queensland tourism industry to capitalise on this growth? How are you planning to help small businesses improve Chinese cultural literacy and language training?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member and I would be delighted to assist. I think it is really important to note there is a lot of talk about being China ready, particularly for that market and small business. Recently I was on a trade mission in China with the Treasurer, which I might add was the very first trade mission of this government. I went to China and Hong Kong, and the Treasurer went to China, Japan and the US, I think. We took delegations. We took people who wanted to market their investments and some of them were small businesspeople. There is an investment side here as well. Peter Turnbull, my senior policy adviser, and the DG were with me. Rather than just have lunch and meet people, we decided to actively ask the travel agents what was the expectation of these travellers and what did they hope to have when they landed. That was fascinating data collection. The day that the China Eastern service was announced, I flew to Cairns within 24 hours and, with the members for Cairns and Barron River, I met with a large number of business operators so that we could share the information that we had gained. It might interest you to know that things like authentic cuisine are high on the list, but equally high is being able to access a local or a national Chinese TV channel. They want free wi-fi as well and signage, of course, is important. We are addressing that through our tourism cabinet committee, because Transport and Main Roads sits on that. Importantly also, I think we all understand that you cannot learn mandarin in a six-week TAFE course or a 10-week TAFE course. Through Minister Langbroek's department, a skills and training task force has been set up and we have sought a specific seat on that task force so we can address the issue of language and culture, so that we can maintain these people. I think it is really interesting to note, too, that of our Chinese visitors—and it is a market that is going growing very quickly—over 50 per cent actually come back for a second visit. They want to come back not as part of a tour, on a tour bus. They want to come back as what we call an FIT, a free and independent traveller. That means they want to get in a car and drive around. I am glad to hear they drive on the same side of the road that we do. They want to have a more authentic Australian experience, but with the flavour, literally—a play on words there—of their hometown.

Ms TRAD: Thank you for that very informative answer, Minister. I commend the efforts around the Chinese language and literacy efforts through the Minister for Education. Apart from flying up there after the announcement of the flights from China to Cairns and informing a select group of small business owners, what are you doing in terms of regularising that information, standardising it and broadcasting it to small businesses, so that those people who were not there when you flew up to for your visit to Cairns after the announcement can access that information and incorporate it into their business planning for the future? What have you done to standardise it in terms of a policy or program output for your department?

Mrs STUCKEY: I am not sure if you were here earlier when we were talking about our business online services. We have increased that portal to have a tourism pathways section. We are also expanding that into signage and language, so that people are going to be able to access that. Also, of course, Tourism Queensland is running workshops through the RTOs and in the regions. They have run several China road shows, I think, already. It is a multi-pronged approach that is being taken. I do not think we realise yet the work that needs to be done. I recall very well when there was a boom in the Japanese market. I moved to the Gold Coast 25 years ago and it was teeming with these wonderful Japanese visitors and an enormous effort was made to cater for them. I know that everyone in Cairns is very excited about it. I know that the local members are. The assistant minister is certainly on the ground up there making sure that we provide every assistance to have us as ready for this market as we possibly can be.

CHAIR: I refer to page 50 of the SDS relating to regional tourism organisations. Can the minister please outline how regional tourism organisations can access an initial \$3.89 million and any criteria that they must meet?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the chair for this question. Regional tourism organisations are a very important part of our industry. I guess they are the connector, the membership bases, the voice for so many parts of this great state. It was pretty sad, as I said, that the goose that laid the golden eggs was

laying bricks, but nobody in Labor cared or nobody in Labor noticed. Funding for these critical organisations actually stagnated.

In this budget the Newman government has committed to more than doubling the existing \$3.1 million that was allocated to our state's RTOs. There were 14 of those but currently there are 13 because we have just formed a super one. I am happy to talk about that at another time if that question is asked in this hearing. The \$3.89 million which, as I said, is more than doubling the previous funding is a contestable fund. It will be administered by that wonderful body Tourism Queensland and it will aim to maximise tourism outcomes by encouraging and incentivising the leveraging of partner contributions by encouraging RTOs to collaborate with each other, local government, Tourism Queensland and other partners to maximise the impact of this funding. It will prioritise activity that links to the 2020 industry growth targets with outcomes that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely. Of course, it will achieve value for money for this state government funding.

The guidelines for the \$3.89 million fund have already been circulated to all of our RTOs throughout Queensland and applications are to be submitted by 19 October. If RTOs have not got their submissions in I suggest they get a wriggle on so they can get them in. The applications are going to be assessed during November. Our DestinationQ post forum working group is currently reviewing the grant funding model for 2013 right through to 2020 to achieve that target. Key to these discussions are factors such as geographic spread, which I know the honourable member for Mount Isa has already asked me about, the number of visitors and the economic value of tourism to the regions.

I am already being contacted by RTOs who are planning their attack. They are really wanting to put in great submissions. So we expect a lot of innovative and creative ideas that will boost tourism in all of our regions and cities. It is certainly to me a sign that the industry is excited and enthusiastic.

Mr HOLSWICH: I refer to the SDS at page 29 and regional events to highlight Queensland's cultural and geographic diversity. How is Events Queensland supporting these regional events?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. It gives me an opportunity to highlight the wonderful job that Events Queensland does and the wonderful people we have there. They have an amazing track record for assisting events in Queensland and importantly our Regional Development Program.

This is an investment program that is designed to extend the flow of economic and social benefits of events to regional Queensland. Every year there are two rounds of funding. The next one will close in February 2013 and six months after that. The Regional Development Program supports on average some 100 events per year. I imagine that virtually every person on this committee has been privy to some of those funds for events in their regions. It covers sporting, arts as well as cultural events. The regional events are a great source of community pride. They promote the host region to the visitor and drive visitation that supports local business and importantly local jobs. Our regional events deliver an economic boost for our regional destinations and keep those valuable tourism dollars in those towns where they belong. Events Queensland has created the most comprehensive portfolio of supported events of any state with more than \$20 million invested through this program across 918 events since 2001. Some \$1.8 million was the total that was distributed to 64 events in round 22 of this program.

These events included the Julia Creek Dirt and Dust Festival. I noticed the temperature out there the other day. You would need to be ready for that. It was in the high 30s. Other events include the Gold Coast Bleach—the first of which was held last year—and the Mission Beach Film Festival. Importantly these funds can be used for a range of activities, including marketing, planning, engagement of specialised personnel and the hire of temporary infrastructure.

Event organisers can apply for up to 25 per cent of their total event cash budget. The events that have applied for support under the Regional Development Program must demonstrate how their event generates local economic activity, enhances the profile and appeal of their destination, attracts external visitation and can grow into a future event.

Mr HART: I refer to the SDS at page 9 and the focus on developing future events for Queensland and the boost that major events can provide. What is the anticipated economic benefit to Queensland from these major events?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Living on the Gold Coast this month we are privy to a number of major events, many of them sporting. I did my first volleyball serve last week when launching the Pan Pacific Masters Games. Maybe it is a sport that I will take up a little more in the future. When you are coached by an Olympic champion they make it look very easy. It is not quite as easy as it looks.

In this budget some \$49.6 million will ensure that we maintain and grow an exciting calendar of major business and regional events. After all, major events are a big contributor to Queensland's economy. They work to attract, support, grow and promote successful events in Queensland. I am really

pleased to be able to congratulate the fantastic team at Events Queensland for growing the calendar of major events from 21 in 2010 to 39 in 2012. Just think about that, they have grown from 21 to 39 in a two-year period.

Core functions include major events, business events and regional events. The major events supported by Events Queensland in 2011-12 generated approximately \$237 million in economic activity. They brought 1.1 million attendees—and 541,000 of these were visitors—and created 1.08 million visitor nights to Queensland. By developing, attracting and retaining major events Events Queensland undertakes a thorough assessment process to make sure we get a solid return on our investment. In considering events EQ looks at the number of visitors, the length of stay, the number of event participants, the commercial viability of the event and of course the media and marketing benefits to the region. Business events also confirmed their importance to Queensland's economy with a total contribution of \$697 million in 2010-11.

In terms of upcoming major events we have, for the revheads, the Armor All Gold Coast 600, the V8s racing around—we were watching some on TV last weekend—the Bledisloe Cup which will be held here in Brisbane and the first ever rugby league test in Townsville between Australia and New Zealand.

Mr DRISCOLL: I refer to the SDS at page 29 and Events Queensland's objectives in relation to the Queensland government's target to double tourism expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020. Can you please explain how Events Queensland is supporting the Newman government's 2020 tourism goals?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I once again highlight the fact that Events Queensland have been doing a great job. Events in Queensland have a proven track record for driving our tourism. They have been a key part of building resilience in our industry. As you heard, 1.1 million people attended events and more than half of these were visitors. This thorough assessment that needs to be undertaken to ensure a solid return and value for money is one of the reasons for the success of these major events. They do assess them on their ability to generate, as I said earlier, the economic, the tourism, the marketing and the media benefits.

They also support events through what we call market activation interest. A market activation investment that comes from Events Queensland is designed to promote the benefits of Queensland locations as event destinations to national and international audiences. This market activation also assists new events in their infancy to develop into showcase events for a destination.

Queensland and the Brisbane CBD in particular are being hampered by a lack of hotel rooms. A recently commissioned study with the Brisbane City Council indicates the depth of the problem. Let me share with committee members the fact that Brisbane is losing more than 85,000 visitors a year. The cost to the industry is \$136 million in visitor expenditure. Only 171 hotel rooms were added to the Brisbane stock in the past three years. Some 75 per cent of the growth in the Brisbane CBD has been apartments.

Right now my Tourism Cabinet Committee is considering the options ahead of us to rectify these issues. The government has identified at least two sites that may be able to ease this problem. The Tourism Cabinet Committee is considering what incentives need to be put in place to ensure the growth that we need if we are to continue to attract major events and business conventions. Encouraging new hotels is a key priority under the government's tourism policy, but then again we are telling everyone that Queensland is once again open for business.

Mr YOUNG: I refer to the SDS at page 1 and Events Queensland. Can the minister advise what Events Queensland is doing to attract events to the Gold Coast in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games in 2018?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is good news all round for events on the Gold Coast. Not only have we had a bumper aviation month for many a year, but our calendar of major business and regional events is set to grow even further.

Having spent a number of hours on the Gold Coast recently, because October is the major event month, I am really happy to say that the number of events on the Gold Coast is a great opportunity for us to be able to showcase what a fantastic location it is to be hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Events Queensland has representation on the Gold Coast with two control companies. One is Events Queensland Gold Coast which looks after the V8s. Our very capable Acting CEO Kirsten Herring is director of that. The other is Gold Coast Events Management which looks after our famous airport marathon and the Pan Pacific Masters. I would like to commend Kerry Watson for his many years of dedicated service to making sure that that is an ongoing successful event.

Currently the calendar of major events includes International Rugby 7s, netball, triathlons, swimming—all of which of course are Commonwealth Games sports. This weekend we have Coolangatta Gold, an endurance like no other. I just hope that the wind does not blow up too much so that it is not able to start and finish at Coolangatta. I would not like it to move further north. It is called the Coolangatta Gold, so it would be good to see it on my local beach. We also have the Rugby 7s at Skilled

Park. That was a great event that was won for the Gold Coast in its second of four years. This is also a Commonwealth Games sport and an Olympic sport from 2016. There is of course NetFest as well—that is in October, towards the end of the month—a range of triathlon events and of course we have secured the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships for Queensland in 2014.

Our Gold Coast Airport Marathon and the Pan Pacific Masters Games are signature events for the Gold Coast and they help build and sustain a strong volunteer basis that we can call upon time and time again. Our Airport Marathon attracted a total of 28,239 competitors, Mr Chair, whether it was doing the full marathon or shorter distances. It is anticipated that the Pan Pacific Masters Games will attract 10,000 participants from all over the world. I am convinced that Events Queensland will continue to look for opportunities such as these that will link into the Commonwealth Games as we lead up to what will be the best games that we have ever seen.

CHAIR: I call the member for South Brisbane.

Ms TRAD: Minister, I note that one of your key achievements in 2011-12 was establishing the Tourism Cabinet Committee, noted on page 5 of the SDS. Can you please advise how many times the committee has met to date?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am really happy to talk about the Tourism Cabinet Committee. This was established within the first 30 days of the Newman government. It is a key plank of the DestinationQ initiative. On this committee—and I think it is important to get a grasp of this—which I chair we have the Deputy Premier, who is the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, we have the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, we have the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and we also have the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. All of these departments have been identified as key links to have a whole-of-government approach to tourism. We have met on four occasions since we formed and, as I said, we did form within the first 30 days. It is looking strategically at what is needed to promote the industry's sustainable growth.

We specifically look at what infrastructure is going to be required, how tourism interests are going to be accommodated with land planning and where the workers are going to come from, which I mentioned before when you asked me about the small business and China, and the preparedness for that as well. We are also discussing what is going to be needed so that we can best access our national parks and our iconic assets but also making sure that their sustainability is there and that they are protected for future generations. We are also looking at how we are going to attract the private sector. When I was talking earlier about the hotel supply, particularly for Brisbane's CBD, that is a topic of a lot of interest for our committee as well. So it is really a genuine whole-of-government approach to tourism. On that committee of course we do have a secretariat that my own office supplies and the director-generals also come along. I think it is important that we also note that all of those ministers were in attendance at the DestinationQ forum in June up in Cairns such was the level of interest. To have ministers competing to get a release out on tourism, say, in the drive tourism or the ecotourism area is really proof, I suppose, that this government is adopting a whole-of-government approach to tourism and that tourism is top of mind across all of our departments. That is such an important thing for people to grasp. So the committee is there to be able to debate issues that are across portfolios but also to solve some solutions and to assist us in achieving our ambitious target of doubling overnight visitor expenditure by 2020.

Ms TRAD: Thanks, Minister. Given the increase in ecotourism, as you have just mentioned, I find it peculiar actually that the environment minister is not on this subcommittee and, given the increase in cultural tourism, particularly to Brisbane to view great blockbuster events, I also find it pretty weird that the arts minister is not also included on this subcommittee. Given the multifaceted but also increase in growth particularly in visitors to the Great Barrier Reef and some of the most pristine places left on earth, I find it peculiar that environmental sustainability and ecotourism are not being led or championed in this forum by the environment minister.

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is a pretty straightforward thing to ask but then we may as well have the whole cabinet on the committee because really everybody is involved in tourism and small business in this state. It is a major employer and a major driver. I have just been reminded by the director-general that environment and the arts are on the tourism interdepartmental committee, which happens not behind the scenes but aside from the Tourism Cabinet Committee and feeds into it. The other aspect of course—

Ms TRAD: That is even more reason to include them on the subcommittee, I would suggest.

Mrs STUCKEY: Honourable member, we do invite different ministers to the meetings. As you may or may not perhaps understand, the amount of work that was created from the DestinationQ forum, resulting in some 320 items that have been all rolled up into a signed partnership agreement, is across a number of different portfolios. We have a post-forum working group and a reporting mechanism in place

to make sure that we deliver those. So it is a whole-of-government approach. Every department has been tasked to consider tourism but also to consider ways to reduce that onerous red tape that the Labor Party imposed on our small businesses, many of whom are tourism businesses, for so many years which extinguished quite a number of them.

Ms TRAD: I refer to page 46 of the SDS in relation to performance measurements in the tourism section of your department. I note that all of the performance measurements listed in Tourism Queensland have become less ambitious under your leadership. Looking at the advertising value equivalent of Tourism Queensland's global publicity activity, given that Tourism Queensland under its previous board's CEO had managed to outperform the 2011-12 target by almost \$50 million, why is this year's target just the same as last year's?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Just before I answer that, I did take a question on notice a little earlier. I actually took it on notice not because I did not know who some of the awards were awarded to, as was implied so rudely by the Leader of the Opposition. I actually took it on notice so that I could be accurate and complete in my answer. I would like to provide those details, Mr Chair, seeing as they were asked of me, if I may.

In 2012-13 there were two awards given to Tourism Queensland—one was Australian and one was international. In 2011-12 there were nine awards—three were Australian and six were international. There is considerable detail here that will outline the awards—all nine of them—if you would like me to read out every single one of those.

CHAIR: We might take that on notice, if that is okay.

Ms TRAD: I think it should be tabled.

CHAIR: Are you happy to put it on notice?

Mrs STUCKEY: I think the honourable member said she would like it tabled.

Ms TRAD: Yes.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am happy to table that. It is directly off the Tourism Queensland website.

CHAIR: Minister, you have asked for it to be tabled. Is leave is granted for that document to be tabled? Leave is granted.

Mrs STUCKEY: To get back to the honourable member's question about why we had the reduction, it is due to the limited first quarter public relations and reduced magnitude of the global campaigns. Having said that, Tourism Queensland, as we have recognised before as being an award winner and a peak association, exceeded four out of its five performance measures and these are in line with the Tourism Queensland Performance Management Framework. The publicity target was also exceeded. With the target of \$177 million, which I think you might be referring to there, we actually achieved \$227 million. The key to this result was the fact that Brisbane and Europe exceeded their targets. So the target estimate for global publicity activity was reduced due to limited first quarter public relations and reduced magnitude, as I said, of the global campaigns, as is the footnote.

Ms TRAD: I am not sure that actually answers my question. As you said and as I noted, every single estimate actual outperformed the target that was set by the previous government. Obviously, with a government that purports to be ambitious for the tourism industry, one would expect that the new targets that have been detailed by you here today would at least be what the previous government had articulated if not more considering how well the sector had performed in the last year against the published targets.

CHAIR: Minister, are you happy to answer that? It is not strictly—

Mrs STUCKEY: I am more than happy to ask our acting CEO from Tourism Queensland if she would be kind enough to come up. I think it is also important to remember that this government has not been in for the full year, so you are going to have some measures that overlap. I would like to introduce to the committee Leanne Coddington, who is the Acting CEO of Tourism Queensland.

Ms Coddington: Thank you, Minister, and I think the honourable member for the question. In regard to the targets that have been set, we are looking at our activity over the coming 12 months and working with the budget that we have to ensure that we meet those targets and, if we can, obviously work to outperform those targets. Because of activity that we have done in previous years, particularly global campaigns, they have created a magnitude of PR value that we are not expecting in the immediate future for this next year.

Ms TRAD: So the targets are place holders really. The targets here are place holders because you do not have a strategy to expand, to exceed the targets.

Ms Coddington: We are currently working on developing the Tourism Investment Strategy, as the minister mentioned earlier, in regard to the \$20 million that the organisation has been given, and we will strive absolutely to achieve those targets.

Ms TRAD: So they are place holders. Thank you. My next question again refers to page 46 of the SDS where the 2011 target for the value of cooperative investment in marketing campaigns was

exceeded by almost 25 per cent. Why then, Minister, is the 2012-13 target just the same as last year's?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I think we can give you exactly the same reason.

Ms TRAD: So you have an industry that is hungry to invest, that is hungry to partner with government, but what you are actually setting yourself are targets that are less ambitious than what the industry is actually showing you through putting their dollars on the table.

Mrs STUCKEY: We have answered the question.

Ms TRAD: So you are being less ambitious.

Mrs STUCKEY: We are certainly not being less ambitious. We are being realistic but also we are saying that \$20 million has been given for our Tourism Investment Strategy and, having a brand-new chair for Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland and a new board, they will be determining the best way forward for this investment strategy, and I would predict that it will be a very favourable outcome.

Ms TRAD: Well, Minister, I suggest that what is realistic is the estimated actual. What is realistic is the growth in Chinese tourism to Queensland. These are all realistic indicators—

CHAIR: Member for South Brisbane, perhaps ask your question.

Ms TRAD: I am getting to my next question. What is clear is that this is incredibly unambitious of the government. Again, I refer to page 46 in relation to unique visitors to the Tourism Queensland website. There is an increasing trend to use campaign partner websites. What evidence is there that this is actually happening? What data is available to Tourism Queensland to suggest that this is true?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. We will need to call the Acting CEO of Tourism Queensland to respond to that.

Ms Coddington: Could I ask the honourable member to repeat the question?

Ms TRAD: Absolutely. Referring to page 46 again, I note that the explanation for the decrease in the target of unique visitors to Tourism Queensland's website is due to an increasing trend to use campaign partner websites. So I am asking what the evidence for that is. Do you have data available or is data available to Tourism Queensland that can be tabled at the committee hearing tonight to suggest that this is true?

Ms Coddington: Tourism Queensland works with a range of partners, both domestically and internationally, in regard to all of our campaign activity. What we have seen is a changing trend over time and a stronger desire for the call to action or the website that is used for campaigns to be that of our partners for their campaign activity. For example, as we have seen the RTOs develop and mature and build much more sophisticated websites, they offer as good information as Tourism Queensland's website. Therefore, we allow these partners when we are working with them to use their call to action in those campaign activities. Therefore, the unique visitation is attributed to the RTO directly and not directly to Tourism Queensland, but we do track and measure that activity as well. The same happens with international activity where we are working with airlines or wholesalers where we use their call to action. We are working together. We work very collaboratively. Depending on which website we believe is going to give the consumer the best end result and enable them to convert to come here to Queensland, that is the website that we will use. Sometimes that is the Queensland Holidays website or queensland.com and sometimes it is the partner's website.

Ms TRAD: And that data is given to the—

Ms Coddington: Yes.

Ms MILLARD: I refer to question on notice No. 5 and page 4 of the SDS—the DestinationQ partnership agreement and specifically drive tourism. I must admit that I love a good driving holiday, and I have driven a lot around Queensland whether it be for work or pleasure. Minister, could you please outline the importance of drive tourism and what the Newman government is doing to promote this segment of the market?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for her question. Events Queensland have a track record in driving our tourism and in drive tourism, of course, by having so many major events that people need to drive to. Drive tourism as a subject is a very important priority of the Newman government's tourism policy. We recognise very clearly the importance of the touring market. There are some 360,000 international and 950,000 domestic touring visitors annually. This is an industry that has been growing at around 15 per cent over the past seven years, and 97 per cent of touring visitors make purchases when they stop in a town.

Touring visitors spend, on average, about \$500 a week when they are on the road. They contribute approximately \$2 billion to the state in annual average visitor expenditure. Drive tourism has the potential to enhance the travel experiences of visitors travelling in and around the state and encourage visitors to travel beyond major tourism destinations. I am sure that the honourable member for Mount Isa would be pleased to hear that. They also encourage longer stays in regional centres,

creating greater spend within the region. They open up regional economies to a different segment of the tourism market, and they promote drive traveller safety while creating new travel experiences.

I would like to share some research from Tourism Research Australia which found that visitors to Queensland's outback and central west were older Australians on long-haul travel. Eighty per cent were aged over 54. Seventy-five per cent travelled with a caravan or motorhome. Twenty-four per cent travelled with camping gear. Twenty-five per cent used non-commercial caravan and camping sites. Forty per cent used a combination of non-commercial and commercial, and this group has the highest per night spend. Of those using noncommercial, 65 per cent were most likely to return to the region. What happened at the DestinationQ forum, amongst other things, was an action item to develop the drive tourism strategy. My department is leading this development. This strategy will provide a framework to encourage tourists driving in Queensland and assist in infrastructure planning. The strategy will cover seven themes: meeting consumer needs; marketing and promotion; signage, which was mentioned by the opposition earlier; visitor information and technology applications; road quality, maintenance and safety; accommodation and facilities; and infrastructure.

Importantly, the strategy is being developed through a partnership between the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Tourism Queensland and other key partners. These include the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, the Royal Automobile Club, regional tourism organisations and local government. We believe this strategy will provide a road map to strengthen the drive tourism sector and help to identify and deliver coordinated infrastructure and services for our key drive routes. I anticipate launching the Queensland drive tourism strategy in December of this year, just in time for the school holidays.

Mr HART: Minister, I refer to page 1 of the SDS and Events Queensland. Can the minister please outline any events of significance Events Queensland has attracted to Queensland and the economic impact they have delivered?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. We have some groundbreaking news this evening which we are very excited about. I have already commended the great work of Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland, but our calendar of major business and regional events is set to grow even further. Some of you may remember that I said the calendar had grown over the last two years. It will grow even further in 2013 through a new strategy that will elevate four key regional events to the major events program. The four events have been targeted because they are already highly successful and have the ability to grow even further.

I bet that everyone in the chamber would be very keen to know what successful regional events are being grown into major events. They are the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville, the Birdsville races, the Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival and Easterfest in Toowoomba. The new initiative is set to deliver an extra 40,400 visitor nights, which is the estimate we have received from Events Queensland. In developing, attracting and retaining major events to Queensland, Events Queensland undertakes a thorough assessment process to ensure a solid return on investment and value for money.

They assess events based on their ability to generate the economic, tourism, marketing and media benefits to Queensland, as I have already highlighted. The 2012 Magic Millions carnival and the yearling sales, the 2012 Quicksilver and Roxy Pro and the inaugural Gold Coast Rugby Sevens generated an economic benefit of more than \$27 million. These events alone attracted over 75,000 people and generated more than 95,000 visitor nights. I might add that the Valentino exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art is a great example of how major events exclusive to Queensland attract visitors, with more than 66,000 visitors generated, 136,000 visitor nights and a whopping \$18 million economic boost.

Mr HOLSWICH: Minister, I want to ask a question about the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit, and in doing so I refer to question on notice No. 7 and page 5 of the SDS. Can you please outline how the unit is working to promote investment in tourism and what achievements have been made by the unit to date?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. The Tourism Investment Attraction Unit is another initiative that sits under our whole-of-government DestinationQ initiative. As I mentioned earlier, it was put to great use on the trade mission that I accompanied the Treasurer on to China only a couple of months ago. Unlike Labor, the LNP is very serious about making Queensland the place to do business again and to make Queensland the No. 1 tourism destination again. Our goal is to double overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020. That is in line with the national goal so we are working closely on that target. This would mean growing our workforce, our tourism workforce in particular, by around 35,000 people. It will require an additional 21,000 international airline movements, which, as honourable members have heard, we are very close to achieving, and it would need the creation of 13,000 new hotel rooms. As you heard before, we do need to boost the supply in the

Brisbane CBD in particular.

To increase the awareness of tourism investment opportunities and support investors to choose Queensland, my department is home to this specialised investment unit. We partner with international stakeholders including Trade Queensland and Austrade to support investment in tourism across Australia. Our activities include identification and facilitation of private sector investment into new tourism products in the key focus areas, as I have said, of Brisbane CBD hotels, islands, resorts, ecotourism, leisure and tourism facilities and short-term accommodation.

Right now on our tourism investment opportunity register we have 107 listed. That is not bad for six months into a new government. We have the tourism investment forum and we have a tourism investment guide including, importantly, our online guide. As I mentioned before, the China trip was a catalyst and an opportunity for our local investors to be able to put their pitch to China. Already 26 firms have participated in 24 domestic and international capital-raising initiatives and presented to over 21 investors.

For the last decade we have not seen any fresh new product. We have not seen any new big tourism development. In fact, our tourism industry has been referred to as going through an apricot stage. Through this investment attraction unit housed in my department, we expect to see a resurgence of exciting new projects throughout Queensland that are going to attract tourists and help us to become No. 1 again.

Ms TRAD: Minister, I refer to page 3 of the SDS and your responsibilities to Queensland's vital small business sector. I also refer to cuts in the order of \$14.5 million in business development funding at page 69 of Budget Paper No. 4. Can you advise whether your department has consulted with State Development in relation to these grant cuts? Can you advise how many businesses will be affected by this savage cut?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for her question. Mr Chair, I would also like to respond to an earlier question from the honourable member for Mackay who asked about the importance of the four pillars to the Queensland economy. We have sought advice from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and it has kindly provided the following. The four pillars account for 25 per cent of Queensland's economy directly. When considering the supply chains of these sectors, they account for 43 per cent of gross state product. That is why the government is targeting these sectors.

To respond to the honourable member's question, as we have said before we have over 412,000 small businesses here in Queensland. Some 96.1 per cent of all businesses are classified as small business. Over 62 per cent of these are non employing, 22 per cent employ one to four staff and 10.9 per cent employ five to 19 staff. What we found when we consulted these small businesses was that five out of 10 small to medium businesses actually had a positive outlook for the year ahead, but it was interesting to note that in 2009-10 and 2010-11 under Labor there was a 0.7 per cent decline in the number of small businesses in operation in Queensland. In Queensland, under Labor the exit rates were actually the second highest in Australia.

I note that the direction of the question is some of the services that have been cut. I can refer to the Jobs Assist program and the cyclone assist program which were small business programs that were under this portal and they are due to cease. They were due to cease anyway at the end of June. What we have done is invest in our online services because there is a clear indication that that is where businesses are headed and the actual number of users on there have increased significantly. So rather than say that we have cut a number of small business assistance programs, what we have done is expand online services drastically, particularly through our webinars and other services. Also, if I could refer the honourable member to that question on notice, there is quite a lot of detail there for her.

Ms TRAD: I did read the response to question on notice No. 11. I am actually talking about page 69 of budget paper 4. There are a number of direct assistance programs for small businesses in regional Queensland that have been cut. My question to you is: did you make representation to the Minister for State Development through the budget process to protect regional small businesses from these cuts to their support and assistance from this government?

Mrs STUCKEY: I think what the member is referring to is state development cuts.

Ms TRAD: Yes.

Mrs STUCKEY: Look, right across, as I said, we have a whole-of-government approach to tourism and small business, particularly on the focus of reducing the regulatory burden on businesses. As you heard earlier, we have the Deputy Premier and his department represented on the Tourism Cabinet Committee and we are mindful of having to remove any services that are going to affect small businesses—which is why we created the Office of Best Practice Regulation, which is why we have boosted our online services and which is why we are seeing such a great uptake on them.

Ms TRAD: I will take that as a no, that you did not make representation to the Deputy Premier

around cutting this program which supported regional small businesses. So my next question to you is this. I refer to your responsibilities as small business minister and page 3 of your SDS. Can you advise how many small businesses have shut their doors in Queensland in the last six months?

Mrs STUCKEY: I would need to take that question on notice. Those sorts of figures are not readily available to me. The figures that we rely on are usually quarterly figures from places like CCIQ. Again, those figures would not only be coming through that source so we are not able to give you exact figures for the last month. But I do remind the honourable member that under Labor we had the second highest exit strategy of any businesses that we ever saw. Quite frankly, the interest of the opposition right now in small business—after they choked them under 92,000 pages of red tape and did not utter a peep as they had to put off workers and had to reduce—is absolutely disgraceful.

Ms TRAD: Minister, I think many are closing their doors and letting off staff because your government is sacking consumers left, right and centre. My next question to you is in relation to your question on notice No. 15. I note that almost 16,000 Queenslanders attended workshops and seminars for small businesses. This is a sizeable number. Why then does the minister consider it appropriate to cut these programs that small business obviously find beneficial?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I will check if some of those participants were in programs that were due to expire any way. I do not have a breakdown in this question of exactly the workshops that they attended, so I would predict that a number of them did. As I said earlier, the big trend is for businesses to go online. I dug out a survey the other day from regulatory compliance case studies, and it explored what businesses wanted for support for options. There was a clear indication from businesses that, because this state is so geographically vast, they wanted better services from government and they wanted better communication. If the honourable member gets a chance to go online and have a look at that business portal, I think she really will be genuinely impressed with what it offers. A number of other services can no longer be done apart from being done online. I think the response to our online service has been absolutely phenomenal.

Ms TRAD: How many people participated in that survey you just referenced?

Mrs STUCKEY: I do not have a number of the people who participated in a survey.

Ms TRAD: I would suggest to you that 16,000 people is a pretty good indication of interest in a particular government program, and you are sitting here telling me now that it is being axed because it is far more beneficial for small business to actually attain that level of support and servicing through an online portal. I would suggest to you, Minister, that 16,000 people is a pretty healthy indication of an interest in a government program.

Mrs STUCKEY: And I would agree, if they were using one program. As I suggested to the honourable member earlier, I would be very surprised if 15,811 participants were all from one program. In fact, it would suggest to me that a number of them are in programs that were planned by the previous government to cease on 30 June, which they have done, as was in last year's budget documents. You are saying there were 15,811 participants in however many different programs there were, whether they were due to cease or not, but I would say that I think the fact that 42,000 businesses regularly use our portal is a sign of the times and I suggest the member for South Brisbane gets with it.

Ms TRAD: I suggest that those 16,000 people probably will not have an opportunity to get with it. I refer to page 12 of your SDS and the reduction in 'the number of structured programs/activities helping businesses build their capacity, improve their performance and/or access opportunities' from 749 estimated actual for 2011-12 to 106 target for this financial year. I also refer to note 5 which says, 'The decrease in the 2012-13 target is a result of the cessation of the Jobs Assist Program to realign resources to the priorities of the Government.' Can the minister please explain why the Jobs Assist program was ceased? What consultation was undertaken with stakeholders before this was done?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Perhaps she was not listening very closely but we will give her a bit of background on this. The Jobs Assist program was established in 2009 by the former government to support at-risk businesses impacted by the global financial crisis. If we remember, in 2009 that was the state of the affairs. It was funded—

Ms TRAD: Even though the member for Southern Downs denied it over and over again.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am trying to answer the question and the member is being extremely rude. She really is, Mr Chair. Jobs Assist, if the member would listen, is funded as a limited life initiative. I do not know if she knows what limited life initiative means, but it closed on 30 June 2012 as was originally planned by the government. The realisation of savings for this program is \$1.28 million although the payments will be made through 2012-13 to meet existing commitments.

Ms TRAD: I refer to page 14 of the SDS and the 'pieces of legislation and regulatory frameworks reviewed and reformed'. Given this government's feverish rhetoric around regulatory reform and supposed streamlining, why is this measure discontinued? Why have you dropped the ball on legislative reform?

Mrs STUCKEY: The SDS does not count pieces of legislation.

Ms TRAD: So you do have an agenda for regulatory reform in your portfolio?

CHAIR: Member for South Brisbane, that is not part of the budget process.

Ms TRAD: But it is a measure that has been discontinued. I am asking about a discontinued measure.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am very happy to speak broadly about our economic blueprint and the fact that we have the Office of Best Practice Regulation, which will actually get some results. I am very happy to talk about the pieces of red tape and legislation that we have already cut. If the honourable member was speaking earlier—

Ms TRAD: So what are you referring to the office of regulatory reform?

Mrs STUCKEY: What we refer to the office of regulatory reform?

Ms TRAD: What are you referring to it, yes, in terms of your commitment to your government's priority of cutting red tape?

Mrs STUCKEY: Our commitment is to work very closely. Every single department is asked to identify red tape and regulatory reform in any new piece of legislation that is being brought before the House and the effect that it will have directly on small business. If it is deemed to have a severely negative effect, then it is looked on poorly. That is just one area. There is of course also my small business advisory committee which I chair whose purpose is to seek ways to minimise difficulties in business. We have already met for this year and it has representation from small business people as well as organisations. It was already underway under the former government. It is an initiative that we were happy to keep.

Ms TRAD: But, Minister, considering that the former government had a target of regulatory reform in three areas and only managed one due to the proroguing of the parliament, are you saying that you do not believe there is scope for regulatory reform in your department?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member—well, I think I thank the honourable member. I really do not appreciate having words put in my mouth. We are doing absolutely everything to reduce red tape. We have a target. Unlike we ever saw from your side of politics, we have a target that is a commitment to cut red tape over six years and we have a plan to do that. We are developing our small business strategy and we have already reduced red tape through—

Ms TRAD: You discontinued it.

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Chair, if the honourable member is going to keep interjecting, then I do not really see much point trying to furnish her with what our business is doing because she is obviously very embarrassed about what her government did not do and how they totally turned their back on small businesses in this great state.

Ms TRAD: Mr Chair, I shall not be verballed by the minister about what I am or am not feeling.

CHAIR: I think at this stage we have come to our time limit. There being no further questions and the time for this segment having concluded, I would like to thank the minister and her staff who presented here today. I am sure this will be a significant help for us in coming to a conclusion.

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Chair, may I thank you and your committee. It has obviously been a very long day for you. I am familiar with how long these days can be. Can I thank everyone for giving us the opportunity to highlight what we have been doing. I thank our departmental staff and my ministerial staff for the great effort they have put in. We look forward to being back at estimates next year with even better news to report.

CHAIR: I declare this public hearing closed and thank everybody for their attendance here today.

Committee adjourned at 7.15 pm