

NOTE: There could be differences between this document and the official printed Hansard, Vol. 319

TUESDAY, 16 JULY 1991

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Pursuant to the Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 4 July 1991, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 10 a.m. in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. Fouras, Ashgrove) read prayers and took the chair at 10 a.m.

The Clerk read the Proclamation.

COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to inform the House that I have received from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government a Commission appointing me and Mr C. B. Campbell, Chairman of Committees, or either of us, Commissioners to open this session of Parliament.

I now call on the Clerk to read the Commission.

Mr SPEAKER, as Senior Commissioner, said: Honourable members, we have it in command from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government to communicate to you that Parliament has been summoned to meet this day to consider legislation, the granting of Supply to Her Majesty and such other matters as may be brought before you; that the customary Speech will not be delivered at the Opening of this the Second Session of the Forty-sixth Parliament of Queensland and that, nevertheless, it is His Excellency's desire that you proceed forthwith to the consideration of the aforementioned business.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Report of Investigation into Complaints of Mr J. G. Soorley against Brisbane City Council

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that on Thursday, 6 June I received from the Criminal Justice Commission the report of the investigation into complaints of James Gerard Soorley against the Brisbane City Council.

Ordered to be printed.

PAPERS PRINTED AND CIRCULATED DURING RECESS

Mr SPEAKER: I have to report that the following papers were ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess in accordance with the resolution of Parliament of 20 December 1901—

Report of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee on minutes of evidence taken on Friday, 24 May 1991 in relation to the committee's review of its monitoring and reviewing functions and related matters.

Reports of the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review on—

Judicial Review of Administrative Decisions and Actions;

Public Assembly Law; and

Remaining Matters Arising Out of a Report of the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission on the Local Authority Electoral System of Queensland.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS; MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST; SPECIAL PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DEBATE; ADJOURNMENT DEBATE; TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES

Sessional Order

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.06 a.m.), by leave: I move—

"That for this Session, unless otherwise ordered and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—

- (i) Sitting Days and Hours; Matters of Public Interest; Special Public Importance Debate:
The House shall sit on Tuesday at 10.00 o'clock a.m., Wednesday at 2.30 o'clock p.m., and Thursday at 10.00 o'clock a.m. and Government Business shall take precedence of all other business, except for
 - (a) that period set aside for a Discussion of Matters of Public Interest on Tuesday which shall take place between 11 o'clock a.m. and 12 noon; and
 - (b) that period set aside for a Special Public Importance Debate to follow Question Time on each Wednesday which is not allotted for Supply, such Debate on a subject which is not formulated as a motion in express terms; the Debate may commence at the conclusion of Question Time and six Members may speak for a period not exceeding 10 minutes each on the matter which has been proposed to the Speaker by 6.00 o'clock p.m. on the Tuesday immediately preceding the Debate; if more than one matter is proposed to the Speaker he shall select the matter for Debate and inform Members concerned by 10.00 o'clock a.m. on the day of Debate.
 - (ii) Adjournment to close the sitting: Standing Order 34 be amended:
 - (a) in line one, paragraph one, after the word 'Tuesday' by inserting the words 'and Wednesday'; and
 - (b) by omitting all words in lines one and two paragraph two, and in line three omitting the words 'Minister to close the business of the day and no' and inserting the word 'No'.
 - (iii) Time limits for speeches: Under Standing Order No. 109:
 - (a) paragraph one, substitute the words '20 minutes' for 'forty minutes' in line one and omit all words following the word 'House' in line two to the end of the paragraph;
 - (b) paragraph three, omit the word 'thirty' and substitute the word 'fifteen'; and
 - (c) paragraph seven, omit the words 'one hour' in the third line and substitute the words 'thirty minutes'.
 - (iv) All other provisions of Standing Orders shall mutatis mutandis continue to apply.
- Motion agreed to.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table—

Orders in Council under—

Rural Training Schools Act 1965-1990 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1990

Rural Training Schools Act 1965-1990 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1989	
Workers' Compensation Act 1990	
State Service Superannuation Act 1972-1991	
State Service Superannuation Act 1972	
Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1989	
Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1990	
Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990-1991	
Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990	
Revenue Laws (Reciprocal Powers) Act 1988	
Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977	
Queensland Industry Development Corporation Act 1985	
Queensland Industry Development Corporation Act 1985-1991	
Superannuation (Government and Other Employees) Act 1988	
Bread Industry Authority Act 1990	
Brisbane and Area Water Board Act 1979-1990 and the Statutory Bodies	Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1990
City of Brisbane (Flood Mitigation Works Approval) Act 1952-1990	
Dairy Industry Act 1989	
Forestry Act 1959-1990	
Forestry Act 1959-1991	
Plant Protection Act 1989	
River Improvement Trust Act 1940-1991 and the Statutory Bodies	Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1990
Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1990	
Water Resources Act 1989-1990	
Regulations under—	
Ambulance Service Act 1991	
Private Employment Agencies Act 1983	
Employment, Vocational Education and Training Act 1988	
Factories and Shops Act 1960	
Gaming Machine Act 1991	
Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977-1990	
Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966	
Chemical Usage (Agricultural & Veterinary) Control Act 1988	
Forestry Act 1959	
Hen Quotas Act 1973	
Plant Protection Act 1989	
Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1990	
Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926	
South East Queensland Water Board Act 1979	
Water Resources Act 1989-1990	
Proclamations under—	
Gaming Machine Act 1991	
Superannuation (Miscellaneous Acts) Amendment Act 1991	

Brisbane and Area Water Board Act Amendment Act 1991
Forestry Act 1959-1990
Forestry Act 1959-1991
Forestry Act Amendment Act 1991
Sugar Acquisition Act 1915
Water Resources Act 1989-1990
Reports for the year ended 31 December 1990—
Cane Pest and Disease Control Boards
Central Queensland Grain Sorghum Marketing Board
Report of the Brisbane Cricket Ground Trust for the year ended 31 March 1991.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON BILLS BROUGHT OVER FROM PREVIOUS SESSION

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.12 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That, pursuant to Standing Order 276, the following Bills, which were presented in the first session of this Parliament, be resumed in this, the second session, at the stage reached in the previous session and thereafter be proceeded with as if no prorogation had taken place—

Vocational Education, Training and Employment Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (22 May 1991, Mr Lingard).

Art Unions and Amusements Amendment Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (29 May 1991, Mr Stoneman).

Auctioneers and Agents Amendment Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (22 May 1991, Mr Gilmore).

Grain Research Foundation Act Amendment Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (18 April 1991, Mr Lingard).

Building Act Amendment Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (10 April 1991, Mr Gunn).

Fire Service Act Amendment and Fire Safety Act Repeal Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (10 April 1991, Mr Turner).

Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (31 May 1991, Mr Littleproud).

Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill: Resumption of second-reading debate (31 May 1991, Mr Gilmore).

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gurulmundi Landfill Waste Disposal Site

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.14 a.m.), by leave: As honorable members would be aware, on 24 April this year, the Government announced its preferred site for a secure landfill for south-east Queensland. The preferred site, at Gurulmundi near Miles, was chosen after a very careful examination of potential sites throughout south-east Queensland by the Government CHEM Unit in association with independent consultants. For the past 11 weeks, Gurulmundi has been the subject of a comprehensive and thorough impact assessment study by the independent consultants AGC Woodward-Clyde. This study has been

accompanied by public consultation and communication at a level never seen before in a proposal of this nature in Australia.

The guidelines for the impact assessment study were made available through a community consultative committee set up to ensure that the people of the Murilla Shire were fully informed about the proposal, and to ensure that the Government was fully aware of their questions and concerns. The independent consultants have now completed their draft IAS report, which was released yesterday to the Murilla Shire Council and to a group of people who have been protesting about the plan. The overall conclusion of the draft report is that the Gurulmundi site can meet the very strict requirements for a secure landfill. The consultants have found that the site provides the basic natural conditions—that is, depth of surface clay well above the local watertable—to support the construction of the secure landfill. They have found that the landfill can be built to the standards necessary to isolate the treated wastes from the environment. Transport of the wastes, which raised some community concern, was found to provide an acceptably low risk of accidental exposure of the waste.

The draft study has found that controls can be instituted to successfully contain the potential environmental impact of the landfill to acceptable levels. Overall, a secure landfill at Gurulmundi, and the associated waste transport system, can provide a safe, secure and environmentally sound facility for the disposal of solid treated

wastes. The question of potential risk to underground water reserves received the closest possible examination by both the Water Resources Commission and the consultants. Their conclusion is that the site area is not a recharge zone of the Great Artesian Basin and that the area cannot be a major intake of the Great Artesian Basin because there are no major aquifers in the region.

As I mentioned, public consultation has been an important feature of the Government's efforts in trying to find a responsible way to dispose of the toxic by-products of modern living. Four weeks have been set aside for public review of the impact assessment study, and full and frank public consultation will remain a top priority. To this end, today copies of the draft report will be sent to community, environmental, business and rural organisations, as well as to all local authorities in Queensland. Copies of the executive summary of the report will be made available to the people of Miles, and officers of the Government's CHEM Unit will be available three days a week in Miles to discuss the draft report and note public comment. The CHEM Unit and representatives of several Government departments will then collate and review all the material, working closely with consultants AGC Woodward-Clyde, who will then prepare the final report for consideration by the Government. It is expected that the final impact assessment report will be completed and delivered to the Government in September. The consultants will then prepare the final impact assessment study report. The Government will study this final report before making a decision as to whether to construct the secure landfill at Gurulmundi.

I lay upon the table of the House the draft impact assessment report of the consultants, AGC Woodward-Clyde, a copy of which I have already made available to the Opposition spokespersons from both the National Party and the Liberal Party.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Senator M. Reynolds

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to note the presence in the gallery of Senator Margaret Reynolds.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**Death of Mr R. J. Hinze**

Hon. W. K. GOSS (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (10.18 a.m.), by leave: I move—

"(1) That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Russell James Hinze, Esquire, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the Crown.

(2) That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained."

History will record Russ Hinze as one of Queensland's best-known politicians. His career in public life spanned almost four decades, first in local government in the 1950s and 1960s, and then in State Government from 1966 to 1988. He was known as a forthright politician not just throughout Queensland but throughout Australia. Russ Hinze was born at Oxenford in June 1919. He died last month, in June 1991, aged 72. Apart from his early years, he spent a life-time living and working in the Oxenford area, where he was born. Russ Hinze was a dairy-farmer who, after becoming chairman of the South Coast Cooperative Dairy Association, was elected to the Albert Shire Council in the early 1950s. He served as shire chairman for nine years between 1958 and 1967.

In 1966, Russ Hinze entered the State political arena as the member for South Coast, representing the then Country Party. After eight years as a backbench member of the coalition Government, he was promoted to Cabinet and quickly established a high profile as a hard-working and competent Minister. Between 1974 and 1987, he was Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. As well, from 1980 to 1987, he was Minister for Racing. In addition, between 1980 and 1982, he was Minister for Police, a portfolio allocation which earned him the commonly known title of Minister for Everything. In 1988, Mr Hinze resigned from State Parliament. He was also a former chairman of the Gold Coast Trotting Club, a member of the Local Government Association executive and a member of the Gold Coast Hospitals Board. As a result of his long ministerial career, Mr Hinze was directly known by many thousands of people across the entire State. He will be long remembered in many arenas—in local government, in Main Roads, in the racing industry, in his own party, in this House and in political circles generally, in the media and in the mind of the public. On behalf of the Government, I offer sympathy to his wife and family members on his passing.

Hon. T. J. BURNS (Lytton—Deputy Premier, Minister for Housing and Local Government) (10.21 a.m.): I join with the Premier in offering my condolences to the family of Russ Hinze and to give old Russ a send-off. In many ways, he was one of the great characters of this place. Russ and I had many fights, some of them bitter. But I liked the old bastard. I cannot say it any other way. I am sure that he would appreciate my saying it that way.

After years of service to local government as chairman of the Albert Shire, Russ entered Parliament and eventually became a Minister. My first recollection of him is as a backbencher in this Chamber who would squeal when he was not allowed to ask a question. When he could not ask a question during question-time, he would bellow like a stuck bull. When that occurred, he tried to take the Speaker on. When he became a Minister, that experience stood him in good stead. He was prepared to answer questions thoroughly and to be helpful. Over the years, at a time when Joh was making life very difficult for us in Opposition—especially when we had 11 members—it was very difficult to operate. In those days, many Ministers would not have anything to do with Opposition members. On matters of concern in the electorate, we were lucky if we received a reply from them by letter. In those difficult times, we could always go to the bar with Russ and have a yarn about the matter with him. On many occasions, he would try to help.

As I said, Russ was one of the great, colourful characters of post-war politics in this State. He was a real larrikin with a down-to-earth wit and an unconventional approach to Government matters. He liked his knockabout, rough diamond image and was never slow to throw the occasional Australian adjective into his conversation. Colourful characters are disappearing from this Parliament, and it is a shame. I refer to people such as Johnno Mann, Kev Hooper and Gordon Chalk. Over the years, the Gold Coast has produced a few colourful characters such as Bruce Small, who was a member of Parliament with Russ, and Ron McAuliffe, about whom I will shortly tell a story. In many ways, Russ was a cartoonist's dream. The best cartoon of him was the one that showed him as a bulldog. I saw him on television describing why he would rather be a bulldog than a mouse, but he was shown as a bulldog with dark glasses and a white cane outside a casino and brothel in the Valley that had a flashing neon light, saying he did not know there were any there. If I remember Russ in times gone by, I will remember that cartoon.

Russ was always the centre of controversy. Those of us who were around in those times will remember that he was often in trouble. Once he was recalled by Joh from a ministerial jaunt around the Caribbean and the blue grass plains of Kentucky. He always blamed me for that. Because I whinged in the paper about that trip, I can probably take some credit for his having to come back. On another occasion, he had to come back from a ministerial visit to the New Zealand yearling sales.

I come from a school that says that you do not kick a man when he is down, you do not attack a man after he dies, and you do not try to score off his death. I am not trying to score off Russ by saying some of these things today; I am just trying to recall some of the times that we had and a bit of the fun that was associated with them. I refer, for instance, to his milk quotas. I always attacked him over his pub. I said that he built a four-lane highway through his own bottleshop down at Oxenford. He used to respond by saying, very simply, "Listen Burnsie, if you don't do something in your electorate or near your own place, you're a lazy bludger; if you do, you are looking after yourself. You will find that out when you get into the Ministry." I think that is probably right. Russ once related to the Parliament how he told Joh, "Give the boundaries to me, and we'll never lose." I said to him afterwards, "You don't believe that, do you?", and he said, "Of course I do; who wants to be on the other side." I agree with him on that point, too. In the Government party room, during a debate about dingoes killing sheep—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BURNS: Listen closely to this. In the Government party room, during a debate about dingoes killing sheep, the former Liberal member for Salisbury, Rosemary Kyburz, suggested that dingoes should be castrated. Hinze's response—and I have cleaned it up a bit—was, "They're killing the sheep, love, not stuffing them." In 1971, whilst still on the back bench, Hinze was part of a plot within the Country Party parliamentary wing to topple Bjelke-Petersen that failed only through the votes of Joh himself and two proxies. Others in the attempted coup included Mike Ahern, who became Premier; Jim Houghton, who became Speaker; Bill Lonergan, who became Speaker; and Sir David Nicholson, who became Speaker. The weak so-and-sos who did not help him should have learned a lesson from that; all of those who helped in that coup attempt did very well afterwards.

Hinze was one of Queensland's largest owners of recheorses and trotters. His best known horse was Waverley Star. Some honourable members will remember that he thought it was great when he sent it off to race in the Japan Cup. It won a number of classics. Hinze was the creator of the Canals Act. These days, people can argue about the canals on the Gold Coast, but the physical shape of the Gold Coast was really changed by Russ Hinze. He was very much a Minister who made decisions. In the late 1960s, when the Liberal ginger group was hungry to take control of the coalition, Hinze's seat of South Coast was a prime target. This was when he and I started to fight. In 1969, he stunned the coalition by doing a one-out preference deal with the Labor Party,

with Russ to get our preferences and the ALP, not his Liberal partners, to get his preferences if he ran third. I was the ALP State Secretary at that time, and through the party machine I had allocated our preferences to the Liberal Party. On the night that the party policy speech was to be delivered at the Park Royal, I was called in by the Executive. Hinze and McAuliffe had done a deal, and the preferences were changed. The members of his party went off their brains—everyone went off their brains! He had conned his party at that time, and he organised it through that old schemer Ron McAuliffe. They were great mates. There is no doubt that Russ Hinze had a bit of a say in getting McAuliffe into the Senate.

Russ Hinze's famous Christmas parties are another thing to remember. The violinist from the Heidelberg Restaurant was always present. Those days are gone. I would like to have seen some of the bills for some of those Christmas parties. Russ Hinze used to sing out of tune songs. Do those who were there remember? He was the world's worst singer.

Mr Turner: You have never heard me.

Mr BURNS: Then I should say the world's second worst singer. Russ Hinze presided over an era of controversy that included the setting up of the Racing Development Fund, ministerial rezonings, and the licensing of Jupiters Casino. But in my mind, he will be remembered as the Minister who closed the Albion Park sand track to racing and built the Albion Park trotting track. He was an outspoken critic of SP betting, but there are emergencies when we all have to compromise our principles. I am told that during one trip to Adelaide such an emergency occurred when Russ Hinze's press secretary got a hot tip on a horse and the only way they could bet on it—the TAB was closed—was by betting SP. The horse won at 9 to 2. Thus, although he was a bit critical of SP bookies, he was willing to use them when he needed to.

I want to make a final point about Russ Hinze. He helped me in my electorate. As honourable members know, it used to be hard to get a Minister to come to one's electorate to give the schoolchildren a holiday. I have told the following story a few times and I should put it on the record for Russ Hinze because he had his version of it. If he were here today, he would get his story in before me. One day in the bar, I said to him, "Listen, Russo, nobody ever comes down to my electorate and gives the kids a holiday. What about giving them a holiday?" He said, "I'll come on Thursday". We started at quarter to 9. By about quarter to 10, we had given half the schools in the electorate a holiday. At 10 o'clock, we were in the bar of the Hemmant and he tried to give the barmaids a holiday. We went from there to the other schools in the electorate. By lunch-time, we were at the Colmslie Hotel. The meatworkers were there and he shouted the biggest shout I had seen for a while. He stood at the corner of the bar and sang the Red Flag. Then he asked me what sort of a mean so-and-so I was. We went to my place. I only had one bottle of Scotch in the place; a bottle of good malt Scotch that I had brought back from overseas. He proceeded to demolish that in fine style. We went from my place to the Cannon Hill Bowls Club, where again he shouted those at the bar for a couple of hours. We ended up in the sauna underneath the Gabba cricket ground and with towels around us had our photo taken by the *Sunday Sun*. People can imagine my skinny little body sitting next to him. That photo appeared in a few Christmas cards.

Before the action groups and the green campaigns began in my area, we were fighting A.J. Bush and the tanneries about the smell. It was very hard to get a decision made on that problem, but on three occasions, on behalf of my electorate, I expressed thanks to him. One was when tannery effluent was prohibited from being dumped into Bulimba Creek. I must say that I set Russ up. When I got there, he was standing on the hill near his car. Three hundred angry housewives pushed their prams down the road, blockaded him and said, "You will go into the creek if you don't clean it up." He agreed with Brian Walsh, who was the mayor at that time, that it should be cleaned up, and it was. On another occasion, when the building of a sewerage plant near Iona College was being

discussed, he sat on the verandah of the school with Father Sherman, the priest in charge, who said to him, "You cannot put it here." Russ said, "We won't", and they did not. When the big fight was on over a chlorine plant, again near Iona College, I took him down there again. On that occasion, Russ Hinze again said, "No, we won't put it here", and he did not.

In those days, he was the only Minister who, if one went to him and asked him to do something, and if one was trying to put something over him, he would say, "Listen, what are you trying to pull?" As one left, one could say to the deputation that they had no chance. But if he did say he would try to do something, he would—and he followed it up. On many occasions after we left Ministers, they would say that they would get their advisers to look into the matter, and we would know that that meant we had lost. Russo never acted like that. He was fair dinkum in that way. I have called him an old crook to his face all his life. I do not withdraw those remarks about him at all, and I am sure that he would not want me to do so. But I always said that he was a good bloke, and if I had to have a fight somewhere I would rather have a bloke like him behind me than some of the others on his side. I am sorry to see him go, and I am sorry about the way he went.

Mr COOPER (Roma—Leader of the Opposition) (10.31 a.m.): On behalf of the Opposition, I endorse the motion moved by the Premier and supported by the Deputy Premier. As usual, I concur with most of the remarks of the Deputy Premier, whom I believe depicted very well many of the actions of people who have passed from this place to another world. It is not been much different with Russ Hinze. I am aware, as everybody in this place is, that Russ did not necessarily hit it off with everyone, and he certainly had his enemies. Some are on this side of the House as well as on the other side of the House and throughout the State. But that happens. I guess that if a person is friends with everyone, he is really not much of a person. That does not mean to say that on every occasion Russ was right, but he made a massive contribution to this State, and that is the area to which I wish to devote my remarks.

When I first entered this Parliament in 1983-84, Russ was the first Minister to whom I had to lead a deputation. I was brand-spanking new and I had to take a deputation of councillors from the Bauhinia and Bungil Shires to meet Russ. I had heard all these stories about what he was like when you led a deputation to him, and it was with fear and trepidation that I went to see him. I was told I was lucky to get to see him. It was often said that if he would not see you, you had no hope, but that when he said he would see you, you had a fair chance of achieving success in overcoming your problem.

My particular problem at that stage concerned funding for a road that linked Bauhinia Shire with Bungil Shire. We went armed with great loads of documentation and submissions, and the first thing he did was to say to get them out of the so-and-so road. I wondered what on earth we had struck. So did some of the people who accompanied me. Then he said, "Okay, who is going to speak?" One of the shire clerks rose to his feet and made his statement. Then I heard some of the most colourful language that I ever heard flow from Russ. I wondered why, but this was just the way the man did business. I had to take the poor shire clerk out later, shout him a drink and put him back together. Suffice it to say, we were successful. This does mean that he was unconventional. That is no great sin, even though today we have to be frightfully careful, because the moment we go outside the book, we know we are in real trouble. We have to remember that we are politicians. We represent people and, as such, there is no book that we can necessarily follow, because when we are representing people, at times, we have to be a little unconventional.

Russ was frequently provocative on many issues, as has been pointed out, but I want to endorse him as one of Queensland's greatest Ministers—probably one of the greatest Ministers this State has seen this century. He was a great worker, and he certainly enjoyed himself. I always admire people who can actually do the job and yet continue to enjoy themselves, withstanding the brickbats that come their way. He certainly got bouquets as well, and he was a good administrator. Most people will say that Russo got

things done, and he did. He left his mark in Queensland in the area of development, as has been pointed out. He became the Minister for Everything, and he became the colossus of roads. He gave marked support to local government. I do not think he really appreciated seeing the Local Government Department subjugated and given non-departmental status. I think he would have fought hard to have Local Government remain as a department in its own right.

Russo recognised that local government is important to the people, being the closest level of government to them, and because of that it has a tremendous amount to offer this State. Under his stewardship roads underwent a massive transformation. I know that in some areas of the State roads were in a shocking condition until the early 1960s. If there was a cloud in the sky, people simply could not go out onto the roads. A lot of those problems have been attended to. A great deal of money has been expended across the State, and not just in one particular sector. Russ will be commended and remembered for that in many parts of the State.

Similarly, in the racing area he was also controversial. He was the bane of the Treasurer's responsibility in that area. He certainly spent some money on the racing industry, but those funds were spent in racing development and in providing in many areas facilities that simply needed to be provided in order to help weld the communities in those areas together. Often the improvements to racecourses meant that people had a focal point, not just for racing but for community interest. The races were a great social outing, where people could come together. People who know what it is like to live west of the Great Divide will know what I am talking about and will know that that was money well spent.

I do not believe there is any need to go into any of the legal matters surrounding Russ Hinze, because as he himself believed, and as we believe, anyone is innocent until proven guilty, and in that context we can all say that Russ died an innocent man. I am sure, anyway, that he would have cleared his name. So let us leave it at that.

As has been pointed out, Russ Hinze was a member of this Parliament for 22 years. That is a very long time. Others have been here longer, but 22 years is a long time to give service to the people of one's State. He spent 14 years as a senior Cabinet Minister. As I have said, he made his mark. He was 71 years of age when he died. He left school during the 1930s Depression, and was brought up on a dairy farm. Others have had that background. It was the making of Russ because, as I have said before, not everyone is able to go to university. He certainly came through the university of hard knocks and that was and often is the making of a man.

In 1952, Russ Hinze was elected to the Albert Shire Council, and from 1958 to 1967 he was shire chairman. He was also greatly involved in the dairying industry and became chairman of directors of the South Coast Cooperative Dairy Association. He held many other positions with the milk industry. He was a member of the executive of the Local Government Association and a member of the Gold Coast Hospitals Board.

As I said before, racing was one of his greatest interests. He was involved greatly with the racing industry. No doubt, when he became Racing Minister, he was going to be accused of having vested interests and so on. However, I think he demonstrated quite clearly right across the board that all of the racing industry received very close attention. He made the racing industry's facilities very comfortable and very accessible to punters. Anyone who looks back and sees how much the facilities have changed would agree that it is now an absolute pleasure to attend the races, whether or not one has a bet.

Anyone who knows the racing industry well would recall that one of Russ Hinze's horses was Our Waverley Star. In 1986, that horse ran second to Bone Crusher in the W.A. Cox Plate. Racing analysts have described that race as one of the greatest of our time. No doubt those who saw the race would be able to vouch for that. Innumerable stories will be told here today about Russ Hinze, the colourful side of him and the side of him

that was so constructive and made so much of a difference to so many people's lives throughout the State. I agree with the Deputy Premier's remarks that Russ Hinze was able to cross the bounds between political parties and be accepted all round.

Russ Hinze was known as a beer belly judge. I have seen photographs of him sitting with others who were quite portly. He was a bloke who was quite happy to make some fun of himself as well as of others. All of us have heard the story—whether it is true or not, I am not sure—of the occasion on which he was pulled up for speeding. The young policeman became quite officious. Russ Hinze stepped out of his car, pulled out a road map, laid it across the bonnet of the car and said to the police officer, "This State is a very big place, my young man. Now, where would you like to go?" I am not saying that that policeman let him off; I am not saying that the policeman was sent to Birdsville; I am citing it as an illustration of the sort of jovial fellow that Russ Hinze was. I have no doubt that that policeman will never forget that incident. Russ Hinze was also very forthright in his description of those who broke the law. He used to say that cattle-duffers should be shot first and asked questions later. He had similar views on other matters, which I will leave others to elaborate on.

On behalf of people in the National Party, the Opposition and others in the State, I place on record that Russ was a devoted and loving father. Russ was a very decisive administrator. He was a very talented judge of horses, a very talented judge of people and he was also a man of the people. I remember his words quite some months ago, when he was afflicted with the illness that caused his death, that he had been sentenced, and sentenced by the Lord. I say again that Russ died an innocent man. May he rest in peace. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Faye, to all of his family and to all of his friends.

Mr BEANLAND (Toowong—Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.42 a.m.): On behalf of members of the Liberal Party, I rise to support the motion moved by the Government and offer our condolences to the Hinze family. Much of Russ Hinze's background has already been placed on the record. Various words have been used to describe Russell. He was known as a Minister who "got things done". People certainly knew where they stood with him, particularly in relation to matters involving the portfolio of Local Government, Main Roads and Racing—three areas in which Russell lent his great support and about which he had a great deal of knowledge, background and history. All of us know of his love of racing and the work that he ensured was carried out on the racecourses of this State. I know that he was a great friend of local government. Other members have outlined the work that he did in relation to improving main roads in this State. I believe that even his most bitter critics regarded him as an effective Minister. He has been described variously as a rogue, a description that he and his friends would deny. He has been described as a likeable larrikin and a rough diamond with a heart of gold. He was an extremely able and hard-working Minister of the Crown. I do not think any of us would deny that.

Certainly, Russell kept the media occupied. He did that in a number of ways, not only by his controversy and colour but also with the great Christmas parties that he had. Perhaps in many quarters Russ was best known for his big Christmas parties. At such parties, he made the guests sing Christmas carols and he made everyone join in and feel part of the fun and the games. They were the sort of Christmas parties that we have not seen in recent times.

Recently, Jim Henry, who used to compile the obituaries for Queensland Newspapers for the day on which they were needed, wrote of Russ Hinze that he was "a warm hearted, jovial, straight-talking, crusading farmer-politician who wasn't afraid to call a spade a spade". That is a very apt description of Russ Hinze. He was one of the most colourful and controversial Ministers, known Australiawide as well as overseas, that this State has ever known. That is an illustration of the flair that Russell had. Recently, I noticed in some press clippings a report from Tokyo which stated—

"In the same room yesterday, I saw a Gulf oil sheik, a Japanese princess—and Mr Russ Hinze."

They were watching a race. It was probably appropriate for Russell Hinze to be sitting with people from around the globe watching a horse race which was no doubt one of the major horse races in Japan.

It was very sad to see Russ' career end in controversy and in such a way that he did not have the opportunity to clear his name in court, which I know he so dearly wished to do. Queensland Liberals join with other members of the Chamber in extending to Russ Hinze's wife and family our deepest sympathies.

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.45 a.m.): It gives me great pleasure indeed to endorse the remarks made by honourable members today as we remember Russell Hinze and the very substantial contribution he made to public life in Queensland, and in particular to this Parliament. It is probably a little sad that, because of the large influx at the last election, so many members of this House today never had the experience of seeing Russell Hinze in action not only as a Minister during question-time and as a participant in debate but also, as the Deputy Premier said, as an extremely competent Minister who had the enormous potential and capability of walking and talking his way through problems.

I can remember many a dispute and a number of warring parties when Russ Hinze would get people in the room and sort out their differences. I served with him in the period 1980-88, not just in Parliament but also in the electorate. The electorates of Surfers Paradise and South Coast adjoined. In 1980, we had a very interesting campaign down there. It was a bit of a stoush between the Liberal Party and the National Party. The late Doug Jennings and I entered this place then. On that occasion I think Russell Hinze ended up with seven or eight candidates against him in the South Coast electorate. One can imagine the intrigue that was going on over preferences. As was Russell's norm, he managed to save the day, to come through against the odds in that particularly difficult and colourful election campaign.

Although in later years I did not have the contact with Russell that I had with him earlier in my parliamentary career, I had enormous respect for his administrative ability. He was very much the father of the modern Gold Coast, through his involvement with the Albert Shire as chairman, as member for South Coast and then ultimately as a senior member in the Cabinet. Over those years, he played a key role in the unprecedented level of economic development we saw right throughout this State in the late 1970s and 1980s. As other members have indicated, he was a colourful and controversial politician of the old school. He was a man of immense power and influence, but one of his great strengths was his very great affinity with the underdog. Someone who was down and out could come up to him in the street and he would fix that person's problems. I remember that one Christmas he created a problem for me in my electorate because he had met a lady who was a retailer in Surfers Paradise and who had a particular town-planning problem. That particular town-planning problem was sending her to the wall. On that occasion Russell managed to sort out her problem. In the meantime, he managed to create some problems for other people. That was the sort of man he was. He had an enormous affinity with people in distress. Very often the image that I guess came through, partly because of his physical stature, was quite different from the reality.

This Parliament has gone through many changes and always will. As the Deputy Premier indicated, Russell Hinze was one of the great characters to set foot in the Legislative Assembly. These days, there seems to be a sameness in the Parliament. We do not have the characters of yesteryear. Russell Hinze will go down as one of those great characters. As I indicated earlier, his contribution on behalf of the people of the Gold Coast was absolutely extraordinary. I know many people would criticise some of the decisions that were taken. At times like this we need to remember that during the period that Russell James Hinze was a senior Minister of the State Government we led Australia in terms of job creation and economic development. There was a buoyancy there that certainly was the envy of all Australia.

I extend to Faye and to the Hinze family my sincere condolences.

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn) (10.51 a.m.): I join in this tribute to the late Russ Hinze and extend my personal sympathy to his family. As with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I served with Russ in the Parliament from 1980 to 1988. At his funeral recently, I was talking to one of his sons. He made the comment that anyone who did not like Russ really did not know him. I think that the expressions from the Deputy Premier, in particular, and from others would confirm the fact that he was a very likeable and down to earth character.

I want to record my experience of him in his capacity as a Minister. He was a very effective Minister, as has been said, and one who was prepared to make decisions. He was prepared to listen to arguments, to make his own assessments and then to make decisions. Unfortunately, all too frequently Ministers from both sides of politics are not prepared to bite the bullet or to let the buck stop at their table. Russ Hinze was. He was also prepared, in his own way, to take risks. I remember he came to a race meeting at Eidsvold. It was a small country race meeting. The nature of the man, the character of the man, was such that he recognised the importance of country race meetings. I must say that many of our better horses have their origins in country areas and have started their careers at country race meetings. I remember that on this occasion he was asked whether he could give a lady a tip for any of the southern races. Russ was prepared to put his reputation on the line and he gave the particular person a tip. He was not to know it, but the club broadcast the Russ Hinze tip for the day. That did not make him particularly popular with the book-makers because it was a good tip and it came home. He was prepared to do that sort of thing.

I join in the comments that have been made about him. I believe that this Parliament and the people of Queensland were very well served by a man who was a very competent Minister and one who was, as I say, prepared to make decisions.

Mr VEIVERS (Southport) (10.53 a.m.): I support the condolence motion today in relation to a bloke whom I regarded as a mate and a bloke who was a giant in this State's public life. Very few politicians have started in life with so little and have gone on to achieve so much for the electors and people of this State. Russ was part of a breed that has just about disappeared from public life. Basically, this House is the loser for that. It is part of the measure of the big man that his heroes included people such as Tom Aitken, Frank Nicklin, Jack Duggan, Ron Camm and Johnno Mann. There are some Labor people in that list and most members of the modern Labor Party might not like to cope with that, but that is what Russ Hinze was like. He judged the man and not the party. What mattered to Russ was how the man behaved, how hard he would fight for what he believed in and how far he ran from pretence. There was no pretence in the milko's boy from West End, in the secretary of the Coomera Cricket Club, in the wicket-keeper in the south coast rep. team, in the Coomera Shire councillor or in the Albert Shire Chairman.

There was certainly no pretence in the new member who arrived here in 1966. Johnno Mann made sure of that. Russ told the story—and I think that some members have heard it—of the old Labor bloke greeting him at the door of the Members Bar and pointing out the facts of life. "Russell," he said, "welcome." This is what Hinzey told me. He said, "It's the best club in Australia, mate. Make sure you stop here as long as you can." Here is the thing that stuck forever in the mind of Russ Hinze. The old Labor bloke said this—as far as Russ could remember—"Not all the crooks are on this side of the House, and not all the good ones are on that side. If you believe you've got more authority than me in here because you're in Government, well that's a mistake. If I can help you, boy, I will." Hinzey remembered all of that. It is probably the reason why he made so many friends across the political divides. Tom Burns mentioned that today.

Many Labor men knew Russ well. After they had clashed with him, they knew that they had been in a fight. Even my cousin, Tom Veivers—a good bloke, too—knew that. He and Russ used to have some clashes. At times, Tom would say that he was a dreadful bloke. I might add that, when I was running for preselection on the Gold Coast, I did

not know anything about politics. I will get in before honourable members and say that I do not know much today, either! I was running for preselection in Nerang. They—"they" being certain people in the area—had all asked me to run. Hinzey rang up and said, "Listen, son, I will support you. You will be right, young Veivers." Anyway, I went out into the wilds of Southport and the Gold Coast and said, "Hinzey is supporting me. I'll be right now." I was wrong. It was the wrong time to say that. It was the kiss of death, but I did not know that at the time.

Many Labor men have cause to remember his kindness. Tom Burns mentioned some instances. The present Racing Minister would not have made it to the Weetwood one year without a lift from Hinzey.

I believe that Russ was something of a singer. The better ones tend to be big men. Only the good Lord could save those who went to his Christmas parties and did not sing. In his early days in this place, the singing was reserved for Joh Bjelke-Petersen. As part of his campaign for a seat at the Cabinet table, Russ would stroll past the Premier's office in Parliament House, in full voice, singing—

"Joh-ee, Joh-ee,
hear my humble cry,
oh when others thou art calling,
do not pass me by."

Ambition was important to Hinzey, and we can all be thankful for that. Joh eventually gave in. It was obvious that Russ Hinze had what it took, and in he came to the Cabinet. As we have heard today, the media liked to call him the Minister for Everything, and he was certainly the Minister for plenty of important things. At one stage, he even got off the demon fizz so that he could work harder on another portfolio that was given to him.

He was Minister for Main Roads and earned the title "Colossus of Roads". He took a keen interest in highways and rural back roads alike. He stretched the roads dollar further and kept down car registration rises. He gave the local Main Roads Department engineers a great deal of autonomy to liaise with local councils and he brought some predictability to budgets. His monuments in the portfolio—and those are monuments that the little men can never take away from him—include the Gateway Bridge, the Logan Motorway and the Gillies Highway. Hundreds of small communities out west will remember the big fellow for the bitumen sealing that makes sure that their kids get to school in wet weather. Local government leaders remember Russ Hinze for receiving a knowledgeable hearing and being given a fast, firm decision. He was renowned for sitting people down at a table and getting agreement on the spot. It was part of the Hinze management style.

Russ was the man who pioneered the idea of giving black people responsibility for their own destiny and a helping hand at Mornington Island and Aurukun. While the Federal Government wrung its hands and wondered, Hinzey acted. It was typical of him. I might add that that was during the Malcolm Fraser era. He was also quick to move in when the Gold Coast Council got itself into trouble. In and out with the administrators, an election in the middle and things were back on track. At that time, two of his best mates were on the council. He sacked them just as quickly as he sacked everybody else. They were Norm Rix and the late, great, Alan Hollindale. It did not mean a thing to Hinzey. Swish, out you go!

Racing, of course, was his great love and it showed in his handling of the Racing portfolio. For the first time, a Minister understood the special place that racing holds in our culture. He felt very strongly for the way in which racing developed in this nation. He used to tell me that it was a diversion for hard-working people and a community interest to be run by the people who love it. He understood that the Government should stay out of most of racing's big questions and be there just to give a helping hand.

Russ Hinze also understood that the money was for racing; it was racing money. It should go back to the racing industry. He set up the Racing Development Fund,

which created a lot of problems. However, that development fund turned in a bit over \$1 billion this year. He really knew what it was about. Russ Hinze had plenty of joy and despair in racing. As we have heard today, he saw his greatest horse, Waverley Star, go stride for stride from turn to post with the great New Zealand horse, Bonecrusher. It was one of the great races, as Russell Cooper has already said. Russ Hinze saw \$300,000 flutter out of the lens of the photo-finish camera that decided which horse had won. He loved that horse so much that he buried him in front of his home at Coomera. Russ was Police Minister for a long time. He knew that all was not right and set about in his usual fashion to put it right. He admitted that there was a problem with prostitution and other things and, at a national ministerial conference on the Gold Coast, he put up a solution which only the State of Victoria has ever adopted. We can argue about the success of that scheme, but at least he tried.

Today, I was going to talk about many things concerning Hinzey. He was a good bloke; a terrific bloke. He got things done. Yes, he cut corners, but it is a pity that today some Ministers do not cut corners and get the red tape out of the way so that things will function. Many members on the Government side of the House and many members on this side of the House may not have liked Russ, but many of them did not know him. I knew him when I was knee-high to a grasshopper. My parents knew him when he was in the factory down the coast. Throughout his whole career he was held in high esteem. The sad thing is that Hinzey did not get a State funeral because he was accused of corruption and people said that he was guilty. He never ever got to prove his innocence. That is very sad, because in this State a bloke is supposed to be innocent until proven guilty. It is an indictment on all of us that we allowed such a thing to happen. I hope that in the near future problems similar to this can be straightened out. To Faye Hinze and the whole Hinze family—and there is a big clan of them down there—I express my deep respect and condolences.

Hon. N. J. TURNER (Nicklin) (11.03 a.m.): Today, I rise to record my condolences to the family and friends of Russ Hinze. As members of Parliament, this is our opportunity to write into the records our last farewell to our old friend or foe, depending on which side of the political fence we come from.

Russ Hinze was a giant of a man, not only in stature, but also in the size of his heart, intellect and ability to sum up a situation and make decisions. There was none of this consensus Government for Russ. He believed that members were elected to govern and make decisions, however hard they may have been. He considered that being elected to govern was like being elected to captain a cricket team. The Government decides who should bowl and who should bat and does not stop half way through a match to ask the grandstand or the selectors what to do. A Government rises and falls on the decisions it makes, as does the captain of a cricket team, or as does a Minister, and if the selectors or electors are not happy then they have the right to replace the captain or the Government.

Russ Hinze's funeral was one of the largest I have ever attended, with people from all walks of life travelling vast distances to attend. I know that many other people would have liked to attend and perhaps many thousands of people throughout the length and breadth of Queensland should have travelled there to pay their last respects. This is especially so when one looks at the contribution this man made to the whole of Queensland in the areas of local government and main roads. However, I wish to dwell more on what he did for racing. When taking over the Racing portfolio, his first words were—

"No longer will this industry be used as a milking cow by Treasury. We will be putting money back into the industry to boost prize money, to build proper facilities and to bring people back to racing and in the final analysis, Treasury will be better off."

Just how much vision, guts and determination would that have taken? This mountain of a man did not just spend money at Doomben and Eagle Farm. If one looks at Albion Park, Deagon, the Gold Coast, Corbould Park—which are all world-class facilities—and just about every other centre in Queensland, whether it is out in the bush at Charleville,

Wyandra, Morven, Innisfail, Isisford or wherever, one finds that Queenslanders, shire councillors, people involved in roads and racing and many other people are today reaping the benefits of this man's vision and decisions.

I know one thing; many, if not all, of his critics will have smaller funerals, even if some of them are State funerals. Today, we have heard many stories, but I will add one more. I remember talking on one occasion to Russ and remarking about one of Jim Killen's quotes relating to the media. Jim said that the media could not truthfully report a minute's silence. Russ said—

"There is no doubt about the media. They can change anything around to make the story tell a different picture."

He said—

"For example, one could send a message to one's wife saying, 'I'm not getting any better, come home soon.' The media would change the comma so that it would read, 'I'm not getting any, better come home soon.' "

That was the humour of the man and the love-hate type of relationship he had with sections of the media. It depressed me to see some sections of the media attack this man's credibility, integrity, honesty and principles after he had died and before he was even buried because, in his own words, he had been judged by the highest court. Derryn Hinch said on television that Hinze was nothing but a bribe-taking, evil man. It is to be hoped that Derryn Hinch will be met with more compassion when he comes before the ultimate judge. Many people believe that the media does not have a God-given right to ruin the lives and reputations of people by the stroke of a pen or by an unguarded word. The freedom of the press is a privilege. Like all privilege, it has restrictions and responsibilities, which it takes integrity to exercise. It saddens me that at times that is not apparent.

What of the article in the *Sunday Sun* the day after Russ passed away? It stated that as Minister for Main Roads he had put a highway through the bottle shop of his Oxenford hotel. I have driven along the Gold Coast Highway many times and I can assure all honourable members that the highway does not go through Hinze's bottle shop. Sure, there is an access road into the hotel and out again, just as there is to the other businesses in that area and just as there is an access road to the Ettamogah hotel alongside the north coast road near Buderim. I wonder who put the highway through that bottle shop? I consider that this nation would be better served if there was less of this irresponsible reporting.

I always thought that a person was presumed to be innocent until proven guilty. Is it not strange that charges were dropped against Lionel Murphy before he died and yet he was given a State funeral? Yet charges against Russ Hinze were only dropped after he was buried and he was not given a State funeral. This State is the poorer for his passing. On behalf of the people of the Warrego electorate—the area I represented for 12 years from 1974-1986—I say, "Thank you, Russ, for all that you did." During the period I was the member for Warrego, Russ was one of the most capable, competent Ministers I had the pleasure of knowing. He was a true MP—and I mean, "man of the people", not "member of Parliament".

Mr CAMPBELL (Bundaberg) (11.07 a.m.): I support the motion of condolence and join in this debate to offer my sympathy to the Hinze family. Russ was well known for being a colourful character and a man who had a sense of humour. During my five years as a member of this Parliament, I was his sparring partner over the Burnett River traffic bridge. During the whole of that period, he treated me with respect and I appreciated that very much. Russ will be remembered as a builder—a builder of roads, a builder of racetracks and a builder of grandstands. Russ was a builder, and if all members who pass through this Chamber can be remembered for being a builder in relation to housing, a better education system or a better health system, they will be better people and the State will be better for their efforts. If every member who passes through this Chamber becomes known as a builder, he or she will have served this State well.

Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (11.09 a.m.): I support the motion of condolence. I join in this debate to offer my sympathy and that of my electorate to Fay and to the Hinze family, and to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the life of Russell Hinze. This State and this nation are better off for his having been a citizen and a member of this Parliament. After a long fight against cancer, Russ succumbed to his fate. I think it was fitting that last Sunday the Terry Fox fund-raising run was held to raise funds for the fight against cancer. The members who are still a little bit sore in the legs will acknowledge that the cancer appeal requires an ongoing contribution, and I note that Fay Hinze has indicated that she will make a donation to the appeal fund.

I remember Russ mostly because of his ability as a Minister. As previous speakers have said, when a deputation was taken to him, he would look at the group and be rather thick in his gaze. He wanted to get down to business straightaway. He could not stand the long waffle of some people when they approach a Minister. He was able to quickly seize on the main issue, and his ability to do that and to come up with a practical solution was a godsend to any member who took a deputation to him. I well remember that he would also listen to members of this Parliament and say, "And what's your opinion?". I will never forget what happened when the route for the Gatton by-pass was chosen. Two routes had been proposed and in respect of the southern route, which by-passed Gatton, notices of intention to resume property had been issued. Arguments were going on for and against the proposal. I headed a deputation to him when the argument was advanced in support of the present route. He said to me, "Which route, young fellow?" He always considered me a young fellow. I said, "I prefer the long-term route. Even if it is more expensive, I would rather wait and have the proper route." That was it; the job was finished; the decision was made. He accepted my advice, and I thank him for that.

In 1983, Russ came to Helidon, which is situated at the end of the Gatton by-pass, to campaign with me. We met with the people there, and there was a photo opportunity. The people put forward the proposition to Russ that the planned route provided for no underpass and that Helidon would be divided by the road, which was to be constructed using funds provided by the Federal Government. I had explained to Russ how it was going to upset the people of Helidon and that to ensure the safety of children going from the town over to school and back again, an underpass was desperately needed. He told the engineers, "Yes, we will build an underpass." I will never forget the photo opportunity when a little lad was sitting on Russell's knee. Suddenly, he must have seen Russell as a big bad ogre, and he pulled an awful face. The photographer from the Toowoomba *Chronicle* was quick enough to capture the moment on film, and it was a magnificent photograph of this terrified kid looking up at big benevolent Russ who was looking down at him. I will never forget it because it captured Russ as he was. I know that the people of Helidon are thankful for what he did. They often mention to me how much they appreciate what Russell Hinze did for the town. I know that many members would have similar stories that cause them to give thanks for a Minister who was able to adopt a practical approach to solving problems.

I also had contact with Russ Hinze when I was Government Whip. When I got the job, I was tipped off by one of the previous Whips, Michael Ahern, that a Whip's job is not always easy "when you have characters like Russell Hinze around". I will not go into some of the stories of how Russ used to evade some of his duties if the trots were on and there were 11 members of the Opposition and a great majority on the Government side. Under those circumstances, it was fairly difficult to be the Whip and control a person like Russ Hinze. I also found during the latter part of my period as Whip that I would often be in contact with him in the course of my duties. I was always straightforward with members and they always knew their position. One of the things I noticed about Russ was that, in spite of being such a busy man, he had a sense of humour. He would often consult his diary. I remember one occasion when his private secretary was listing invitations and Russ was responding by saying, "No, no, no, yes, no, yes, no, no, no." Someone would say to him, "Are you available on such-and-such a date?" He would open the diary up and show them that something was written in,

and he would say, "I'm sorry, I can't go." Whenever Russ had a free day, he used to write "Thank Christ" in his diary. When he would quickly open it up and show people that something was written in, that was what was written. If he needed a day off, he would show that entry too quickly for people to be able to read it. He always used to say, "Make sure you don't show anybody a blank page in your diary if you need a day off." That was an example of his humour.

I will never forget him in the joint party room because Russ always gave the impression that he was a bulldozer, a tough man who always got things done, and an uncompromising National Party member. The people who thought that did not really know him. He used to terrify me when I was a young backbencher and the Liberal Party lawyers would disagree with him. They used to be a thorn in his side. I will never forget that he used to say, "We'll sort it out." He would go outside to discuss it and he would change the rules without even coming back to the party room to ask anyone's opinion. Even when he was a Minister, he accepted an amendment moved by the Opposition because he thought it sounded fairly good. The amendment had not passed through any drafting procedure, but he accepted it from the floor of the Parliament. As a member of Parliament, I was horrified to think that that could happen, but that was typical of Russ Hinze. It sounded like a good idea, and he accepted it. That was the nature of the man.

As I said earlier, I join with other members of Parliament in offering sympathy to Fay and the Hinze family. I note that Queensland and Australia are better for the life lived by Russ Hinze, and I thank the Lord for it.

Mr RANDELL (Mirani) (11.16 a.m.): I wish to comment briefly in this motion of condolence to the family of the late Russell James Hinze. All members would agree that, with his passing, we saw the passing of a great Queenslander. Russ was big in all things—in size, in intellect, in compassion and in vision. Overall, he was a good bloke. He was a real larrikin who had a sense of humour and the capacity to get on with all people. Earlier, Tom Burns told a few stories about Russ. I can recall many stories and I will relate a couple of them. At one time, Russ visited Mackay to open a project at the racecourse. As the week-end approached, he said that he had to return to Brisbane and asked me to stand in for him at the opening. At the opening on the Saturday, I told the people present that Russ had been called back to Brisbane on urgent and important Government business and had asked me to fill in for him. On the Monday morning, we were informed that he had returned to Brisbane to marry Fay. So much for the urgent and important Government business! On another occasion, at Sarina, the Catholic men's organisation asked me to obtain a guest speaker who would liven up a particular function. I said, "What about big Russ?" The person said, "Oh, you won't get him." However, I asked Russ and he made himself available. Sarina has four hotels in the central part of the town. When Russ arrived, he said, "Let's do a bit of politicking." When one politics with Russ in bars, one must have a good constitution. At 8 o'clock that night, we ended up in the corner of a bar and Russ was surrounded by a number of ALP supporters and he was telling them yarns about fishing and horses. He was totally enjoying himself. He reached the stage at which he almost started singing. I kept urging him to go. Eventually, we pushed him out, got him in the car and drove to the hall at which the function was being held. Russ always addressed me in a similar manner to that in which he addressed Mr FitzGerald. He always called me "young fellow". He said to me, "Young fellow, why didn't you bloody tell me there were so many people here." There were 300 men waiting in the hall for him. He took a step back and I said, "What are you going to say?" He said, "I don't know." We sat in between two ministers of religion and he told the most crude joke that I had ever heard in my life. He carried on in that fashion all night. He was the hit of the season. Everyone thanked me for bringing him to the function. He had the capacity to get along with people in all his dealings. He was a great man.

Russ left a legacy of achievements throughout Queensland. When one travels throughout Queensland, one witnesses the roads and bridges that have been constructed.

If Russ has not planned them, put his name on them or had something to do with them, something is wrong. He was a man who could evaluate or assess a project very quickly. Other members have stated that people would approach Russ with a project and, if they had a case, he would listen to them and quickly say, "Right, sonny, I'll do something for you." If they did not have a case worth putting forward, Russ would say, "Don't waste my time. Go away. I am not going to be in that." Those people would accept that forthright approach.

When I became a Minister, I took over Russ's portfolio of Local Government and Racing. I found that the staff, particularly those in the higher echelon, had a high regard for Russ. They knew him as a man who would make decisions and who was very loyal. The only thing that Russ ever asked of his staff was that they, in turn, be loyal to him. If anything went wrong in Russ's department, there was no way in the world that he would ever blame them. However, he expected loyalty in return. Prior to that, for many years I served on his local government committee. I found Russ Hinze as straight as a gun barrel. He was direct and good to deal with. When he was on that committee, he was prepared to make decisions and I was always very loyal to him.

When Russ was Minister for Main Roads, I was the chairman of the Broadsound Shire Council. We invited Russ to examine the Croydon road which ran over the range. Members would recall that, at that time, the infamous link between Rockhampton and Mackay would be cut by floods for up to six weeks at a time. We had great visions of killing two birds with one stone. We thought that we would construct the coastal highway, which would solve all the problems. Russ and I drove over the 30 miles of very bad road. When we reached Sarina, Russ said, "Quick, get me a beer and an Aspro. I've just been through 30 miles of purgatory." At that time, we did not get funding for that road. However, Russ was great friends with Peter Morris. Russ said to Peter, "We have got to do something about that road." As a result of that visit, we achieved the bicentennial road funding. Today, the excellent road between Rockhampton and Mackay is a monument to Russell Hinze's vision and decision-making ability.

In the racing industry throughout Queensland, Russ is held in high regard. He knew all the people in that industry. Many people have criticised the works that Russell initiated when he was the Minister for Racing. They claimed that he was responsible for erecting monuments throughout the State at tremendous cost. In my view, most of those projects were needed. If we had to build them today, they would cost six times as much as they cost at that time.

Russ was a self-made man. When he was 13, he left school to take up manual work and progressed to one of the highest positions in this State. I understand what he went through. When I was 13, I left school and started cutting cane. I know how tough it was. At that age, he started milking cows and worked his way through life. He educated himself in a practical way. He always said to me, "Beware of a man who has been educated beyond his intellectual capacity." I thank Russ Hinze for his friendship and for the courtesies he paid to me. I thank him for his assistance in the many requests that I made of him. I extend my sympathy and condolences to his friends and family.

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Peak Downs) (11.22 a.m.): The electorate of Peak Downs en masse says "Thank you" to Russ Hinze for his assistance in building that electorate and that area of the Central Highlands at a time when it was growing and needed far-reaching decisions to be made so that the area could service the needs of the increased population of today. We remember him and thank him for the roads and the bridges that he was responsible for providing, and we thank him for the efforts that he made to promote racing in the Central Highlands. We thank him for bridges over the Dawson River, the Comet River, the Nogoia River, Capella Creek and a great number of other less important streams. When heavy rain falls, those smaller streams are certainly important to people who wish to cross them. We recall great works on the Clermont-Charter Towers road and the pledge, which he kept, to provide \$4m per year, a sum, unfortunately, cut in half now.

In addition, I remember the linking of the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Longreach and the work Russ did in association with the then Mayor, Rex Pilbeam, in bitumening the road over the Drummond Range. It was an ultra-professional job. At the time, some people said that the job was super-professional. Today, many caravans and coaches use that road to travel to the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame. The decision to bituminise it was the right decision. Other important decisions affecting the area include building the road from Springsure to Emerald and Clermont and the road to link Clermont and Mackay.

Racing people in the Central Highlands have asked me to express their sincere thanks to Russ Hinze. As a result of his work, we in Emerald were given a grass racetrack, which has proved to be very beneficial to the club. He improved that club's amenities in many other different ways such as improved betting facilities. On one occasion, Russ Hinze was visiting the Emerald racetrack to open one of the numerous extensions he had approved. He sat down amongst a group of young female schoolteachers. I saw them look at one another and think to themselves, "My God, what's this?" I thought one or two of them were going to get up and go. He whispered in one's ear, "Put something on the next horse." That horse won at 20 to 1. A few more people started to sit down near Russ. He selected six out of seven winners that day. Those young teachers will never forget Russ Hinze; he almost made them multimillionaires. The bookies were not too happy because the whole crowd had gathered to sit around Russ Hinze. The tips were being passed on and they were very accurate. That is an example of Russ Hinze's charisma. To a lesser extent, he did the same sort of thing in Clermont and in Capella.

I am very proud to have served with Russ in Cabinet and to have been associated with him in so many far-reaching and forward-looking decisions. He had rapport with the people of the Central Highlands. Former shire councillor Margaret Gibson, MBE, who was associated with the CQ News, Councillor Jim Turner, MBE, and Reg Garside would like to be mentioned. Russ, we are proud of what you have done. Thank you.

Hon. R. C. KATTER (Flinders) (11.26 a.m.): Tom Burns touched on a few of the stories about Russ Hinze. Unfortunately, most of the really good stories cannot be told in this place, although they were told many times last night. It is hard for people such as me to think of Russell Hinze without thinking also of Ron Camm and the job that they both did in this State. The first time that Russell Hinze visited my electorate, I told him that there was a very beautiful photographer in the town to which we were going and that he was to behave himself. He was on a very tight noose because he was in my electorate and he was to behave himself. The lady was a lovely lady, but she was very large. I do not think many people would have described her as very beautiful. When Russ Hinze arrived, he got out of the car and said, "Gee whiz, I didn't know you had beautiful sheilas in this area." He put his arm around her, gave her a big hug and said, "What are you doing tonight, love?" He never missed a beat. He had in his mind what he was going to say to the beautiful photographer, and the lady was very charmed.

The first time I went into Russ Hinze's room to speak to him, he was lying on his back, staring at the ceiling. He abused me and then said, "What do you want?" I said, "Eighty men are being laid off before Christmas and we desperately need some money because otherwise their vehicles will be taken back. They are in desperate trouble." He said, "How can I help you, young fellow?" The point I want to make is that Russ always tried to help people who went to see him. As many speakers have said, that is probably true regardless of what political allegiance one had or what commitment one had in the party room.

One incident that captured public interest occurred during a very bitter dispute between the National Party and the Liberal Party in the party room. The then Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, unleashed a terrible tirade against the Liberal Party. It was so bad that I thought the Liberal Party would immediately walk out of the coalition. In the party room Russell Hinze always poured oil on troubled waters and calmed things down

a bit. He got to his feet and I thought, "Thank heavens for that, because a very desperate situation will be alleviated by Russ getting up." Strangely, and out of character, instead of alleviating the situation, Russ unleashed an even worse tirade against the Liberal Party. Bruce Bishop and two or three other Liberals who were at the back of the room started shouting obscenities at Russ Hinze. Russ picked up the chair in front of him and threw it against the wall so that he could clear a passageway to Bruce Bishop. He let out a terrible string of obscenities, which I could not possibly repeat. He charged straight at Bruce Bishop. There were some seven men between them and they all lay down a la rugby league style in an attempt to stop his mad charge. As he was charging, he was rolling his sleeves up ready for action. Two of the ladies in the room burst out crying and one, Rosemary Kyburz, fled from the room. It was a dreadful and unprecedented scene.

On television that night the interviewer—I think it was Quentin Dempster—said that he understood there was some bad language used in the party room on that day. Mr Hinze, with a beatific smile on his face, said, "I don't think Bruce Bishop actually used any bad language, but he may have—I may not have heard what he said." The second point made was that there was some physical roughness, even violence. Mr Hinze said, "No, I think that a lot of people misjudge me. Sometimes I like to throw my hands around a bit when I am speaking. It was probably misinterpreted." The third point made was that both of the ladies in the room had cried and one of them had fled from the room in tears. Russ said, "I thought she was going out to report the proceedings of the party room to the press, as she always does." That was the end of the interview.

I asked Russ Hinze to name a bridge at Collinsville the Bob Bruncker bridge. He asked who he was. I said that he was not an important person, that he was just an ordinary worker who had worked all his life as a labourer at Mount Isa Mines but that he had the dignity of a labourer about him. I told Russ Hinze that I thought that Bob Bruncker was the sort of bloke whom Collinsville should name its bridge after, if it was going to name it after anyone. Anyway, Mr Hinze came up to open the bridge. Before we went over to the podium to start speaking, he asked who this bloke was. Again I told him that he was a worker, an old commo, that he was very committed to communist principles, not so much Labor principles. I said that he was a really nice old bloke. Russ went up to the podium, put his arms around old Bob, and insisted on Bob singing the *Internationale* with him. Russ knew every single verse. So, instead of giving a speech, Russ sang the *Internationale*.

On a serious note, at one stage dreadful problems were being experienced in regard to the haulage of livestock, which is one of the biggest industries in the State, as all stock has to be carried on trucks. All of the trucks were well over the size they should have been, and there would have been an enormous cost to the livestock hauliers if they were forced to cut back the size of those trucks. It would have been a dreadful imposition which would have bankrupted many of the operators. A less humane man would have taken the decision to in effect bankrupt the operators and impose a terrible cost burden on that industry. People from other States were coming in and undercutting our industry. The eventual decision by Russ Hinze to leave the trucks very long was roundly criticised. I think that there were some 16 speakers that day—I was not present, unfortunately—who all tore him to pieces and roundly condemned the decision that he made. I asked him why he was allowing the trucks to be so long, and he said that it related to the size of a container. He said that when the boys are not carting cattle they can do other things with their rigs. He said that he would have liked to have made them two feet shorter, but there was a compelling argument that money would be saved if the trucks were longer.

I thought that was a courageous decision, and represented what the bloke was like. I would personally like to put on record my thanks to the man, who did so much to improve the road to Charters Towers. Every year there used to be three deaths on that road. I asked him to personally come up and inspect the road, as I was getting nowhere. At the first bridge we came to, we stopped. I did not know that there were supposed to be metal strips that led up to the narrow bridges. I might add that that is where most

of the deaths occurred. Russ called up the chief engineer and dressed him down as I have never heard anyone dressed down before. He asked why these barriers were missing, and how many deaths had occurred. I said that there had been 23 deaths—or whatever the case was—in seven years, and he released a string of obscenities towards this engineer. The engineer gave all sorts of reasons as to why this had happened, and Russ said, "Shut up, and get it done before this time next year, on every single one of these bridges". Since then not one death has occurred on any of these bridges—and, of course, they are no longer narrow bridges.

There is one incident that should be put on record which appeared to be very out of character for Russ Hinze, although to someone who knew him well it was very much in character. Those who may have been in the House at the time will know the terrible difficulties I had in bringing in what was for this place very radical legislation in the field of Aboriginal affairs. I went up to see Russ Hinze and asked him for help with the matter. He roared laughing and said, "You know my reputation"—I do not want to mention some of the things that he was publicised as saying, but he did not have a great reputation for being subtle—"so what are you coming to see me for?" I said that I remembered two little matters, one concerning the Aurukun and Mornington Island decision and the other concerning the Commonwealth Games. He burst out laughing and asked whether I knew what was going on. I said that I had worked it out. In both cases he was desperately trying to protect these people. Russ visited Aurukun during the upheaval, when the church was pulling out. He went up with a senior public servant. I do not want to denigrate this person, but the Premier had insisted that he go with Russ. They got off the plane and were walking over to speak to the black people, and Russ asked why this bloke had two big bags of boiled lollies. He said that for 30 years—ever since he had been going there—he had been giving the people boiled lollies. Russell then told him what he could do with the boiled lollies. It involved a certain part of the anatomy that I could not mention in this place. He sent him back to the aeroplane and told him that he was to spend the rest of the day there.

Very few people realise that the first people of Aboriginal descent in Australia to live in self-managed communities were given that privilege—that right—by none other than Russell Hinze. The first big areas of land that were passed over to local ownership—albeit by lease only, which was the best that could be done at the time—were passed over again at the behest of Russell Hinze. He once said in answer to me that he loved the black people—he actually used a crude expression—and that he had cut cane with them, lived with them and rolled in the gutter drunk with them. Everything I saw of his life and all the help that he gave me in that respect most certainly demonstrate a courageous stand by Russell Hinze on behalf of those people.

Finally, I strongly endorse the remarks of Mr Turner and the member for Southport. One of my friends said about Russell Hinze and others that the Lilliputians were in the ascendancy. There was no doubt that the Lilliputians were in the ascendancy when big men such as Russell Hinze were brought down. The people of Queensland speak for themselves. To my knowledge, the biggest event ever held and the biggest crowd ever assembled anywhere in Queensland was at the opening of Sanctuary Cove, which was attended by 42 000 people. Mike Gore, who opened Sanctuary Cove, said that he had three people to thank for Sanctuary Cove, which he described as a beautiful accomplishment. He said the first person he wanted to thank was none other than Russell Hinze. The 42 000 people rose to their feet and gave a standing ovation which rolled on for some five or six minutes. Anyone who has criticised Russell or who thinks lowly of him should reflect on how many people in Queensland would receive that sort of ovation in front of that number of people before they go to meet their maker.

I join my two colleagues on my right in expressing my disappointment that there was no State funeral for Russell Hinze. Many of our forebears have died on the principle that an Englishman is innocent until proven guilty. Russ Hinze died an innocent man. The case against Lionel Murphy was removed in circumstances similar to those facing Russ Hinze, and he was given a State funeral. When we go to meet our maker, there is a good book. On one side of the book are the bad things that one has done and on the

other are the good things that one has done. We will let the good book decide and pass final judgment upon Russ Hinze, and other people can pass their judgment upon the Lilliputians.

Mr HOBBS (Warrego) (11.40 a.m.): I am pleased to be able to speak to this condolence motion for Russ Hinze and to express my sympathy to his family. My first real association with Russ was as the shire chairman of the central western local authority of Tambo. At that time, many local government issues, for which Russ was responsible, arose. Russ was an excellent Minister. He made decisions quickly. Interestingly enough, many of the major decisions were made quickly while some of the minor decisions were made a little bit slower. That is the way in which he used to operate.

I recall my very first deputation to Russ. At that time, I was the youngest shire chairman in Queensland and he was probably the biggest Minister I had ever seen. He said to me, "Come in, boy. What can I do for you?" Basically, I put to him the details of my submission relating to road-funding. He summed them up and said, "Come back and see me tomorrow, boy." That is exactly what I did. We put in place for the shire and the residents of my area a good program from which they benefit today. Over the years, many people, not just in that area but also throughout the rest of Queensland, have benefited from decisions made by Russ Hinze. I recall in my area an instance in which, because of impassable roads, the school bus service was not able to run for up to 30 days in one school year. Russ Hinze was able to get those kids to school. I do not think anyone throughout Queensland, whether it be in my huge electorate or elsewhere, has not benefited in some way from the actions of Russell Hinze.

As has already been mentioned, that was the case not only in relation to roads or local government but also in relation to racing, which was an industry that was very important to Russ Hinze. He loved and enjoyed the Racing portfolio, which he administered very well. Punters and race-goers from Nocundra in the far south west and beyond to Thargomindah and Charleville and to Eagle Farm have all had a good word for Russ Hinze. They were saddened by his passing. There is no doubt that many were angered by the decision not to hold for their modern-day hero a State funeral to which he was entitled. Comments such as "lousy", "miserable" and "mean" were common. Many other unparliamentary words were used. I guess those people thought that their friend or, in fact, any other person was innocent until proven guilty. It is unfortunate that Russ did not have the opportunity to prove his innocence. We certainly hope that it never happens again.

Mr D'ARCY (Woodridge) (11.43 a.m.): From the late 1950s, I knew Russell James Hinze. I would like to offer my condolences as well as those of my family to Russell's two families and to Ruth and Fay. He was certainly one of the most colourful characters in Australian and Queensland political history. I think enough has been said about his achievements. I knew him closely. At one stage, as the member for Albert, he actually lived in my electorate. I was associated with many of the things which he fought for and against. In common with most other members in the House, I had my run-ins with him. However, in most cases, he was an Australian and a politician who got things done. I think that is what we most respected him for. He certainly was a colourful Queenslander. I conclude by saying what I believe probably most Queenslanders think: may he rest in peace.

Mr SZCZERBANIK (Albert) (11.44 a.m.): I wish to speak to this condolence motion. In common with many of the other new members in this House, I never worked with Russ in this place but on occasions I had met him at his home. After I was elected, I heard a rumour that Russ wanted to meet me. As I had a spare half an hour, I went round to his house. Before I got to the house, I had to travel up a long driveway. When I reached the house, two big Rottweilers raced out of the house towards me. I thought they were going to eat me. At that time, I thought they had been trained to eat members of the Australian Labor Party. Fay came out of the house, said hello and greeted me as if I was a long-lost son. I thought, "Gee, what's this?" She said, "Come in and have a

cup of tea." I went in, met Russ and had a chat with him. Although I had only a spare half an hour, two and a half hours later I was still there having a chat to him.

Russ presided over the Albert area. Most people in the area either liked him or hated him. He was the kind of bloke whom people either got on with or did not. That was the way he was. He treated me with warmth and respect. We had a long chat. Because of his 22 years as a member of Parliament, he advised me of what this place was like. The thing that I remember most about Russ was his attendance at Kev Hooper's funeral. It really stuck in my mind that he went against the word of the Premier and attended Kev's funeral. That was the thing that stuck in my mind. He attended the funeral. He knew the consequences. Friendship meant more to him than anything else.

I again offer my condolences to Fay and the Hinze family, and to Ruth, his first wife. Russ left behind many legacies in Albert, and he will be remembered for them.

Motion agreed to, honourable members standing in silence.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Refusal by Cabinet of Application for Noosa North Shore Development

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Condamine) (11.47 a.m.): In June this year, this ALP Government refused an application by the Noosa Shire Council to rezone land on the north shore of the Noosa River. Leisuremark Pty Ltd was seeking a Special Facility zoning for land it held in that area. The application from the Noosa Shire Council carried the weight of a judgment of the Local Government Court. I remind members that a court judgment is binding on all parties and can be overturned only by an appeal to the Full Bench of the Supreme Court. Legal opinions which I have sought agree that the Goss Government has interfered with the judicial process. This disregard of a judgment of the Local Government Court is an abuse of the doctrine of the separation of powers—the separation of the judiciary, the Executive Government and the Legislature. Mr Tony Fitzgerald, QC, should be appalled.

In April 1990, objectors to Leisuremark's proposal agreed out of court on conditions under which its proposal should proceed. The Noosa Shire Council, the Queensland Conservation Council and two private objectors agreed to an amended proposal put forward by Leisuremark Pty Ltd. On 5 April 1990, the Local Government Court issued a judgment making this agreement binding. The Noosa Shire Council then forwarded this application to the Minister for Housing and Local Government, seeking ministerial approval for a rezoning. Under the circumstances, ministerial approval should have been little more than procedural. I am advised that the Department of Housing and Local Government had no objections to the application. In November 1990, a solicitor became so concerned by Mr Tom Burns' delays in granting ministerial approval that in the interests of justice he decided to take action. He wrote to Mr Burns and sent a copy of his letter to the Honourable Dean Wells, the Attorney-General. He reminded Mr Burns of his legal responsibilities under the Local Government Act and claimed that the Minister had an obligation to grant ministerial approval. At the direction of Mr Wells, the Director-General of the Department of the Attorney-General replied to the solicitor. In essence, the director-general agreed with the solicitor's proposition that the Minister for Housing and Local Government was legally bound to grant ministerial approval, bearing in mind the court judgment associated with the Noosa Shire Council's application for rezoning. However, the Minister, Mr Burns, refused to grant the approval, for reasons known only to himself.

In December, Mr Burns sought a meeting with the solicitor who had expressed concerns about his delay. Mr Burns, in the presence of an officer of the Local Government Department and in the presence of an officer of the Department of the Attorney-General, was asked whether he knew of some matter he wished to consider that had not already been considered by the Noosa Shire Council. Notes taken by the solicitor record that the Minister answered, "No, no." This admission by Mr Burns is of paramount

importance. The Local Government Act states that the Minister shall have due regard to the representations of a local government. It must be noted that the word "shall" is important. It denotes that the regard for representation of the local authority should be upheld in all but extreme circumstances. In spite of there being no new evidence to consider and in spite of the intention of the Act, Mr Burns still refused to grant his approval. This was no ordinary application. This application had the weight of a court order, a judgment of the Local Government Court. Legal advice which I have received is of the opinion that if normal objectors want to overturn the judgment of the Local Government Court they must appeal to the Full Bench of the Supreme Court. I believe it would be the correct procedure in this situation for the State Government to also have regard to the correct judicial process and appeal to the Full Bench of the Supreme Court. I was further advised by legal opinion that any appeal needed to introduce some new matter that had not been part of the original determination of the Local Government Court. Mr Speaker, I remind you that Mr Burns has already stated to a solicitor, in the presence of witnesses, that he knew of no matter that the Noosa Shire Council and other objectors had not already raised. It is worth noting that one of the original objectors was the Queensland Conservation Council. We can be confident that this body fully considered all environmental matters. It is also worthy of note that Mr Fitzgerald, QC, said in his report, "The area is of low conservation value or already somewhat degraded".

So, Mr Speaker, allow me to recap. The Director-General of the Department of the Attorney-General, at the direction of the Attorney-General, agreed that the Minister for Housing and Local Government had no alternative other than to approve the council's application for rezoning. The Minister, Mr Tom Burns, has been in breach of the Local Government Act for not having due regard to the representation of the local authority. The Minister ignored a judgment of the Local Government Court. This represents an intrusion in the judicial process and is an abuse of the doctrine of the separation of powers. This ALP Government did likewise. By declining to give Cabinet approval to the Noosa Shire Council's application for rezoning, this Government has been guilty of an intrusion into the judicial process. The Government should have appealed to the Supreme Court if it wished to overrule the judgment of the Local Government Court. It failed to do so. The Minister, Mr Burns, has admitted that there were no matters to be considered other than those matters first considered and applying in the Local Government Court judgment.

This House needs to know whether the Attorney-General gave Cabinet the same legal opinion on this matter as he gave by letter in December. The House needs to know whether Cabinet disregarded the advice of the Attorney-General. It angers me that the Government should have such contempt for our judicial system. It amazes me that such self-proclaimed civil libertarians as Mr Matt Foley and Mr Dean Wells should have such contempt for the judicial process. It amazes me that the Premier himself, a man learned in the law and publicly avowed to uphold the principles of open and honest government, should stoop to such contemptuous action.

This ALP Government has created a dangerous precedent. Local governments all over this State will be informed of that abuse of the democratic process. When the Cabinet decision was first announced, the Premier hailed it as a victory for conservation. Whether it was is not the major issue today. Of much more importance is the need to safeguard our judicial system. I was disappointed that, when the Cabinet decision was made, the press paid scant attention to that abuse of the doctrine of the separation of powers. The press chose to report on the issue of conservation and failed to realise the gravity of that interference into the business of the courts by the Goss Government. I can only hope that the press will now realise what the Goss Government has done and will bring that abuse of the judiciary to the notice of all Queenslanders. Finally, I want to impress upon honourable members that the accusations I have made today are backed by legal opinion.

Logging on Fraser Island

Mr DOLLIN (Maryborough) (11.54 a.m.): I rise in the House to speak on a matter of public interest that is of great concern to the people of the electorate of Maryborough

and to other Queenslanders. A few months ago, the Premier tabled in this House a report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Conservation, Management and Use of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region. In essence, the report recommended that logging on Fraser Island be phased out by the end of this year and that the Great Sandy Region be nominated for World Heritage listing. To say that the recommendations of that report—the Fraser Island report—were a surprise to me and to many of my constituents would be a great understatement. In particular, the recommendation that logging in general on Fraser Island be phased out by the end of this year was and still is to my people a very great shock. Many constituents in my electorate are unhappy, to say the least, about the recommendations and the prospect of the closing down over such a short period of an industry on Fraser Island that has been in operation for well over 100 years.

Mr Slack: Do you agree with that?

Mr DOLLIN: If the honourable member listens, he will know whether I agree with it. As I continue my speech, I will tell him about it.

Mr Stephan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Campbell): Order! The honourable member for Gympie!

Mr DOLLIN: I do not hide from the fact that I am not happy about that, either. Clearly, I would have liked the Fraser Island report to have allowed the continuation of logging on the island. As I said in my maiden speech in this House, most of my working life has been spent in the timber industry. I have always been a strong supporter of and advocate for the Queensland and Australian timber industry in general and the Maryborough timber industry in particular. The recommendations of the Fraser Island report will not change that. As anyone who knows me will tell honourable members, I am a timberman through and through, and I am proud of that. I still believe strongly that there must be a place for a sustainable timber industry in this State. I certainly do not hide from the fact that I would have liked to have seen the timber industry continue logging on Fraser Island. However, in common with all members of the Government, I recognised that the issues of the management and conservation of Fraser Island were complex and that there were widely held views within the Queensland community. As one activist in the debate surrounding Fraser Island has said, Fraser Island and Cooloola are the longest running, unresolved nature conservation issues in Australia. It is to the credit of my Government that it moved quickly to resolve those issues in conflict once and for all by establishing the Commission of Inquiry into the Conservation, Management and Use of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region. At the time, most National Party members agreed that that was a pretty good idea. They all become very clever with hindsight. To ensure that the inquiry was independent, properly conducted, open and fair, the Government appointed Tony Fitzgerald, QC, as the chairperson of the commission.

Mr Hobbs interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Warrego will cease interjecting.

Mr DOLLIN: In common with many others in the community, I welcomed Mr Fitzgerald's appointment and the establishment of the independent inquiry. That inquiry and Mr Fitzgerald were welcomed by the Queensland Timber Board, the Maryborough timber industry and many in the Maryborough community, including the Chamber of Commerce. May I add that they were welcomed also by most members of this House. We all saw the Fitzgerald-headed inquiry as the best way in which to resolve the long-standing issues and to ensure the proper use and management of the island. In common with the Government, those in the timber industry and the Maryborough community, I said from the outset that I would abide by the umpire's decision in relation to Mr Fitzgerald's recommendations. Well, the umpire has made his decision.

Mr Stephan: What about your own constituents?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Gympie will cease interjecting.

Mr DOLLIN: It is not necessarily a decision with which we are all happy. The member for Gympie also made that commitment, but I know that his word would not last much longer than 20 minutes.

Mr STEPHAN: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Maryborough is misquoting me. I have certainly made no commitment to the stopping of logging on Fraser Island. If the honourable member would listen to his own constituency, he would——

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Gympie under Standing Order 123A. He is now debating the subject.

Mr Stephan: I am rising to a point of order, which was that the member for Maryborough was not correct about what I said.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have warned the honourable member. He continued. I ask him to withdraw from the Chamber under Standing Order 123A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gympie withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr DOLLIN: As the Premier said at the public issue dispute resolution conference in February, Governments that set in train processes that are comprehensive, orderly and fair should not do so unless they intend to base their decisions on the outcome of those processes. Both the Government and I were committed to the process that was established to resolve the dispute, and we remain committed to that process.

Mr Hobbs: Where has democracy gone, Clem?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Warrego shall withdraw that statement. It reflects on the Chair.

Mr HOBBS: I am not sure whether I ought to withdraw it. The member for Gympie was not allowed to put his point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have asked the honourable member to withdraw the statement. Will he withdraw it?

Mr Hobbs: No.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Warrego will leave the Chamber under Standing Order 123A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Warrego withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr DOLLIN: It is unfortunate that some members of the community now try to back away from their commitment to accept the umpire's decision. Some members of the Maryborough community are now engaged in what I have described as a harmful and pointless political campaign to have the Government overturn the report and its recommendations. They are preying on the legitimate concerns and apprehensions of the people of Maryborough and using smear and fear tactics to further their own political ambitions and agendas with little or no concern for the workers. Their political campaign is misdirected and cruel. Those heartless people are playing politics with people's lives and careers.

The reality is that logging on Fraser Island will cease in the very near future. It will have a substantial impact on the local economy and the lives of the workers and families in the Maryborough timber industry. What is needed now is not a cruel political campaign but a concentrated effort by all to ensure that the adverse effects of the report's recommendations are minimised. I take this opportunity to appeal to the residents of Maryborough, particularly those currently engaged in this political campaign, to work

with me to ensure that this is achieved and that we get the best deal possible for Maryborough and the timber workers.

The Government has established two special purpose Cabinet committees which are currently working on compensation and readjustment packages and developing alternative employment packages for those who will be affected by the implementation of the recommendations of the Fraser Island report. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Cabinet for drafting both myself and the member for Isis, Bill Nunn, onto these Cabinet committees. It is the first time that non-Ministers have been appointed to a Cabinet committee, which is an indication of the Government's recognition of the importance of this matter to our local communities. These Cabinet committees, the Fraser Coast Coordinating Committee and the local community-based committee are liaising with the Government on the implementation of the report and working to ensure that Maryborough gets the best deal possible.

All honourable members are familiar with the recent decision by the Federal Government to nominate the wet tropical rainforests of north Queensland for inclusion in the World Heritage List. Quite frankly, the handling of that decision by the Federal Government was nothing more than a disaster in terms of the effect that it had on the workers and families of Ravenshoe. The compensation and readjustment packages worked out by the Federal Government were nothing short of a joke. Whilst the Federal Government threw a considerable amount of money at the Ravenshoe community, it did not provide the readjustment and the new job opportunities that were necessary. In many respects, it had a similar impact on the local community as the decision to ban sand-mining on Fraser Island made by the Liberal/National Party Government in the 1970s which cost 500 jobs and resulted in enormous social upheaval. No real alternative employment opportunities were created and there was substantial unemployment. People are still waiting to find jobs. Ravenshoe got nothing out of the decision to ban logging in the wet tropics and Maryborough got nothing out of the decision to ban sand-mining on Fraser Island.

There will not be another Ravenshoe or another sand-mining disaster. Maryborough and its workers and families will not be ignored. The families and workers in Maryborough must not be forced to pay double for the decision to stop logging on Fraser Island, and they must get some benefit from it. The entire Queensland and Australian community has an obligation to contribute to the protection of Fraser Island. The Maryborough community must not be expected to pay for it; the whole of Queensland and Australia must pay for it. If the area is to be listed on the World Heritage List, then the world must pay something towards it, too. I, the Premier and the entire Goss Government are committed to achieving this end. Maryborough, its workers and families will not be forgotten. This Government is working hard to develop a readjustment package and alternative employment opportunities that will see Maryborough's economy continue to grow and prosper to even greater strengths. This will take some time and people will have to be patient. This Government does not want to rush into it like the Federal Government did in Ravenshoe and like the National/Liberal Party Government did when it banned sand-mining on Fraser Island. This Government must get it right.

Time expired.

Escape from Corrective Services Institutions

Mr CONNOR (Nerang) (12.04 p.m.): The prison system and the prisons in Queensland are in chaos. Out of the top four persons in the chain of command in custodial corrections in Queensland, one is suspended, one has resigned and the third has gone off sick since the great escape. Even with a full complement of management staff within the commission, in the last 12 months the Queensland prison system has one from one catastrophe to another. Twelve months ago I told the Minister what the problem was but he did not want to know. He would not listen. The problem is not some alleged conspiracy by disillusioned old guard prison officers, as the Minister would have had us believe for the last 12 months. That was proven last Tuesday night when

Queensland's great escape occurred. In addition, the Premier himself has acknowledged that that was not the case. The people of Queensland and the media have also acknowledged that that was not the case. The events that led up to the great escape were like a B-grade comedy movie—B-grade because no-one would believe it.

I came under criticism from the Minister because I had not personally told him about the escape. I tell the Minister that they are his prisons, not mine. Just about everyone in the system knew about it. The Minister's own director-general, the Commissioner of Police, most of the media and the prison officers at the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre were even running a book on when the prisoners would escape. Everyone knew about it because Moreton prison would not hold that sort of prisoner. How is it that the only person in the State within the prison system who did not know about the potential escape was the Minister? That is truly an indictment of the total incompetence of this Minister and his inability to deal with his portfolio.

The disillusioned prison officers that the Minister, Mr Milliner, continually spoke about are the same officers who have been telling the Minister the truth for the last 12 months—that they are underfunded and understaffed and that they cannot properly secure the prisons. The Government cannot take 7 per cent of funding away from the prison system, take away many of the security posts and replace them with rehabilitation posts, and expect to have the same level of security. When all is said and done, programs and rehabilitation are great, but the people of Queensland will not accept that instead of security.

A frightening statistic is that, prior to the escape at Moreton prison, only eight of the 22 prison officers on day shift were assigned to security-related duties. At the time they were responsible for the security of the worst sex offenders in Queensland's prisons. Another dangerous practice at the Wacol prison was revealed to me. Because of the lack of prison officers assigned to security-related duties, the prison officers are directed to give the cell keys to a prisoner in each wing to open the cells for the other prisoners. This is an extremely dangerous practice because that prisoner only needs to have moulding clay in his hand and the cell keys can be copied. The Minister's famous conspiracy theory falls down completely when one considers that the people most put at risk when there is a break-down of security and when there are escapes are the prison officers themselves. They are usually assaulted. Quite often, they are in the firing line when the escape occurs. If the Minister does not believe me, he should have a look at the bullet holes in the prison van that chased the escapees after the great escape last Tuesday night. Perhaps then he will understand why prison officers do not purposely let prisoners escape.

One other major event led to these escapes taking place—five separate escapes involving 13 people in one week. With only a couple of exceptions, every escape in the last three weeks has been directly attributable to the closure of Woodford prison, which was a ministerial and Cabinet decision. The Minister cannot pass the buck on that one. To be able to close Woodford prison, the Minister had to move the sex offenders somewhere else. They could not be fitted into the Moreton prison because it was not big enough, so he took those sex offenders out of Woodford and Moreton prisons and placed them at the Sir David Longland prison. The worst of the worst prisoners at Sir David Longland prison—the Carters, the Morrells, the Creeveys, and the murderers, the rapists and the armed robbers—were taken out of the brand-new, high-tech \$28m tax-payer funded, maximum security Sir David Longland prison and placed in a converted hospital, which is Moreton prison. The Minister says that there is spare capacity within the system and that that was the reason for the Woodford closure. There may have been spare capacity in the system, but it was in the wrong places and for the wrong types of prisoners. The closure of Woodford meant that many medium classification prisoners had to have their classification very quickly down-graded to open security. They were moved out against their will into other low-security institutions, and that is why those prisoners are wandering off the farms. They are not open security prisoners; they are medium security prisoners who are masquerading as low security prisoners and they should be behind bars. They are not behind bars because, to try to save a few dollars,

the Minister wants to close Woodford prison. This is false economy because the few million dollars that he is allegedly saving by closing Woodford prison will be more than made up by the cost to the community and to the police in trying to recapture these prisoners over and over again.

The prisoners who could not fit into Moreton prison were transferred north. The worst of the worst prisoners were sent on their way up to Townsville and Rockhampton, and what happened next? There was another escape. Prisoner Archie Thompson, one of the bikie bandits, was sent up to Rockhampton, but not for long. Almost the next day, he got out. Rockhampton prison could not hold him, but the Sir David Longland prison could. This is another comedy of errors and another dangerous prisoner whom the police have to find. The people of Queensland are saying, "What is going on?" On a daily basis, the community in Queensland is being put in danger because of the revolving-door, Labor prison policy. The people of Queensland are being robbed and are having their homes broken into, and they are being assaulted by escapees who revert to crimes—and armed hold-ups are a specialty—while they are on the run. The escapees cannot take up normal jobs while they are on the run, so they have no choice. If they are armed robbers, they revert to armed robbery, and that is why a massive increase in armed robberies has occurred. One only has to read the paper to know that.

There have been so many prisoners—64 that I have been able to tally so far—out the prison door this year. That is a record for Queensland for a full year, yet the year is only a bit more than half-way through. Queensland is presently running an escape rate that is almost five times greater than the rate in last year's official figures, and they are only the ones that are on the books. There is a conspiracy to cover up any escape that possibly can be papered over, and a prime example of that was when the police were informed by a television station of the Wacol escape. A senior prison officer was suspended over that issue. Prisoners have also escaped from Townsville. However, because they were recaptured by prison officers, they were never charged with the offence of escaping. I have information on those escapes that has been documented. Worse than that, a very frightening fact has been uncovered at the Brisbane courts. The fact is that most of the prisoners who are escaping while on leave of absence are not being included in the official figures. They are being arrested, taken to Brisbane Watchhouse, having their names entered in the book, but are not being charged. They are being brought in, and there are records to show that; the police have the names, but the prisoners are not being charged. Only approximately one in four of the prisoners who have escaped while on leave of absence is being charged with an escape offence. I table a document that sets out the names of the escapees who have been caught. Most of those escapees have not been charged with an offence relating to the escape and are not part of the escape statistics. The figure of 64 escapes so far this year may be only the tip of the iceberg because there may have been many, many more times that number of escapes.

Another most frightening and worrying incident has occurred in relation to Corrective Services. Information has been given to me indicating that last Thursday morning a senior Corrective Services Commission officer had commission files shredded en masse immediately after his suspension. Those files could have assisted the police in their investigations surrounding the reasons for the great escape and could have helped also in tracing their movements over the last few days. Under section 104 of the Corrective Services Act, the destruction of official documents carries a two-year gaol sentence. The information relating to this has been forwarded to the CJC. I table the name of the Corrective Services Commission officer and most of the details surrounding the incident, and I ask the Minister to deal with it.

Corrective Services

Mr PALASZCZUK (Archerfield) (12.14 p.m.): Madam Deputy Speaker, this afternoon this House has witnessed the Liberal Party's deliberate, politically motivated campaign to destabilise the prisons system in this State. At the very least, the actions of the member for Nerang are irresponsible. At the worst, they are designed to jeopardise

public safety for the sole purpose of gaining political mileage. The member for Nerang will not be satisfied until he sees blood flowing. He struts around assuming a holier-than-thou attitude while withholding potentially vital information from the police.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. I find the member's remarks most offensive, and I ask him to withdraw them.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Woodgate): Order! Will the member withdraw the remarks?

Mr PALASZCZUK: I do not even know the remarks to which the member refers, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr CONNOR: All the remarks relating to my motivation.

Mr PALASZCZUK: If the member for Nerang does not want to see blood flow, I will withdraw my comment.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. The member did not withdraw all the statements that I find offensive.

Mr PALASZCZUK: Out of respect for the Chair, I withdraw those remarks. The first piece of information related to the escape of a dangerous inmate by the name of Pernich, who escaped after an ambulance was held up at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Mr Connor claimed that he had information that Pernich—I quote from an ABC interview of 1 May 1991—

" . . . made a number of telephone calls . . . in the Sentence Management Section and he was not monitored. Unfortunately, or fortunately for him, the people in that section, the rehabilitation people were busy having cups of tea and were not monitoring his telephone calls while he arranged his escape."

There are two scenarios in relation to that allegation. One is that it is totally false and that Mr Connor was being used by people within the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre who had a vested interest in destroying the rehabilitation programs. The second scenario is that Mr Connor's information was true and that the person who observed that incident stood by while that happened. That person was thereby involved, possibly in a criminal way, in facilitating that escape. But Mr Connor refused to provide police with access to his information, despite a recommendation from the Criminal Justice Commission to do so.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. I find that remark offensive. I gave that information to the CJC. I made that quite clear. The information has been given to the CJC. I find the remark most offensive. I ask the member to withdraw it.

Mr PALASZCZUK: His justification for refusing to cooperate with the police—

Mr CONNOR: I have asked the member to withdraw the remark.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Woodgate): Order! The member has asked for a withdrawal.

Mr PALASZCZUK: I withdraw the remark. However, I will quote from a transcript from the ABC's *Late Edition* program of 2 May, in which Mr Connor stated—

"I think they are using it as a political wing of the Labor Party . . . If we, as a member of Parliament, as a Liberal Member of Parliament, if I gave out that information I would never get any more information from anyone, any public servants in Queensland. The democratic system wouldn't work properly."

I challenge the honourable member to ask me to withdraw that remark. What Mr Connor was actually saying was that he was not prepared to give the information to the police, to cooperate with a very serious police investigation, because his disinformation flow, and thus his only chance at publicity, would dry up.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. I have made it quite clear that I made that information available to the police attached to the CJC. I find that remark most offensive. I ask the honourable member to withdraw it.

Mr PALASZCZUK: I accept the member's explanation and I withdraw the remark. In other words, he was prepared to ignore not only his moral duty but also his public duty as an elected representative to cooperate with the police. In light of the fact that he is the Liberal Party's spokesman for Corrective Services, that is particularly damning.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. I have already explained that my moral duty was fulfilled. I did inform the police attached to the CJC. It is a misrepresentation. I again ask the member to withdraw those comments.

Mr PALASZCZUK: I withdraw the remarks. Last week, Mr Connor's dedication to publicity at the expense of public safety continued in a spectacular fashion. Speaking on the ABC and in a number of other media outlets, the member for Nerang stated that he knew three days previously that the mass prison break-out on Tuesday was being planned and that a prison informant had told him of an escape bid by eight dangerous prisoners from the Moreton Correctional Centre. And he did nothing about it! He did not even pass the information on to the police, despite the fact that, as I said previously, he had a moral duty to do so. I challenge the member to go to the family of the police officer who died during that prison escape—

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. Again, I find the remarks offensive. The information that I received had already been made available to the police. What is more—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Woodgate): Order! It is only necessary for the member to say that he finds the remarks offensive. He does not have to debate the matter. In deference to the member for Nerang, I ask the honourable member for Archerfield to withdraw the remarks.

Mr PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I challenge the member for Nerang to go and speak to the family of the police officer.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. I did not hear the honourable member withdraw his remarks. The honourable member made reflections on my moral duty and I find them offensive.

Mr PALASZCZUK: I did withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I heard the member for Archerfield withdraw. I ask him to continue his speech.

Mr PALASZCZUK: I will not examine some of Mr Connor's other allegations, most of which are baseless, others doubtful and still others downright lies. He has called for a Fitzgerald-like inquiry. He obviously does not remember that the Queensland Corrective Services Commission was established as a result of such an inquiry. He is also obviously unaware of the establishment of a special police force—task force C—now attached to the commission, which was set up for just that reason.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order. I did not call for a Fitzgerald-like inquiry. The Opposition spokesman called for that inquiry. That remark is untrue. I find it offensive and I ask the member to withdraw it. I wish that he would get his facts straight.

Mr PALASZCZUK: In deference to the Chair, I withdraw that remark. To further demonstrate his ignorance, Mr Connor has called for killers to serve at least 80 per cent of their sentence. I would like him to tell the House what 80 per cent of an indeterminate sentence is, because that is what a killer gets—mandatory life. Frequently Mr Connor claims that prisoners are serving only one-third of their sentences. He is wrong again. Inmates do not get automatic releases, as Mr Connor would have us believe. Under section 61 of the Act, prisoners can apply to regional and Queensland community

correction boards for release to community correction centres on a variety of release programs such as release to work and home detention, as well as parole.

Mr Connor touts frequently the benefits of so-called truth in sentencing. He is obviously unaware of the implications of his call. The New South Wales Government intends to build at least one prison a year for the next nine years at a cost of more than \$500m, and there is no guarantee that the crime rate will drop. In fact, overseas experience suggests that the complete opposite will happen. That policy has already cost the New South Wales taxpayer an extra \$41.5m. That is a lot of money to be throwing down the drain after a policy about which even the New South Wales Liberal Government is now expressing doubt. I would rather see that money being spent on police, education and health instead of a discredited policy. The New South Wales prison suicide rate is 17 times that of the suicide rate in the general population. Mr Connor has identified himself with officers such as those who appeared before the public hearings of the Criminal Justice Commission who quite frequently and quite happily admitted to deliberately trying to start a riot to destabilise the system. He is associating himself with thugs no more, no less who obviously want to return to the pre-Kennedy days of bash and gash. He should be condemned.

Mr CONNOR: I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Woodgate): Order! What is the honourable member's point of order?

Mr CONNOR: I find quite offensive the remarks the honourable member made about me associating with thugs, etc., and I ask him to withdraw them.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: One more time!

Mr PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. He is a thug himself. If the member for Nerang wants blood on his hands—

Time expired.

Gold Coast Indy Car Race

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.24 p.m.): I rise today to outline to the Parliament the Treasurer's disgraceful handling of the finances of the Gold Coast Indy car race. Today, because of bungling and gross financial mismanagement by the Treasurer of Queensland, the people of Queensland own a motor race which has cost them nearly \$30m in its first year. The Opposition supports the Gold Coast Indy Grand Prix. It was our idea; it was our initiative. Under a National Party Government, the race would have been funded largely by private capital. That is the way it should be—a private-enterprise race, not something owned wholly and solely by the taxpayers of this State. The Opposition is not knocking the race as the Treasurer and race-promoters so readily say every time the Treasurer seeks to hide his own guilt. Their comments are extraordinary in view of the fact that the Indy car race was an initiative of the former National Party Government, of which I was Tourism Minister.

Let us get it on the record at the outset: the Opposition supports the Indy race and the benefits it brings to the Gold Coast region and to tourism in Queensland. What we do not support is the way it has been handled by this incompetent Treasurer. I understand that today the Public Accounts Committee will consider the financing of the race. There is certainly a need for that body to conduct a thorough investigation. The first piece of deceit perpetrated by the Treasurer surrounds the loss associated with the race. The final figure is far worse than the \$19m outlined by the Treasurer in the press yesterday. The final figure will be more in the vicinity of \$30m. That will be the final cost to the taxpayer. This Government and this Treasurer have indulged in a massive confidence trick. They have hidden a number of the public costs of the race. For example, the cost of policing the event fell to the south-east regional budget of the Queensland Police Service. The Gold Coast Indy car race has not been debited for the policing. I wonder

what other costs have been hidden in a similar way. The police budget, already at breaking-point trying to come to grips with the law and order problem on the Gold Coast, has been milked so that the Treasurer, presumably tomorrow, can stand up here and say, "Well, it is really only a \$19m loss, not a \$30m loss." Whatever happened to accountability? Whatever happened to this Government's commitment to the people of Queensland to be accountable and proper. A Public Accounts Committee investigation, in my view, will clear the air and will make for a bigger, better and more accountable race next year.

The reason for the \$30m Indy bill that the taxpayers of Queensland will now have to pick up is obvious. The Government wasted six months working out whether it wanted the race at all. Race-promoters lost six months. Race-promoters and other people associated with the event lost six months of important negotiation and organisational time because this Treasurer and this Government could not decide whether they wanted the race to proceed. By the time they had finally decided that they wanted a race, it was too late. The only way to make the race a success was to open up the chequebook and tell the promoters to go for their lives. I want to raise certain questions about certain costs. I want to know a little bit more about the \$3m spent on the entertainment budget to pay for Zsa Zsa Gabor and others, and the penthouse suite at Royal Pines, after the original entertainment budget for the event was some \$650,000. There has been a blow-out to \$3m. I want to know why the taxpayers of Queensland had to spend \$3m to provide the entertainment associated with the event. I want to know, and I suspect the taxpayers of Queensland will want to know, why, on four hours' notice, the Government spent \$2m to hire a jumbo jet in Los Angeles to transport buckets and fuel tanks that could have been purchased or manufactured in Australia. That is the point. If this Government had moved earlier, and if the Treasurer had been able to provide better organisation and management of the event, then that \$2m charter now being picked up by the taxpayers of Queensland would not have been necessary. The buckets and the fuel tanks could have been manufactured here in Australia. The special De Lacy jumbo charter would not have been necessary. I suspect that taxpayers also want to know the cost of the year-round accommodation at the five-star Gold Coast International Hotel for people associated with the race. We might like to see an explanation about how someone associated with the event has certain air fares met every week, and how the tab has been picked up by the Queensland taxpayer.

Another aspect of the Indy race which requires the attention of the Public Accounts Committee surrounds the involvement of the Queensland Treasury Corporation. Why is it that the Queensland Treasury Corporation lodged \$1m with Morris Fletcher and Cross for the pay-out of equity partners? Why is it that the Queensland Treasury Corporation provided a note to Citibank promising guarantees of \$25m? Was this or was this not done without reference to the QTC Advisory Board? This is the same Government that criticised the previous administration for, like most of the major financial institutions in Australia, taking equity in Qintex. The QTC has been compromised by its involvement, politically ordered, in respect of the Gold Coast Indy race. The Opposition thought it was the policy of this Government to keep the QTC at arm's length from Cabinet Ministers and from the Government in general. The PAC is duty bound to question the involvement of the Queensland Treasury Corporation in the Indy race and whether that involvement is in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act. After all, this Government and this Treasurer must answer for the mystery surrounding the pay-out of the private sector equity partners.

Why is it that when a race loses up to \$30m, private investors can be reimbursed their original investment, plus interest? Why is this type of investment not open to all Queenslanders? I am sure there would be a queue a mile long if the Government offered an investment in respect of which people simply cannot lose, no matter what the result. The Treasurer has clearly misled the Parliament concerning the buying out of the equity partners. His Government has, in effect, provided guarantees to ensure that the private sector equity partners would not have to share the losses with the taxpayers of Queensland.

On 23 May in this House, the Treasurer said that he could not confirm that the Government had bought out the private sector equity in the event. On 29 May, the Treasurer again said that he could not confirm the buy-out of contracts. But the contracts and contract pay-outs were confirmed on 2 May. Three weeks later, the Treasurer said that he could not confirm the finances. I ask the House today: what is the Treasurer covering up? He is covering up a disgraceful misuse of taxpayers' funds. He has prostituted an event which was to be private sector driven and only kick-started by the Government. What we have today is the socialisation of a motor race. While we support the event, we are not prepared to tolerate secret deals involving taxpayers' money, the Parliament being misled and questionable management practices.

I urge the Public Accounts Committee to call in the private sector equity partners, to talk to Morris Fletcher and Cross, and to investigate the expenses that have been incurred in respect of the hire of jumbo jets and other associated matters. If we are going to make the Indy race work, the Government has to do a damned sight better job next year.

Maternity Leave

Ms SPENCE (Mount Gravatt) (11.33 a.m.): An interest in policies regarding maternity and parental leave has peaked in recent years with three interrelated phenomena. First, more women of child-bearing age have been entering the labour force. Secondly, they have chosen to make their commitment to work long term. Finally, women with children are finding it an economic necessity to continue in the work force.

The concepts of family leave and maternity benefits are not new. Bismarck first established maternity benefits in Germany in the late 1880s. Britain, France and Italy took similar initiatives prior to 1919, and almost all westernised industrialised nations had such policies by World War II. By 1985, 135 countries had established maternity leave benefit programs, and all but 10 of those mandated paid maternity leave.

Unlike the European approach that provides job security and some wage replacement during periods of parental leave, the focus of Australian policy has been on the prohibition of discrimination and job security. In Australia, the development of maternity leave has been a relatively recent one, the first provisions being inserted in Federal awards in 1979. Since then, maternity leave provisions have become a standard award condition throughout Australia. In general, maternity leave provides for a period of leave not less than six weeks and up to 52 weeks, with all leave being unpaid. By world standards, Australian maternity and paternity leave provisions are generous in relation to time-off entitlements and job protection. We do not compare favourably in terms of wage replacement policies. The European countries set the highest standards in that area. For example, in Belgium, West Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal, women receive 100 per cent of their normal pay. In Ireland, women receive 70 per cent of their normal pay, in Denmark they receive 90 per cent of their normal pay for 28 weeks, and in the United Kingdom they receive six weeks at 90 per cent of their normal pay, plus another 12 weeks at 22 per cent.

I find no justification for the continuation in this country of unpaid maternity leave. There are costs associated with maternity leave, just as there are costs associated with long service leave, which theoretically is available to all employees—though practicably it is taken only by men since few women would remain in the same employment for a 10-year stretch. I give the example of a bank employee investigating the maternity leave provisions offered by her employer. The personnel office proudly explained that maternity leave—unpaid, of course—was offered by the bank. She then queried what would happen to her company car should she take maternity leave. This bank, being typical of most banks, had so few women in senior positions that such an occasion had never arisen. Less proudly, the personnel office admitted that the company car would have to be returned during the period of maternity leave. The woman then queried what would happen to the company car if during that maternity leave she became ill and transferred over to sick leave. After checking, somewhat ashamedly the personnel office agreed that

technically speaking she would be entitled to the use of the car during that sick leave. However, the real shock came when she was told that her special home loan mortgage rate, a perk for bank employees, would also have to be suspended during the period of maternity leave—and this is not to mention superannuation, recreation leave and so on.

It is a sad state of affairs when one is financially better off being sick than being on maternity leave. Not only are women not paid for maternity leave but also in many public sectors they are forced to take six weeks' unpaid leave before the birth. In Queensland's State public service, a woman will be forced into this position even though her job is a sedentary one and even though she may feel perfectly well. I know many women who would prefer to work up until the birth so that they can maximise the time they can have off work to spend with the baby after it is born. That is the case particularly with women who rely on their income to support a family and who may like to have more time at home than they can actually afford. I believe that the distribution of the total time off should be at the discretion of the woman concerned. Women are intelligent enough to be aware of their bodies' needs and to calculate their own leaving dates. I refer again to the situation in Europe. Only in the public sectors in Italy and Greece is a woman obliged to take time off before the birth. I will cite two examples. In Belgium, six weeks' leave before the birth is available on request; eight weeks' leave after the birth is compulsory. However, the six weeks before the birth may be taken after the birth instead. In Spain, it is a total of 16 weeks before and after the birth, distributed as requested by the employee, although at least six must be taken off after the birth. This leave is on full pay.

Maternal leave policies are predicated on the assumption that childbirth is a physical ordeal that requires preparation and recuperation, and few would disagree. However, this does not mean that women must lie around for six weeks in preparation for the event. Many women in the private sector work around childbirth. A 1987 United States study—I have to refer to overseas data as not much data relating to Australia is available—found that although approximately half the prospective mothers had withdrawn from the labour market by four weeks before childbirth, almost one-third remained economically active immediately before delivery. Queensland's public service regulations, which force an obligatory period of six weeks' unpaid leave before the presumed date of confinement, are then both paternalistic and demeaning for many women. A decision which should be personal is not, and women's rights are again threatened as they are dictated by public policy.

It is certainly true that, these days, fewer mothers and babies are dying than at any other time in history, even though more mothers go out of their homes to work and work longer throughout their pregnancies. Paid employment, as distinct from the work which women have always done, can involve different kinds of environmental exposures. In some occupations there may be factors which present special dangers to some women during pregnancy. The list of toxic or potentially toxic substances to which working women may be exposed is increasing rapidly. There is convincing experimental evidence of the detrimental effect of noise and heat on reproduction. In carrying out their duties, many workers are exposed to those conditions. Needless to say, as data on male reproductive hazards mount, it is obvious that males suffer similar risks from unsafe work environments. The simple answer to this dilemma is to improve the working conditions of all workers, not to introduce foetal protection policies which will impose a new form of discrimination against women.

Today, I am not suggesting that we take the great leap forward and immediately institute paid maternity leave for all employees. In these tough economic times, it would be difficult to justify so doing. However, I believe that, as both men and women call for a better deal for family leave, this will occur. In the future, this might cover not only periods of leave for births or adoptions of children but also paid leave to care for sick and aged parents. Today, I am calling for the abolition of the compulsory six weeks' maternity leave before the birth of a child. I have consulted with obstetricians and general practitioners regarding this matter and there is general agreement that, provided

women are in occupations that are fairly sedentary and the woman feels healthy enough to continue in employment, there is no reason why she should be forced to leave work.

At present, many obstetricians are being asked to submit false delivery dates for women who would like to stay at work longer. These requests are demeaning for women who are forced to go cap in hand to their doctors with a request that requires doctors to misrepresent the truth and awkward for doctors who are asked to do so. Women are not necessarily less productive in their last weeks of pregnancy. Employers need not fear that they would be forced to maintain unproductive women. I am confident that women who find continuation in the work force difficult because of their pregnancy will voluntarily leave work rather than risk the health of their baby or themselves. However, there is a large group of women who desire to continue in the work force until the end of their pregnancy. It is time we recognised that women have the intelligence and good sense to make these decisions for themselves. Like many other rulings that have been implemented in order to protect women, the present provisions have the reverse effect and discriminate against them. To conclude, I reiterate that the issue—

Time expired.

Refusal by Cabinet of Application for Noosa North Shore Development

Mr ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (12.44 p.m.): In a follow-up to the remarks made by the member for Condamine, I wish to alert the public of Queensland not only to the matter of the separation of powers relating to the issue concerning the Noosa north shore but also to a misrepresentation that has been perpetrated upon the public by some of the more extreme fringes of the green movement which have tried to indicate that that area is somehow pristine and that it should in fact be made part of the Cooloola national park. The history of the area is that sand-mining has been undertaken on the north shore—that has occurred along the foreshore—along with dairying and beef cattle production. The area has been cleared. When I was the Minister responsible for national park land, I extended the area of the Cooloola national park. At that time, we deliberately did not seek to include areas of the north shore because, quite frankly, it was not up to scratch. In his report, Commissioner Tony Fitzgerald indicated very clearly that that was the case.

Mr Littleproud: Somewhat degraded.

Mr ELLIOTT: That is right. It was somewhat degraded. However, at the time that I was Minister, parts of the north shore were set aside as an environmental park. We stood fairly and squarely behind that move. The requirement and necessity existed for people to have some open space and to be able to quickly get across on the ferry and utilise those areas. It is a nonsense to suggest that these other areas which have been debased ought to be part of the national park. The whole exercise is purely and simply one against development.

I am not suggesting for one second that we should have some sort of large development in that area. A reasonable compromise was worked out among the parties. I support the sort of development that Ruster and Day have done there. Basically it is low key. There is no high rise development. It is in tune with the environment. We should have more of that sort of development. That is basically what Mr Fitzgerald said in his recommendations. The low density development which has had the back-up of a Local Government Court judgment should be pursued. We should have environmentally in tune leisure accommodation which, when looking north from Noosa, will not be seen. Part of the argument is about keeping the area green, and I support that. The development should be done on a sensible conservation basis. All of those practices, if carried out, would not be of any detriment to the area. In fact, they would enhance the whole national park. That is what we ought to do. We want that sort of accommodation for people who want to utilise the parks. After all, parks are not just protected areas; they are for the people to enjoy. If people are locked out of the parks there will be problems. I urge the people to understand that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Woodgate): Order! The honourable member's time has expired. The time allotted for the Matters of Public Interest debate has now expired.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 May (see p. 7760).

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn) (12.47 p.m.): This Bill should provide further impetus to the initiatives implemented by the Opposition when it was in Government. In Government, we set out deliberately to enhance the status of vocational education and training, recognising that colleges of technical and further education were not simply glorified schools but fulfilled a role as tertiary institutions. Additionally, we guaranteed funding for a capital development program designed to meet the needs of the expanding role which TAFE colleges are destined to play in responding to industry needs as technology changes, such as multiskilling, develop. During our last year in Government, enrolments in TAFE colleges increased by some 14 471 students or 8.4 per cent on the previous year. Because this legislation is a furtherance of the National Party Government's initiatives, the Opposition supports the Bill. We commend the objects of the Bill as they are set out. I shall deal with them briefly at a later stage in the debate.

In three years, contracted directors have achieved efficiencies in our TAFE colleges which contrast markedly with the increased cost structure and loss of efficiency in the concrete jungle of the head office. I suggest that that bears special consideration by the Minister for Education. The previous Government deliberately put people in charge of TAFE colleges to give them the opportunity to display their initiatives. As a result, we have seen quite staggering efficiencies and increased enrolments. In spite of the difficulties associated with funding, the efficiencies that have been achieved under the new system are quite outstanding. At the same time, in the head office in Brisbane the efficiencies have not resulted in reduced costs. Costs have increased. I suggest that the Public Sector Management Commission will be looking at this administrative structure, as it will look at all Government departments. I like to call this structure a concrete jungle. It certainly needs consideration. I believe that the ability to achieve greater efficiency in that sector should be in line with the efficiencies that have been achieved in the workplace, out in the field, and in the colleges and their many campuses. In the workplace generally, it is time to recognise the skills of individuals and it is essential to change the last on, first off mentality to which the Labor Party clings. It is a mentality which encourages lethargy at a time when we need to encourage productivity. It does not provide incentive to maintain let alone to improve skills. I am referring to the workplace generally.

We on this side of the House believe that there must be encouragement. There is certainly no encouragement to people who know that their positions are reasonably secure because they have been in the job longer than some others. We are finding—and this is something that will occur increasingly in the workplace—that much sought after skills have been developed. Perhaps they have been developed through TAFE training or through training in other tertiary institutions. Those skills are being lost to industry because, as the recession hits, there is a need for redundancies and for people to be stood down. Because they have a greater skill and are better qualified to carry out the role for which they are employed, they should be retained. Others in the workplace who were in the job earlier and are not contributing as much are, unfortunately, retained because of the industrial laws in this State and the last on, first off mentality to which the Labor Party tends to cling. Skills and efficiencies which are urgently needed include the ability to increase productivity, and these are being lost to industry. It is time that this Government and the Labor Party generally recognised the fact that the workplace must have an ability to employ the best people, the people best suited for that particular job, to achieve maximum productivity. TAFE is all about improving skills. I ask: when will the Government become fair dinkum? When will it address the problem of lack of

productivity? For the people who have better skills, who have the ability and who have been prepared to improve their skills and to improve the role that they can play in increasing productivity, perhaps by going to TAFE colleges, when will the Government become fair dinkum and give them the incentive and the opportunity to fulfil their desires to put into practice those added skills that they have gained?

The spoken word is inadequate to record the development in vocational education and training during the six years of National Party Government because it cannot hope to record the benefits to individuals, to students, to employees, to teachers, to employers and to the community generally—long-term benefits that have enhanced employment opportunities, work skills and productivity, the effects of which will be of importance both to individuals and to the total community virtually for all time—nor can the spoken word adequately describe the change in the quality of facilities for vocational education and training that were set in motion by the National Party Government. Only by visual inspection of the old and the new can those changes be fully appreciated. I hope that this Labor Government will continue to provide the funding to further enhance those facilities and to continue the developmental programs that we initiated.

Unfortunately, to date, every indication has been that this will not be the case. We have seen the deletion by Labor of planned projects. Those in Dalby, in the electorate of Condamine, and Ingham readily come to mind. Of course, we have seen also politicisation of planning procedures by the advancement of lower priority development that is oriented to Labor electorates. The decision to make the former Toowoomba showgrounds available for the development of a major college of technical and further education was quite momentous in its own way. No doubt, as the member for Lockyer rightly says and agrees, the decision was momentous in its own way and no doubt worthy of greater recognition than has been accorded it, rather like railway electrification in Queensland. There again, a decision was being taken by a Government in the knowledge that the costs and difficulties associated with that development in the short term would make budgeting very difficult but that, in the long term, once the initial debt is recouped and the ongoing costs are covered, Queensland will have the cheapest railway system certainly in Australia and one of the cheapest in the world. It is quite incredible to think that following electrification in Queensland we can ride in electric trains from Brisbane right through to Emerald and right up the coast to Rockhampton—distances unheard of in nations in Europe, let alone in States or Provinces elsewhere.

As I say, that type of decision has not been accorded its due at this stage. I do not doubt that, in time, history will record the accolades that should go with decision-making such as that. I believe that the decision to make the former Toowoomba showgrounds available to technical and further education college development was of the same ilk as the decision to provide railway electrification in Queensland. Competing interests for the land and for the funding involved put tremendous pressure on the National Party Government. It is unfortunate that, all too frequently, there was an inclination to take the easy way out by succumbing to the temptation to consider only the short-term future rather than the long-term advantages. In those two examples—the railways and the TAFE college in Toowoomba—the National Party Government demonstrated a preparedness to experience relatively short-term pain in the interests of future generations. It did not succumb to that temptation to adopt the easy option to make the land available to help boost the coffers of the Treasury. Instead, it took a decision from which future generations will benefit and which Governments should more frequently take, that is, to look to the long-term future and not short-term political expediency. The first stage of the Toowoomba college of TAFE is a magnificent facility staffed by dedicated people and supported by a business community that is eager to participate in the objectives outlined in the Bill that the Minister has introduced and which we are today debating. The same comments apply equally to other magnificent facilities that we developed. We could look at the Gold Coast as an example and, of course, elsewhere in the State where similar developments were planned and were under way.

Mr Nunn interjected.

Mr HARPER: The member for Isis cannot rightly interject because, when his Government came into office, we saw a purely political decision to bolster his standing, just as we heard in the debate on Matters of Public Interest his colleague applaud the Government on its action in regard to timber-logging on Fraser Island.

Mr Nunn: You made a mess of Childers and you can't back out of it.

Mr HARPER: The member for Isis wants to be very careful when he criticises developments elsewhere in the State. Bricks and mortar only contribute to success by enhancing working conditions and by providing facilities for that work to be carried out. It is the quality of the staff—the director, the teachers and the administrative staff—as well as the support of the community which leads to a successful college.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Campbell): Order! I have been advised that the honourable member for Auburn has agreed to allow the Chairman of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee to table some reports.

Debate interrupted.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Report

Mr BEATTIE (Brisbane Central) (2.31 p.m.): I lay upon the table of the House Part A of a two-part report of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee in relation to the committee's current assessment of its own operations and the operations of the Criminal Justice Commission. This part is in two volumes—with the second volume consisting of two sections, comprising the submissions received by the committee and the Hansard record of the public hearings of the committee held on 6 and 13 June 1991. The public hearings were held by the committee pursuant to section 4.8 of the Criminal Justice Act 1989-1990 and represent the second and third hearings of the process of review. The first hearing into this matter was held on 24 May 1991 and the transcript of the evidence was tabled on 17 June 1991.

Part B of the report is now in preparation and will be tabled later this year. The committee is assessing all the written submissions and the oral evidence received. I wish to thank the members of the committee for the commitment which they have given to the work of the committee. The considerable workload is evidenced by the amount of material that they have had to consider and the amount of time and effort that they have put into the hearing and assessment processes. This is the ninth report of the committee, and I move that it be printed.

Ordered to be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Report

Mr BEATTIE (Brisbane Central) (2.32 p.m.): I lay upon the table of the House a report of the independent investigation into the allegations made by Robert David Butler and Channel 7 regarding former Inspector John William Huey and the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission. The investigation was carried out on behalf of the parliamentary committee by Superintendent Peter John Clamp, staff officer to the assistant commissioner, north-west region command, and Detective Inspector Malcolm William Cox of the State investigative group from New South Wales. They were appointed to conduct the investigation. I move that the report of the committee be printed.

Ordered to be printed.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed.

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn) (2.33 p.m.): Before the luncheon adjournment, I drew the attention of the House to the fact that bricks and mortar contribute to the success of TAFE colleges only by enhancing working conditions and that it is the quality of the staff, such as the director, teachers and administrative staff, as well as the support of the community which lead to a successful college.

The establishment of the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission effectively provides the Minister with an advisory body which has a degree of powers and obligations in its own right—and I stress "a degree of powers and obligations in its own right". It is not entirely correct for the Minister to claim that the powers over accreditation and regulated training that were previously vested in the Minister will be ceded to the commission. The fact is that the commission is subservient to the Minister, although in practice I do not doubt for one minute that these matters will continue to be dealt with as in the past, based on sound, practical, expert advice. It should be recognised that this commission does not stand alone and that, effectively, it is yet another department under the Minister's umbrella.

There are two matters concerning the appointment of the commission and the manner in which it or a standing committee exercise powers that cause me some concern, insofar as they are unknown quantities at the present time. The first matter is the question of the appointment of a chairman and deputy chairman to the commission and the method of selection of the first eight persons to be members of the commission that is set out in the Bill. The second concern arises because the commission or a standing committee exercises a power or performs a function by a majority vote of its members present at the meeting, and I have some concern as to what the regulations will prescribe to constitute a quorum for those meetings. It would appear that, upon the recommendation of the Minister, the Governor in Council will designate a member of the commission to be chairman, but there is no indication as to the method of selection for those members of the commission, other than the ex officio member and the nominees of the State Minister for Education and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for vocational education and training.

Whilst recognising the value of expert advice, and particularly local advice, not unnaturally, in the light of the multitude of committees and advisory bodies established by the Goss Government and by the Premier himself in particular, the Opposition has a degree of scepticism about the power of the commission to appoint standing committees and subcommittees as it considers necessary. We hope that this will not lead to a proliferation of buck-passing, because we regard the commission itself as the appropriate body to perform its functions—in other words, to carry the buck until it eventually ends up on the Minister's desk. As I have previously indicated, the Minister is not ceding his responsibility as a Minister in regard to these areas and the commission. I accept that there is a need for the ability to appoint subcommittees, but I think it appropriate that I place on record that the Opposition does have a degree of scepticism and we would hope that unnecessary committees are not appointed and there is not a proliferation of them.

Indeed, the Bill itself makes provision for the establishment of three important standing committees, a State Training Council, a State Planning and Development Council and an Accreditation Council, to which the Minister referred earlier in the debate. These standing committees appear to reflect the committees that were set up in 1988 by the National Party Government, such as the training council, the priorities council and the accreditation committee. At that time, a committee was also established that comprised the chairman of all college councils. It appears not to have been recognised in this Bill, and I wonder whether the Minister will express a view as to how he intends

to tap the combined wisdom of those dedicated people who serve as council chairmen. My understanding is that this committee of council chairmen did not meet very frequently, but I think the Minister would agree that a wealth of knowledge must presently exist in the minds of those chairmen, and that a wealth of knowledge will be built up in the future by people serving on those councils. The Opposition believes it is very important that this knowledge be readily available directly to the Minister. I will have more to say on this matter at the Committee stage.

Undoubtedly, the State Training Council has been born out of the old Apprenticeship Executive, which became the Apprenticeship Commission. There has been a progression in development, and no doubt the intention is to enhance the work and the role of that particular group of people that will be known as the State Training Council. Provided that its members are genuine in their endeavours and work as a team with a common object, the council should function well. Another example of that type of approach is the committees of this Parliament. Members of those committees, although representing different sections of the Parliament, holding different political beliefs, and in some cases belonging to different factions that subscribe to those political beliefs, nevertheless have the ability to work together constructively. My understanding is that, in the past, employer and employee representatives have been able to work well together. Provided that members of this council are genuine in their endeavours and work as a team, there is no reason at all why the council should not function extremely well.

Because membership is vitally important, I again raise the issue of selection. In what manner and by whom is selection to be made? The Bill lays down the provision relating to appointment by the commission, but I wonder about the way in which the actual selection is to be made. The Minister's Green Paper indicated that applications will be sought by public advertisement, but does not indicate how the selection will ultimately be made. I might also add that I was not impressed by the Green Paper implying that certain things would happen. Along the lines of many Green Papers that were distributed for the purpose of promoting discussion when the National Party was in Government, a Green Paper should promote discussion. I suggest that it is inappropriate for discussion papers to not only make points for discussion but also to give the impression that decisions have already been made. Perhaps Government members might consider the effects of a Green Paper structured in the way I have outlined because it is off-putting when people pick up a discussion paper, which should assist in the democratic process of developing legislation, and read terminology implying that, really, no discussion will take place because the Government has already made up its mind what it is going to do. As I said previously, although the Green Paper indicated that applications would be sought by public advertisement, as far as I have been able to ascertain it does not indicate the way in which the selection will be made ultimately.

Under the functions provision, the council will be able to appoint subcommittees to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities. I pose this question: is it intended that regional advisory committees be re-established? As I understand it, in the past those committees provided close local involvement and identified problems confronting apprentices and employers. In short, I am informed that they were well worth while. If the objects of this legislation are to be achieved, it seems to me that an advisory committee structure should be re-established in order to provide ready access to advice by employers, employees and apprentices—people who have a need to discuss problems that arise from time to time. I am told that when that occurred in the past, by and large, problems were resolved locally and without undue difficulty.

As I suggested previously, the Planning and Development Council seems to be an expanded priorities committee. Owing to the importance of its role, the issue of membership selection must again be raised. Although all functions of this council are important, I believe that the role in relation to advice on the development of both public and private sector delivery of vocational education, training and employment services has special significance. Too many students have been left high and dry by entrepreneurs of all types who take fees for private courses but fail to deliver the courses. At this very moment, I am still trying to resolve a problem affecting one of my constituents which

has arisen as a result of a Government-approved computer course offered by a college that later went into receivership. The college left high and dry a number of people who had paid considerable amounts of money. The constituent to whom I have referred paid approximately \$4,500 and received next to nothing for it. He would be satisfied to obtain even as little as the literature so that he can at least continue his education. Unfortunately, as competent as the Consumer Affairs Bureau is, it has not been able to achieve a satisfactory outcome. It is therefore appropriate that this legislation should provide the wherewithal to attack these problems.

I ask the Minister to indicate the penalties that he envisages will form part of the regulations. I assume that the penalties will be spelt out in the regulations, and I indicate to him that meaningful steps designed to deter fly-by-night operators and entrepreneurs will receive the full support of the Opposition. Admittedly, some of those entrepreneurs may mean well and simply lack the resources that should be made available; but if the regulations contain penalties designed to deter entrepreneurs from depriving well-meaning members of the community of expensive training courses, they will receive the full support of the Opposition. In the same context, the role of the Accreditation Council has been widened and now allows for Government-approved courses. This measure will no doubt permit quality courses to achieve a status among students and employers that is perhaps not presently recognised. At the Committee stage, I will be asking the Minister to respond to some questions in relation to this matter, with a view to improving the understanding of the Opposition and of the people represented by the members of this Parliament.

Again, I raise the question as to how those council members will be selected. The Accreditation Council should afford protection for both student and employer and its functions provide an opportunity to achieve national consistency in the area of certificates, diplomas and other awards. In a nation that is regarded overseas as being, and is increasingly becoming, a unified nation, we see the Attorneys-General moving towards closer consistent legislation in their areas of responsibility; other Ministers likewise. I accept that it is important to achieve a degree of national consistency in that area and to be sure that, with the structure that the Minister proposes, when certificates are issued, they carry weight and are not merely a piece of paper. I have heard of people who have flown overseas, spent a few weeks at a college and returned with a piece of paper that purported to represent them as doctors or people having expertise in a field in which they do not have a great deal of expertise at all. Tex Morton comes to mind as a person who travelled overseas and returned as the holder of a doctorate, although I forget the field of study in which he participated. We do not want that type of system to develop in Australia. We have every reason to be proud of the qualifications and certificates which record the qualifications of those who study in our tertiary institutions in Australia and in Queensland, in particular. Within the functions and powers of the Accreditation Council is a role "to ensure maintenance of standards and portability of credentials". Of course, that is all tied in with the standard that is set and its acceptance, particularly by employers and, more particularly, by employers interstate. We would appreciate an indication as to how it is envisaged that that will be achieved—in other words, how it will work in practice. In his reply, the Minister may also address the role of approved training organisations and, in particular, whether they go to the Training Council or to the Accreditation Council—or to neither. I ask the Minister to address that matter in his reply.

Provision exists for remuneration to members of the commission, standing committees and other committees. As I said earlier, one would hope that there will not be an unnecessary proliferation of committees. The cost structure of fees is one more reason for keeping committees to an essential minimum. That is not to say that necessary committees and subcommittees should not be established. But it is important that they be kept to an essential minimum so that their work is meaningful and they are not seen as merely another appendage.

No indication is given in the Bill as to whether members of State college councils are to be paid for their services. It would seem to me to be unfortunate if the valuable

honorary services presently provided by dedicated members of college councils were commercialised; although, fair recompense for costs involved in providing that community service should not be unreasonable. Payment of fees to members of State college councils could well be counterproductive. I will leave that comment at that. I do not believe that my suggestion would be lost on the Minister.

The constitution of those councils appears unwieldy in its present suggested form. They can be very large. Those committees have a possible membership in the vicinity of 16 or 18 members. None of us would disagree that a committee or a council with such a large membership would have problems when trying to come to conclusions. I hope that, within those councils, subcommittees having particular areas of skill would develop, even though specific provision for such a structure appears not to be included in the Bill. There appears also not to be a provision for either college council chairmen or councils to provide advice directly to the Minister. I see that as a shortcoming. There should be a provision to afford direct access by the college council to the Minister.

It would appear that Labor's preoccupation with regionalisation is about to permeate the present sound local structure of our TAFE colleges, for the functions of State college councils include "at the regional level—to advise or inform management in the region". This Government's regionalisation philosophy has already wreaked havoc throughout our decentralised communities. Regionalisation of TAFE colleges would be one more backward step at a time when the move should be positively forward. Regionalisation has been destructive in so many areas. We have seen it in railways and in the justice system. For a long period, the Opposition has put forward strong argument in an endeavour to have the Government rethink its decision to close courthouses, to relocate workers in Queensland transport—in railways—to centralised areas; to rethink its total philosophy on regionalisation which will bring about centralisation and destroy the decentralisation which has led to Queensland's strong economic growth. In the area of TAFE, I believe that regionalisation would be quite counterproductive. It would interpose yet one more level of management, and, logistically, it would be inefficient. At most, an efficient net-working of existing colleges could perhaps be developed, with colleges maintaining control of their existing campuses.

College directors who are employed on performance contracts and have proved an ability to outstrip their head office counterparts in achieving efficiencies must have a degree of autonomy to encourage initiative. That autonomy must be maintained. Regionalisation would simply reduce the incentive to those directors who have achieved so much, an incentive which is so important to college directors and to the continued improvement in efficiency within our TAFE colleges. I appreciate that this Government is not likely to introduce such an initiative, but there is strong argument for all TAFE teachers to be on contract so that levels of their various skills may be recognised adequately and appropriately. At the same time, individuals would be encouraged to improve and maintain those skills. I ask the Minister to think that through. I guess it is philosophically unacceptable to him, but there is a need for encouragement for members of the work force, those in TAFE colleges in particular, who have the responsibility to train young people to take a meaningful role in industry in their selected areas. There is a need for those teachers to maintain or improve their skills. One way of ensuring that that happens is the contract system which has been so successful with the directors of the colleges.

The decision to provide in future for the tabling, as if they were regulations, of rules relating to the payment of fees and charges for instruction will afford an opportunity for Parliament to debate inappropriate fee structures and increases such as those which this year placed an intolerable burden on many TAFE students and, indeed, would-be students. I welcome the decision that in future members of this Parliament will be afforded an opportunity to debate those fee structures. I understand that in the last few days the Confederation of Industry has brought together statistics which show that hundreds of apprentices in Queensland have been affected by the increased fees that were imposed at the beginning of this year. At the time of their introduction, on behalf of the Opposition I predicted that this would have a very detrimental effect on

apprenticeship training and on people who needed to take advantage of courses offered by colleges of technical and further education. According to the results that are being collated by the Confederation of Industry, other employer groups and individual employers, this has indeed been the case. Students who need to take advantage of such courses have been affected, many people have not been able to continue their apprenticeships for one reason or another, and many who would have taken up apprenticeships or would have taken up studies at TAFE colleges have not been able to do so.

Figures to support that proposition were not available to me prior to this debate. I suppose there has not been time for statistics to catch up with what has been happening. However, when the increase in fees was announced, I predicted that it would be detrimental. I suppose it will be another six months or more before we have figures that can give us a reasonable indication, and even then we all know the old story about statistics. Be that as it may, we support the decision to include in this Bill an opportunity for the Parliament to debate fee increases and to reject them if it considers that they are inappropriate. As I have previously indicated, we concede the need for, and endorse, the ability of the commission to recognise and establish industry advisory bodies. In particular, we support the continuing input from industry advisory bodies which have already been developed by individual colleges, for certainly these should be a principal source of advice both to colleges and to the commission in relation to matters concerning vocational education and training. In those circumstances, an obligation rests with all sections of industry, and with business generally, to ensure that persons serving on industry training advisory bodies are dedicated individuals efficient in their particular area of expertise.

I have referred to this point before, but it bears repetition. The success of the councils and advisory bodies that will be set up under this structure, as in the past, will be dependent on the quality, qualifications and willingness of those who are appointed to take a meaningful role and not just to look upon any such appointment as a privilege or honour. Unless they are workers and are prepared to roll up their sleeves and get on with the job, to work together as teams, the intent of the legislation will be lost.

Not unnaturally, there is always a degree of scepticism when Government enterprises enter into competition with private enterprise, although history has demonstrated an inability on the part of State-run enterprises to trade profitably in the real world of commercial competition. I am sure that the Minister does not need reminding of disasters such as the State butcher shops of his Labor predecessors or, for that matter, the losses suffered by the Queensland British Food Corporation, albeit perhaps in the overall interests of the nation in time of war. Although the Minister may be prepared to verify it, I accept that this Bill's intention to enable the commission, through the corporation, to perform such functions as undertaking consultancies or other services for commercial organisations, public bodies or individuals is not intended to be an encouragement for these publicly funded vocational education and training colleges to become competitors in the total commercial world. There does need to be an understanding between private enterprise and those responsible for the administration of our TAFE colleges, and it is pleasing that in the main, at least until the present, such an understanding and acceptance of perhaps conflicting philosophies has been achieved. It is important that the work of TAFE students be not lost to industry, if it is of an acceptable standard, after they have taken part in work experience programs with cooperating employers.

A requirement has now been laid down by the Federal Government for training to be undertaken by business and industry. Training courses are to be set up or provided for employees. There are many industry organisations, particularly in the manufacturing sector, that will be training people within that structure. It seems unrealistic that, if the work done in training exercises is of an acceptable standard, that skill should be destroyed—should be lost as a productivity achievement. I would hope that in this area it is recognised progressively that, provided the work meets the standards and requirements of the particular enterprise, it is able to be part of the normal production of that enterprise which has set up training to improve the efficiency not only of its own staff but also of private individuals from outside who may be encouraged to develop skills in an area.

Time will tell whether this Government's socialistic philosophies and the Minister's claim that the commission will be able to establish companies to generate revenue through commercial entities which can undertake the sale of goods and services will, together, bring about fears that such and understanding and acceptance will be lost and that again we will witness the charade of State-owned butcher shops.

New provisions relating to apprentices and trainees are included in the extensive provisions of the parts of the Bill dealing with training administration. No doubt consistent with present moves which seem destined to replace social security and age benefits with superannuation is the extension of superannuation entitlements to apprentices. I find it totally unacceptable and abhorrent that the Premier of this State should seek to direct by legislation the manner in which trustees of superannuation funds should invest the moneys which they control in the interests of our work force. In the last week or so, we have seen the Premier come out quite clearly and candidly, and with a degree of self-satisfaction, and suggest that trustees should be instructed on how moneys held in trust in superannuation funds should be invested.

Truly, Wayne Goss, the dedicated socialist, the anti-capitalist, has shown his true colours in recent months, and particularly during the last few weeks. It is simply not good enough for the Government even to consider intervening in the way trustees commit the funds that they hold in trust for employees who are looking to them for their future retirement benefits—as I say, undoubtedly as a replacement for social security benefits in the longer term and maybe even the not-so-longer term. It is not good enough for the Premier to say that perhaps they should be required to invest 10 per cent or 20 per cent as risk capital for future development. Sure, they can be encouraged. I believe it is appropriate for all financial institutions in Australia to be encouraged to put in capital, and in some cases risk capital, for future development, to achieve Australian ownership. But I think it would be quite inappropriate for Government to attempt to legislate such a provision. It is no small wonder, then, that the capital of business developers is all passing by Queensland when we have a Premier who is pronouncing such a socialistic philosophy. I ask what this Minister and this Government have done to stimulate employment in Queensland, and to encourage developers and development. It is no small wonder, as I say, with the Premier adopting the attitude he is, that developers are bypassing Queensland. The taxi drivers draw attention to this. As we drive around the metropolitan area, they ask where are all the cranes that we could see three, four or five years ago. We cannot see a crane on the skyline now. It was not long ago, when the National Party was in government, that we could look out any window and count up to 20 cranes. Everybody says now that development in Queensland has come to a standstill.

All of this has happened in a short period. This Government has achieved precious little in the 19 months it has been in office. To the contrary; it has achieved a loss of development. Many times in the Parliament, the Opposition has drawn attention to the opportunities in Queensland that have been lost to develop and provide additional employment. This year, Queensland has achieved an unemployment rate approaching 14 per cent in the Moreton statistical region, a region that is arguably Labor's heartland. What has the Government done about it? There is a continuing need to plan and provide for the escalating number of Queensland school-leavers seeking higher education. The number of persons seeking higher education last year was double that of seven years ago. Vocational education and training is an essential component of the educational process which will help to regain for the community the standard of living Australians once enjoyed. Vocational education and training will give many thousands of Queenslanders an opportunity to improve their lot in our society and at the same time contribute to the nation's economic recovery. What contribution will the Goss Government make to that escalating need for training and to the provision of job opportunities for the trained? When will the pre-election Goss rhetoric become action? Queensland is still waiting.

Try as he may to claim otherwise, this Bill makes it clear that the commission and, indeed, the corporation are, in the final analysis, creatures of the Minister. They are effectively departments under another guise. However, on behalf of the Opposition,

subject to the qualifications which I have made and subject to the qualifications which I shall raise again at the Committee stage, I support the Minister's commendation of the Bill to the House.

Mr SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton North) (3.09 p.m.): Amidst all the ramblings about State-owned butcher shops and Goss Labor Government promises, the honourable member for Auburn raised a point that obviously went over the heads of everybody here, namely, his obsession with contract employment in the colleges of TAFE in this State. It is a point that I want to take up. We all recall that, while in Government, the National Party promoted the notion of contract labour in teaching in this State and was resoundingly condemned by all sectors of the community for that proposal. The notion that all TAFE teachers ought to be on contracts was very interestingly explained by the honourable member. I think he said something along the lines that because those people would be put on contracts they would necessarily become much more efficient and versatile in their jobs. That is certainly not my experience. When uncertainty is put in front of people—which is what contracts do—they tend to become more introspective and toe the line and certainly do not show a great deal of creativity and initiative. Accordingly, I urge the Minister—not that I think he needs any urging—to ignore the pleas of the member for Auburn to put TAFE teachers on contracts.

I turn now to the Bill. As the previous speaker pointed out, it was a result of a very extensive Green Paper process. Having read that particular document, I did not draw the same conclusion as the honourable member did. He drew the inference that the decisions had already been taken and that the discussion paper really was not a discussion paper at all. I did not draw that inference. I think at least one glaring result that came out of that process and which is now reflected in this Bill is that, in terms of training, the needs of industry in this State have been sorely neglected. Therefore, there is a need for industry and the community generally to have input into that process. I am pleased to see that this Bill does in fact do just that. This Bill is a flexible and responsive reaction to a very serious problem that exists in our community. The Bill's central feature is the creation of a commission to replace the current QEVET arrangement. The fact remains that the commission will be better disposed to more appropriately discharge the responsibilities that this Government and, indeed, this State have in relation to training.

I turn now to competency based training which, as far as I am concerned, is at the very heart of this legislation. Australia is faced with competing in the world market and can no longer depend on tariffs, restrictions and a favoured position for primary products. Australia, and particularly Queensland, must become more involved in manufacturing and processing as well as in service industries, where value can be added and export earnings can be developed. A technically competent and reliable work force at all levels is essential to such a strategy. Every person in an enterprise, whether manager, supervisor, tradesperson, operator or labourer, must be able to carry out his or her job to a consistently satisfactory standard. Industry in Australia, especially manufacturing, must now implement new ways of organising, managing and carrying out work. The process of structural adjustment must be underpinned by a vocational education and training system which can deliver quality outcomes. In addition to quality, it is also important that these outcomes are reliable and consistent. To ensure these outcomes, it was quickly recognised that there is a need for training delivery, assessment and certification to be based on agreed national standards. That is reflected in this Bill. Thus, competency based training, or CBT as it is known, is an integral part of industry restructuring and in turn contributes to improving our international competitiveness. By training to national standards, portability of qualifications is much more easily achieved and, indeed, can be automatic on agreement between the States.

Competency-based training is a way of approaching vocational training that places primary emphasis on what a person can actually do as a result of training and as such represents a significant shift away from an emphasis on the processes involved in training. It is concerned with training to industry-specific standards rather than with a person's

achievement in relation to a group. There will be a need for changes to the present arrangements for delivery, assessment and certification of training. National standards developed by industry parties and endorsed by the National Training Board will be an important starting point for competency based training in Australia and Queensland. The move towards CBT started at a special ministerial conference on training in April 1989, at which the development of a competency based training system and the establishment of the National Training Board was endorsed. A joint working party of the Commonwealth, States and Territories prepared a report titled *A Strategic Framework for the Implementation of a Competency Based Training System*, which included in its recommendations the substantial progress towards a CBT system by 1993. The report was endorsed at a special ministerial conference on training held in November 1990. The Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, the Honourable Neville Warburton, was a party to this agreement, and the Queensland vocational education and training system is very much committed to the agenda of substantial implementation of CBT by the year 1993.

The National Training Board has been established with the charter to encourage the production of national standards relating to those specific industries' requirements which the board will endorse. The National Training Board is in its early stages of development. The majority of industries have not yet submitted their competency standards for endorsement. The board is actively encouraging the timely submission of standards by all industries. Ultimately, every CBT curriculum will use national standards developed by industry and endorsed by the board.

The Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education and Training, through its tripartite committees, has expressed commitment to the implementation of CBT in line with the national agenda. During 1989 and 1990, pilot programs of CBT were conducted in apprenticeship courses for cooks, electricians and motor mechanics. Several of the modules of training in the national metals and engineering curriculum were also piloted. Since September 1990, automotive mechanic apprentices have been taught and assessed under competency based training mode at Maryborough, Mount Gravatt, North Point, which is Bald Hills, and Toowoomba TAFE colleges. CBT trials for electrical apprentices commenced at Gateway (Eagle Farm) TAFE in July 1990 and at Maryborough TAFE in August 1990. Since 1990, cooking apprentices have also been taught under the CBT system at the College of Tourism and Hospitality in Brisbane and at the Townsville TAFE College .

An innovative training program involving CBT, modular training and recognition of prior learning was conducted at the Stanwell Power Station construction site. The Stanwell experience with CBT has focused mainly on the conduct of the carpentry or formwork apprenticeship program. Twelve apprentices were indentured at this site on a pilot CBT basis. The main features of this program—and I have some knowledge of this program; I was involved in its launching—include the assessment of apprentices' existing competencies, the design and provision of individual self-paced and competency based programs, the provision of a complementary on-the-job program, the assessment of accumulating competencies by a tripartite body on site and the linking of apprentice wages into the achievement of competency skills. This development at Stanwell represents a unique arrangement by which the practical application issues associated with CBT implementation can be addressed. Valuable lessons are being learned in terms of off-the-job and on-the-job practices. I applaud the people who are involved in that program. It has worked, and it has worked very well. What it does prove is the ability not only of TAFE- based projects but also of Commonwealth, State and local governments to cooperate in those sorts of projects. Through its CES office there, the Commonwealth has identified the participants. Basically, it is a blueprint for what we ought to be doing with CBT throughout Queensland. Again, I applaud those people who are associated with it. Of the apprentices who commenced on this program early in 1990, a number have successfully completed already, with others taking longer to achieve the same competencies. This apprenticeship, bear in mind, normally takes two years to complete.

Pioneering work with CBT has taken place at the Callide B Power Station at Biloela. Again I am familiar with this program. The TAFE system has worked jointly with the power station in developing CBT learning systems that are self-paced and computer based. The mode of learning has allowed shift-workers to access training in the skills required in power generation, utility work and trade areas. Workers are encouraged to access CBT as part of their work practice. The site is seen as a national model. The flexible learning processes being pioneered at Callide are now being considered in a range of industries both in Queensland and beyond. A steering committee was established within the bureau to oversee these projects and to evaluate them. A great deal was learnt from the pilot programs and the evaluation of them. As a result, the steering committee has been made responsible for coordinating the implementation of CBT in Queensland. To achieve this objective, the steering committee has developed a plan which will provide the opportunity for involvement of all interested parties in the successful implementation of CBT.

Areas such as delivery and assessment methods, the design of curricula, administration, self-development, buildings, equipment and facilities and funding will be considered in an integrated strategy of implementation. Planning for the effective and efficient use of CBT must necessarily be long term. But we are faced with the necessity of setting in place short-term solutions to address immediate requirements. Therefore, flexibility will be the cornerstone of providing CBT. The Bill before the House affords that sort of flexibility.

Industry involvement at the enterprise level and at the State level of employers and employees is a central thrust of this implementation strategy. For competency-based training to achieve its true potential, there is a need for extensive and ongoing networking between all players. Again the Green Paper process proved that that was the case. It needed to be user appropriate. Until now, that was not the way in which people perceived the TAFE system in this State. It was not seen as user appropriate and as able to receive input from stake-holders in the overall employment, training and vocational education industries.

As CBT becomes the normal mode for delivering training in Queensland, there will be a need to offer services such as flexible entry and exit from courses, student self-pacing and indeed a full, open learning facility. This will necessitate a new look at how students are directed to courses, how classes are managed, how results are issued and many other operational matters. Not least of these considerations is the future design of colleges, which may vary to a large extent from what they are today. I fully endorse that particular sentiment. Teachers and support staff will need to be trained and developed, as will the administrators of those institutions. A similar need for development exists within industry to enable those at the workplace to fulfil their obligations under competency-based training.

The actions taken to this stage and to be taken in future in Queensland indicate that the Queensland vocational education and training system is approaching the initiative of CBT in a sound and responsible manner and is operating within the parameters of the national agenda. By being flexible and innovative, while maintaining ongoing assessments, Queensland will not only play its part but also provide a lead to other States, which it does.

I want to deal briefly now with another point made by the previous speaker about the ability of State operators to compete with outside organisations. I want to make particular reference to a function which I attended in Rockhampton last Friday. That function was the presentation of certificates to successful enrollees in a course that had been run through the Queensland TAFE system. The project is about workplace rehabilitation and it is funded by the Workers Compensation Board, which is another responsibility of the Minister. As I understand it, TAFE was the successful tenderer in an open tendering system for the running of that program, which is aimed at providing employers with information about how rehabilitation will work under the new Workers' Compensation Act; moreover, providing information about the impact of the

Workplace Health and Safety Act. It is a very, very well-run program that runs over five days. I compliment Mr Barry Such, the rehabilitation adviser who is working with the program. It shows that TAFE is capable of conducting itself in that forum. It can and does compete very effectively. The contract that it secured in that instance was worth \$90,000. It shows in no small way how Government-based industries can compete when the playing field is level.

Mr Harper: The only question is whether it is level.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I fully accept the point about the playing field being level because often it is tilted against Government organisations.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SCHWARTEN: Often, it is. The honourable member should go out into the building industry and see if the playing field is not tilted. Around the State, shoddy people pay cash in hand and use second-rate materials when the Government has to pay award wages and all the rest of it. That is not a level playing field. That is a classic case of the Government not competing on a level playing field.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I have only a couple of minutes left, give me a go. My final point is that this shows that organisations, such as the Workers Compensation Board, that are under the control of the Minister, can access our TAFE colleges for the betterment of the wider community. In this case, employers will save as a result of attending those sorts of courses. The amount of down-time and so on that is caused as a result of accidents will be reduced. I endorse that use of our TAFE facilities in this State, for which the Bill will provide. I conclude by saying that the Bill will provide for the development of a highly skilled and adaptable work force in this State. That is long overdue. If we want to get a manufacturing industry in this State, we must have a skill base to access. In no small way, the Bill will provide us with that base. I support the Bill.

Mr SANTORO (Merthyr) (3.27 p.m.): The basic issue to be addressed when considering the Bill before us today is whether we desire a Bill such as this one to be progressive and prepare a platform for increasing the potential for economic development in Queensland in the nineties and beyond or to be weighed down by the historical baggage of elements of the current system, particularly in regard to apprenticeships. Although the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Bill 1991 has the appearance of making change, it fails to deliver in the important areas where fundamental change is required and where the Government should provide leadership. Even though we can acknowledge and identify with certain objectives of the Bill, there are significant areas where the legislation will fail to deliver and, unfortunately and in reality, the Bill will perpetuate the thrust of the present system.

I submit to the Minister that the basic objectives of a vocational education system should include: delivery of effective and efficient vocational education, training and employment services that are responsive to the needs of industry and the community; flexibility to meet the changing needs of individuals, industry and the community and the capability of responding quickly to those changing needs; flexibility with regard to entering the existing courses with formal transferable recognition for modules of training completed; and to assist in improving the competitiveness and productivity of industries. In addition, adequate arrangements should be made for consultation between the Government policy agencies and providers of vocational education and the other bodies involved in vocational education.

It has been acknowledged that the present system has failed to deliver to a considerable extent in regard to those important concerns, hence I believe that the initiative of the Government in issuing a Green Paper on the

formation of the TAFETEC commission in September 1990 was good. The Minister should be congratulated for adopting that course and issuing the Green Paper and for forwarding it to individuals and organisations with an interest in that area. That degree of consultation was appreciated, but why was a draft Bill not circulated in a similar manner? I know that, in the past, the Minister circulated similar Bills very early in the piece before they came before the House. I ask today: why did the consultation stop? Could it be that the Minister was given advice that he did not want to receive and thus thought it best that the consultation process should be discontinued?

I understand that, in relation to funding, the Minister received very strong representations from all groups that have an interest in and have been involved in the provision of vocational training that Government funding for vocational education and training provided in the Budget should be made available to the proposed VETE commission and that the commission should be responsible for the allocation of those funds to education-providers, both Government and private, on the basis of their ability to deliver training programs consistent with the objectives of the Act. The Bill obviously does not include that proposal, which again, I understand, was very strongly put to the Minister but rejected by him. Therefore, we can only assume that the Government intends to keep control of the purse strings and to provide funding almost exclusively to Government TAFE colleges in the traditional bureaucratic way.

I submit to this House that any organisation that has access to public funds needs to be accountable for the use of those funds. In fact, the use of public funds demands that they be accountable. By "accountable", I do not mean only in a financial sense where the correct procedures are followed; I include the notion that the funds are to be used in an efficient and effective manner consistent with the objectives of the Act. The best way to ensure that this occurs is to introduce a degree of market competitiveness into the system, not only between the Government and private sectors but also between all colleges in both sectors. Under such a system, colleges would apply to the commission for funding on the basis of the courses they are offering and the level of enrolments for those courses. Obviously, transitional arrangements would need to be introduced to cover the move to a new system, and this should not present any great difficulty. Initially, the colleges would need to be accredited, but subsequent emphasis should be on their ability to deliver outcomes determined by a body such as the training commission.

Over the last 20 years at least, the constant complaints that have come from apprentices and industry include—

- apprentices learn nothing at college;
- the college teachers are years behind the times;
- the equipment methods and techniques of the trades being taught are no longer used in industry;
- and
- many TAFE colleges are back in the Charles Dickens era.

I worked for the Queensland Confederation of Industry for three years and I heard these complaints constantly put forward around many conference tables. In addition, more and more employers and businesses are refusing to take on apprentices because of growing economic difficulties and uncertainty. Employers are reluctant to commit themselves to the fixed four-year term of the current apprenticeship system because of this economic uncertainty. The result of this trend is the significant growth in the use of group apprenticeship schemes even by large employers who in the past would have engaged such apprentices directly. These group schemes were intended to fill a gap in the system to encourage small employers to participate in trade training, not to act as surrogate employers for every organisation that wished to engage an apprentice. Additionally, many employers believe it is increasingly uneconomic to employ and train apprentices at all.

It should be apparent to all concerned that the current apprenticeship and traineeship system is too rigid and archaic. A new system for the 1990s is needed to ensure a continued supply of skilled labour for the future. The cyclical effect of business and confidence trends also affects the influx of apprentice and trainees, and something needs

to be done to smooth out the major skill shortages which develop when economic activity picks up. I suggest that nothing in this Bill addresses these fundamental concerns. In fact, it is more of the same when one of the objectives of the proposed legislation is "to regulate training including apprenticeship, traineeship and other training systems". Thus, from my point of view, the existing trade training system perpetuates the master/servant relationship, which in turn fuels the adversarial relationship and which epitomises and reinforces the historical view of the differences between capital and labour that is often put forward by members on the other side of this House.

This Bill does not change the present system, and in fact in a number of ways it increases the bureaucratic red tape when what is required is an approach that is more flexible and responsive to the needs of business and the professional public service. The question that should be asked at this point is: why should Government be so heavily involved in regulating training as it does with apprenticeships, and why is it expanding its influence in the area of non-trade traineeships through this Bill? I will come back to this point later in this speech.

The concept of competency is fundamental to a vocational training scheme. In my view, there has been no attempt to update the thinking from the eighteenth century. Whilst the Bill contains some of the right words regarding competency, the emphasis remains on the proposition that a certain period of time is necessary to learn a trade, regardless of one's ability. I was very interested to hear the comments made by the honourable member for Rockhampton North, because I agreed with many of the things he said, but I am not sure that this Bill will achieve the laudable objectives that he enunciated. While industry is moving rapidly towards competency-based assessment, the Bill perpetuates the concept of an indentured apprentice who will serve for a particular length of time and, at the expiration of that time, reaches trade status whether the person then has the skills or not. This system ignores the different learning rates of individuals and fails to make any assessment as to whether the apprentice has during the apprenticeship period acquired the skills that were intended to be acquired. It is firmly believed by practitioners in the field that the present system allows for an apprentice to become a tradesman without successfully completing college or without acquiring the necessary trade skills.

The fundamental changes that are required include the abolition—or at least a massive overhaul—of the apprenticeship system and a significant reduction in the bureaucratic red tape that has been set up to control the system. What is required is an integrated vocational training system of traineeships that include trade and non-trade streams. The concept of the minor being indentured to the employer for a fixed period of time should be abandoned as soon as practicable. The employer should agree to provide training so that the trainee will reach a predetermined level of competency and the trainee agrees to undertake the required formal and on-the-job training to achieve that standard. In such a system, the training commission could provide a model traineeship agreement that can be used by the parties to form the basis of the contract. To formalise the arrangement, a copy of the agreement should be lodged with the training commission, but there should be no other role for the commission in this regard. The notion that the commission should control the college attendance of the trainee should be rejected. When and where a trainee will attend a college should be the responsibility of the employer. The timing of the training should be such as to suit the operational requirements of the business and the availability of spaces in a particular college. The selection of the college to be attended should also be left to the employer to select from the colleges, that is, Government or private, which can provide the required training. This will bring an element of competition into the system that does not presently exist. This assumes, of course, that trade training is opened up to private providers which can be either enterprise based or at private colleges.

Funding for trade training should be available on an equitable basis to all providers and not only to the TAFE system. At present, all TAFE colleges offering a particular course are expected to deliver the same content in the same way, even though, from observation, some of the more distant colleges have made some effective innovations

to the way they deliver some courses, and I will touch on this matter later in my speech. While this may occur, there is no incentive for colleges to be better than other colleges because, no matter what their potential effectiveness, someone else will determine the number of apprentices who will attend the college and when and where they will be trained.

The view of the Liberal Party is that there should be an administrative framework which will encourage colleges and other providers to adopt flexible and responsive approaches to serve the local community of which they are a part. Such a framework would include TAFE colleges being granted significant autonomy in staffing matters which will involve transferring more responsibility for staff employment from central authorities to the TAFE colleges themselves. In this way the individual colleges can select the staff that they need to deliver the courses that there is a demand for from industry and the wider community. Colleges—both TAFE and private providers—should be allowed to compete on an equal footing to enrol trainees based on the offerings of the college and the efficiency and effectiveness with which they provide such courses. No college should have a guaranteed client base predetermined on a course or geographical basis by some central authority. In this way, those colleges that are flexible and responsive to the needs of industry and the community will be those that thrive and prosper. It is acknowledged that this will remove the certainty that presently exists for TAFE teachers in terms of employment and permanency of work location. However, it will open up new opportunities in the private sector for teachers with the right skills. Further, it will increase the pressure on TAFE colleges to ensure they are up to date with the latest advances in technology and methods, and to ensure the appropriate level of in-service training is provided to their teachers. Under such a system, I submit that the personal lot of teachers within the vocational training system will be better off. They will be better trained and, indeed, better motivated.

Consistent with the belief held by members of the Liberal Party in the user-pays principle, we support the proposition that some element of cost recovery should apply in the area of vocational training. However, the decision by the Minister earlier this year to impose TAFE fees is symptomatic of the ad hoc approach to reform of vocational education and training as expressed in this Bill and displays a gross insensitivity to the dreadful plight in which many young Australians today find themselves. I say that because when the Minister recently announced his new TAFE fee structure, he effectively signalled to potential TAFE students that even in these tough economic circumstances, they, as the future economic potential of this State and the nation, had a low priority in the eyes of his Government. Rather than provide funds from consolidated revenue to boost the TAFE system—as promised prior to the last election—another election promise was broken and increased fees were imposed on the people who are least capable of being able to afford to pay them, that is, students, many of whom are full-time and who are seeking to prepare themselves for what will be, under this Government, an economic recovery long in coming.

The Liberal Party again reiterates the call it made to the Government some time ago to reverse its intentions in relation to the increased TAFE fees. At the very least, the Government should implement a system which would see young trainees pay their fees at a time when they are benefiting from their training and, more importantly, at a time when they are employed and are therefore able to pay. By doing this, the Minister would be sustaining the principle of equality of opportunity, which is, and should be, the only great leveller in our society. I submit that the new TAFE fee structure presents a bureaucratic nightmare in terms of administration. Fee exemptions are so numerous that it appears that the students paying fees will be luckless individuals who now fall outside the burgeoning social service society. I suggest that the real cost of social services will be partly hidden—and an overstatement of the amount spent on technical education may occur—if TAFE students can merely opt out of paying fees on presentation of a health-care card. Shortly before participating in this debate, I was informed by a TAFE councillor that health-care card recipients may be students who are not entitled to full Austudy payments. He believes that most people who are not in full employment can obtain a health-care card. What a farce that makes of the system!

I now turn to the issue of decentralisation, which is a policy that is supported by all political parties in this Parliament. Queensland's economy relies principally on the mining, tourism and agricultural industries, which are based many miles away from Brisbane. This fact needs to be recognised in any vocational education and training system and appropriate strategies developed to ensure that distant area needs are accommodated. The basic assumption should be that TAFE colleges—Government and private—should be available to all, that is, equality of opportunity. The best way to achieve this objective is to place the delivery vehicles as close as possible to their clients. The Cairns college of TAFE is a classic example in terms of specific service delivery and has had tremendous success in terms of the relevance of the courses it offers because it is close to the people it seeks to serve. A good example is the great number of relevant courses offered for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. However, there are a number of factors that affect colleges outside of Brisbane that need to be considered, including: the distance of students from college campuses; the lack of easy access by students to public transport; the geographical isolation that presently separates them from many decision-making processes and policy formulation; the difficulty in accessing many head office services, such as professional development, marketing and promotion and relevant national seminars; the high costs involved in servicing remote campuses, including the transportation of students; and the additional costs of freight, communications and travel associated with colleges located away from Brisbane. All of these colleges have budgets. They are limited budgets, and the colleges often feel that these disadvantages are overlooked when their budgets are determined. Any system of vocational training, whether it is the current one or another based on what I have been saying, should take careful note of these special circumstances for TAFE colleges located outside the south-east corner of Queensland. Thus, it was very disappointing for me during my recent visit to Ingham to hear the protestations made by people who had been promised the construction and implementation of a TAFE facility in Ingham by the previous Government. It had been promised also by the Minister and his Government prior to the last election, but was cancelled in the last Budget. A few minutes ago, I spoke to the member for Carnarvon, who told me of a similar occurrence in relation to Stanthorpe. I ask the Minister to show more sensitivity in the future in his dealings with these people and their communities than he has shown to date.

One other area of the Bill that causes great concern to industry is related to the specific provision for the payment of superannuation for apprentices and trainees. At a time when youth unemployment has reached 35 per cent in some areas of the State and at a time when the Government should be providing encouragement to business to take on trainees, the Government imposes further costs and introduces another disincentive. This is sheer economic lunacy, and again shows the contempt that this Government has for employers. In his second-reading speech, the Minister casually glossed over this important provision, hoping, I am sure, that it will just sneak through. Perhaps during his reply, he may wish to tell us about the rationale for yet another impost on businesses. What the Government should be doing is specifically exempting from this additional cost the 15 to 19-year-old apprentices while they are undertaking training; otherwise, businesses operating at the margin may simply choose, as many businesses have done already, not to take on apprentices. Again, young people will be the losers.

Before concluding, I again wish to touch upon the issue of competency based assessment. The Bill proposes the establishment of an Accreditation Council, and this is supported by the Liberal Party. However, the emphasis is on the accreditation of courses with little emphasis on the outcome of the courses, that is, the skills achieved. There appears to be confusion in the minds of managers, legislators and vocational trainers between the manner in which skills are achieved and the skills themselves. Why legislate on training administration, syllabus, duration, etc., when all that is required is specification of the standard of performance that the student should achieve at the end of the course? Trainers have been describing the outcome of a training session using behavioural objectives, yet it is very rare to see the outcome of a course of training described in terms other than a description of the topics the course will include. Industry

managers need to know what a student can do rather than what he or she has been told.

Competency-based assessment is a process by which performance levels are defined in clearly stated behavioral terms. It is up to the training body to equip the student with the knowledge, attitudes and experience necessary for them to perform to that level. Not only does competency-based assessment give the employer an accurate expectation of a person's performance ability; it allows competition in the training industry to provide students with the desired competency at the lowest cost and in a variety of formats to suit the learning style of individual trainees.

As a consequence of the provisions contained in this Bill, the Liberal Party sees many problems ahead for the vocational training system in Queensland. Members of the Liberal Party hope that the Minister will see fit to review quickly some decisions made with only short-term goals in mind rather than with a vision of how the work forces of the future should be trained and what degree and quality of training should be achieved.

Time expired.

Mr LIVINGSTONE (Ipswich West) (3.47 p.m.): This Bill is a critical element in the future prosperity of this State. It is the final stage in the implementation of one of this Government's major pre-election commitments and will ensure a more effective operation of TAFE and senior colleges in this State. In September 1990, a Green Paper on the formation of a technical and further education, training and employment commission was issued to a broad cross-section of industry, the community and Government. In response to the Green Paper, a total of 119 submissions were received. In common with the member for Rockhampton North, I certainly do not agree with the member for Auburn, who claimed that the decision had already been made prior to the issue of that Green Paper. The extensive consultation process was of great assistance in the development of the proposed legislation.

This Bill seeks to establish the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission to advise the Minister on vocational education, training and employment strategies, policies and priorities which will complement State economic and social development. The commission will be supported by three standing committees. The Accreditation Council will be responsible for accrediting vocational education and training and providing independent advice regarding the quality of courses. The State Planning and Development Council will be responsible for providing independent advice to the commission on short and long-term priorities for vocational education, training and employment services, the application of available resources and the merit of providing services through the public sector or industry, or a combination of both. The State Training Council will be a tripartite body responsible to the commission for the detailed administration of all matters related to structured training and, in particular, apprenticeships and traineeships.

The apprenticeship system remains a vital source of initial skills development. Currently, more than 24 700 apprentices are employed in over 140 different trade callings. This is one of the few employment areas which, in the last year, has shown growth in employment, despite the economic recession. The traineeship system provides a second major source of initial skills development. Although the number of trainees is not currently increasing, the fact that more than 2 000 trainees are employed indicates that it is a substantial source of employment. In Queensland, almost 25 000 people are employed as apprentices or trainees. It is essential that those people receive protection to ensure that they receive the maximum benefit from their training. It is equally important that any proposed legislation to protect apprentices and trainees be flexible enough to ensure that it can accommodate the effect of award restructuring. Award restructuring includes, among other things, the defining of skills development for each employment classification level, with progression from one classification to the next being defined based on specific standards of competency. Clearly, the apprenticeships and traineeships are vital components of the award restructuring program. They provide

base level entry training into a trade and for a person to move between employment classification levels based on completion of a recognised training program.

Apprenticeships are becoming competency-based. Currently in Queensland, three competency-based apprenticeships are being piloted. Those apprenticeships are in the trade callings of cook, motor mechanic and electrical fitter and turner. The purpose of implementing the programs in only three trades was to highlight any difficulties in the legislation covering the apprentices or administrative procedures. In that regard, the programs have proven to be very successful. In addition to that success, industry has eagerly supported the competency-based apprenticeship system, as it meets the needs and requirements of industry and can be easily changed as industry techniques and procedures change.

A second effect of the award restructuring on the apprenticeship system related to the employment classifications in the 1990 State engineering award and Federal metals award. The new employment classifications resulted in national standards being stated for tradespeople in the engineering trades. Both the new employment classifications and the setting of national standards had enormous ramifications for Queensland apprentices employed in the engineering trades, which has resulted in all the apprenticeships in that industry being revised and restructured. Although engineering apprenticeships are not yet competency-based, the framework has been developed to allow implementation of a full competency-based apprenticeship system in those trades in the near future. Award restructuring has reinforced the importance of traineeships within industry. Some industrial awards utilise traineeships as the method of base-level entry into the industry. In addition, some industries have indicated that, in the future, articulation between traineeships and apprenticeships may be considered. The development and implementation of new traineeships is progressing. Currently, there are more than 45 traineeships in areas in which previously no form of entry-level training was available.

Principal changes in the proposed apprenticeship and traineeship legislation in the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Bill serve to accommodate the issues raised by award restructuring and competency-based training and to ensure that the system is flexible enough to meet the future demands of industry. These changes include improved flexibility in entry into the apprenticeship and traineeship systems; improved flexibility in exiting the apprenticeship system; provisions to allow for the introduction of competency-based training into the apprenticeship system; and provisions to allow flexibility in broad-banding of skills across trade areas. These changes will allow for the productivity of the work force to be improved while maintaining the high standard of apprenticeship and traineeship training.

Despite the changes in the proposed legislation, the principal function of legislation covering apprentices and trainees remains protecting them from exploitation. Previous legislation has been amended to include comprehensive provisions for the employment of trainees, including provision for a probationary period, termination and conditions of employment; provisions to ensure apprentices and trainees receive the benefits of industrial award superannuation provisions; and improved provisions for investigation of failure to pay wage or other entitlements or to provide tools of trade to an apprentice or trainee. Other changes to previous apprenticeship and traineeship legislation contained in the Bill are to administrative arrangements. These changes will streamline procedures, providing a more effective training system and a more efficient service to the community. It can be seen that industry is in the midst of a new era of development and implementation of training strategies. This will result in a substantial increase in the number of people participating in traditional vocational training systems such as apprenticeships and traineeships. In order to prepare for this increase and to provide an effective service to industry, entry level training arrangements must be made more effective and flexible. They must also be capable of meeting the diverse requirements that the effect of award restructuring is going to place on the system. The provisions of the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Bill will provide the framework to meet these challenges.

While speaking in support of this important legislation, I intend to bring to the attention of the House just a few of the many important innovations the Ipswich College

of TAFE has initiated under the leadership direction of Mr Steve Damm and his dedicated work force. Without doubt, the Ipswich college is second to none in fund-raising. It has been extremely successful in many business areas, which has been a tremendous experience for all the people who have been fortunate enough to have gone through the college. Many innovations in programs and delivery are increasingly recognised for the excellence they promote in learning. The modular program in metal fabrication has been widely accepted in local industry, and the experience gained in this trade will pave the way for other activities integral to the development of the principles and practices of award restructuring. Metal fabrication at the Ipswich College of TAFE is completed through a self-paced program which allows apprentices to progress at an accelerated rate while maintaining higher standards than in the previous lock-step system. Perhaps more importantly, the development of the course has ensured a higher level of contact with local industry and there is now considerably greater commonality in approach and standards. Similarly, the development of a new 10-week modular program in commercial studies has been popular with students. Again, the program is predominantly self-paced and is available in a number of formats which allow access to many additional students. The model developed at the Ipswich college is under consideration for implementation elsewhere within the State.

Since 1989, the college has had considerable involvement in the provision of associate diploma courses in business—management, general business studies, accounting and computing—as well as in child-care and social welfare. These courses were developed at system level so that access to tertiary education would be improved. I am happy to say that these courses have been most successful. As a result of their studies, many students have found employment in their chosen profession, while many others have gone on to university studies with advanced standing or credit for studies already completed in TAFE. When one hears that, despite extra places, some 29 000 students in Australia were not able to enter the university course of their choice in 1991, it is indeed important that TAFE options are available. It is pleasing that my colleague the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, the Honourable Neville Warburton, has recently announced a joint State/Commonwealth initiative which should create even more associate diploma places.

The Ipswich College of TAFE has also sought to improve its relationship with schools and to provide a broader range of curriculum options to secondary school students in Years 11 and 12. During 1991, some 400 students from private and public high schools will attend classes at TAFE as part of their education. Specifically, students attend programs in catering, hairdressing, construction, engineering and commercial studies. Further, this year some 1 000 students will be able to complete TAFE subjects in their own school setting. These recent initiatives have made TAFE more accessible to the public and allowed students to develop work-related skills without the inconvenience of travel. The high level of cooperation which now exists between the school and TAFE sectors is most encouraging and suggests that students must benefit from the exposure to more potential career options.

The business linkage and the support of the college community advisory council has given impetus to the college's operation of its own businesses. Like many other colleges, Ipswich operates a restaurant and hairdressing facilities which offer services directly to the public. More recently, the college has operated its own canteen facilities and bookshop and, with minimal outlay, a winery has been established at the Bundamba campus. It is the intention of the college to enter its products in this year's Royal National Association Show, and I wish it the best in this regard. Within the general community the college hosts and assists in sponsoring many events of significance to young people. In recent weeks the college hosted a careers market called Career 2000, which was attended by some 5 000 people. More than 70 exhibitors were present at the market, and it was most gratifying to see universities and colleges displaying their wares alongside private providers, professional bodies and other organisations offering career paths. I must say that the quality of displays and information provided was quite superb, and all involved deserve credit. Later in the year the college will conduct the fifth annual

Youth in Art festival. This festival attracts young people to a range of art options including painting, ceramics, graphic art, drama, screen-printing, creative writing, photography and video production in a series of one-week workshops during vacation periods. Again the community assists greatly in the formulation and operation of the festival, which never seems to want for creative input or administrative flair.

A final area of significant college activity has been the work of the construction students of the college who have built major facilities for a variety of organisations, including facilities at the Willowbank Raceway, south of Ipswich; shared workspace modules for the Ipswich City Council; and a duplex and two houses for the Housing Commission. All the students involved have benefited from the opportunity of being involved in "live work" activities and appreciate the very practical nature of the training provided. The local Ipswich college is an innovative and progressive organisation with a high growth rate and an excellent record in income generation to support additional training activities. The college is without doubt one of the very best colleges in all of Queensland. I hope this Bill will facilitate the further development of TAFE and ensure that the entrepreneurial spirit already evident in colleges continues. I support the Bill.

Mr ELDER (Manly) (4.02 p.m.): As the Minister outlined in his second-reading speech, the aim of the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Bill is to overhaul the framework for policy formulation and delivery of vocational education, training and employment services throughout the State. Vocational education and training is now recognised as an important factor in social and economic development. New arrangements arising from this legislation will optimise the contribution of vocational education and training to employment, social development and, in particular for this State, economic development.

We live in times of rapid technological and social change. We are no longer an isolated nation but, rather, one which is part of a global marketplace—a marketplace which is highly competitive and which is especially difficult for countries such as Australia that are outside established trading blocs. Products and services now have much shorter life cycles than they did just a few years ago. Overnight a competitive product can become obsolete as a result of advances in technology. Work force skills can also become obsolete very quickly because of changes in technology. There is a close link between the skills of our work force, the competitiveness of our companies and our own economic health. To improve and maintain our position in the world economy, we need to have in place a vocational education and training system which is responsive to change and which can provide our work force with continual updating and upgrading of skills.

It is not only technical skills which need to be nurtured. Perhaps of even greater importance is the cultural change needed in individual enterprises. New skills throughout the work force, right up to the chief executive officer of a company, are needed to ensure cultural change. Management and leadership skills are needed throughout an organisation to develop an appropriate culture. Rapid change in a turbulent competitive environment demands a close working relationship between business and Government to ensure that an adequate skilled and flexible work force is available to meet the challenges of the future. In the past, much of the training load has been carried by the public sector TAFE system. This system has a track record of responsiveness to labour market needs and it provides a wide range of courses, from apprenticeships through to advanced skills courses and associate diplomas. Rapid changes in technology have been met by the college system through the provision of courses in areas such as robotics, computer-aided design, computer graphics and business computing.

The increased importance of educational and vocational training within the framework of micro-economic reform gives rise to the need for a far more flexible and broad-ranging vocational education, training and employment system which has an increased commitment from the private sector. The public sector delivery system has increased its output considerably over the past few years. From 1982 to 1990 the total number of hours of tuition delivered to students each year has increased by about 80 per cent. Even with this increase there is a conservative unmet demand for vocational education

courses of about one-third the 1990 level of delivery. Fee increases recently announced by the Minister will be utilised to provide additional places to partially meet that demand. Structured training, such as apprenticeships and traineeships, sets minimum standards to be met by employers. However, there is a need to integrate in the colleges themselves training which happens on the job with that which is undertaken off the job. Otherwise the result can be duplication of effort by individuals, waste of time and resources for employers and the public sector training system, and unnecessarily long structured training programs. Competency-based training will reduce overlap and duplication, but more needs to be done to integrate on and off the job training to optimise the use of resources and to reduce training and retraining times. Establishment of the commission as outlined in this legislation will enable this issue to be addressed by the development of strategies which integrate a wide range of education and training experiences.

A priority for the commission will be to develop a policy which will ensure that maximum credit is given to people for skills that they already possess when they seek an updating or upgrading of those skills. This will require the availability of highly flexible training programs from the public and private sector providers. A recognition system which gives full credit for existing competencies and which encourages providers to have their programs accredited by the commission will encourage more people to update and upgrade their skills. It will also increase the portability of qualifications and provide people with much-needed mobility to enable them to move from employer to employer as the need arises.

A major challenge facing public and private sector organisations is the need to bring about cultural change. Competitive enterprises need leadership which is forward looking and visionary. Leadership gives rise to flexibility and responsiveness by the organisation to the changing market forces. Culture is not something that can be learned in the class room in the same way as, say, technical skills can be learned. It needs a different approach which involves at least teams of people in the enterprise, if not the whole staff. Cultural change involves not only immediate but also ongoing learning. Individuals need to take more responsibility for that learning. At the same time, the enterprise needs to become a learning organisation by learning from its successful and unsuccessful experiences and by a commitment to continuous improvement.

Training to cater for rapid technological change and changes in organisation culture demands innovative approaches. The public sector delivery system has been at the forefront in implementing some of these changes, including the use of technology in the delivery and management of vocational education and training. Curriculum development and the production of learning resources is now being undertaken much more on a national basis. This will result in consistency of standards across the States and will make it cost effective to use some of the alternative delivery technologies such as computer-assisted learning. Computer-based learning resources are expensive to produce but, when used by a large number of trainees, can improve the quality and consistency of training as well as the productivity of that training. Properly designed resources enable learning to be undertaken by students away from the traditional class room environment. This means that learning which once had to be undertaken at a college can now be undertaken at work or at home, as the case may be. This is more convenient for students, less expensive for employers who do not have employees away from the job at inconvenient times, saves on transport and accommodation costs where colleges are not accessible, and saves the public sector delivery system the cost of physical and human resources.

However, trainees still need a support system of tutors and mentors to guide them through learning experiences. This is particularly important where the learning is integrated with on-the-job training. It requires new training skills for workers who will be involved in the training of others. It also requires new skills to design and produce the learning materials. In addition, the whole system becomes more complex to manage and needs technology such as computer-managed learning to manage that complexity. All of this requires a close partnership between training delivery organisations and their clients. A major role of the commission, as we see it, will be to facilitate those closer working relationships.

As the post-industrial society emerges, wealth is becoming based more on information, knowledge and human skills rather than, as it has in the past, on natural resources. Because of its vast distances and sparse population, Queensland has a long experience of distance and self-directed learning. This expertise is well suited to the establishment of a significant resource-based training presence in the Asia/Pacific region. Opportunities are available for Queensland-based companies, but to be successful they will probably require a significant home market. The expected increase in training to answer the needs of micro-economic reform may very well create the critical mass necessary for the establishment of a viable training industry in Queensland. This can be assisted through the creation of a training market with private and public sector deliverers as major participants. The Queensland public sector delivery system has already taken significant initiatives to prepare for a more flexible, responsive and competitive training industry. I will cite some good examples.

The first is the centre for strategic leaders, a joint public and private sector venture between the department and Price Waterhouse Urwick which provides opportunities for executive and senior managers. The second is the Vocational Education, Training and Technology Centre, whose expertise lies in designing learning resources for clients to address special needs. There is a centre for advanced design and construction, which is looking at overseas opportunities in Queensland in the construction area. In addition, there are the open learning, change management and computer-managed learning programs, which are all flexible learning experiences and programs to assist and enhance and which will in the end enable Queensland industry to capitalise on opportunities in the marketplace.

The examples that I have cited demonstrate that vocational education and training is about more than apprenticeships and class room teaching. They demonstrate that the public system is changing to meet new challenges. Nevertheless, further changes are needed to meet the increased volume and diversity of demand on the vocational education, training and employment system. Establishment of a stronger training market in which both the public provider and private providers participate will further develop Queensland's capacity to respond to future social and economic development needs. The formation of the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission will encourage these innovations and in turn will provide a long-term strategic policy focus. It will provide market intelligence to public and private sector providers about the emerging strategic needs and opportunities for Queensland's social and economic development which needs a vocational education, training and employment response. It will also provide advice concerning areas in decline and publicly funded programs which may, in time, become overserviced.

The role of the commission will also encourage private sector growth in areas of emerging needs and eventually encourage joint ventures between the public and private sectors. The department will also seek—it has been seeking it for some time—to increase joint ventures, especially where there is a mutual training benefit to be gained and where there can be a sharing of resources for learning and production purposes. This will increase the utilisation of advanced technology and other expensive equipment and make more modern equipment available for both training and commercial use. Through the Accreditation Council, the accreditation role of the commission will also be significant in assisting the adoption of alternative training techniques. A fair and equitable system of accreditation will of course encourage providers to comply with standards to gain accreditation of their programs and registration of their particular training organisations. Accreditation will increase the credibility of programs and encourage people to undertake them. Through the establishment of proper outputs-oriented criteria for accreditation, the commission's Accreditation Council will be able to encourage the offering of flexible and open learning programs. Some of these programs can be expected to be developed for the overseas market as well as for the Queensland training market. I have dealt with only one area of the new initiatives that the Minister is bringing forward. The Minister said in his second-reading speech—

"The Queensland Government is committed to increasing tertiary education opportunities for people in this State."

He went on—

"This Bill is designed to create a more efficient and effective TAFE sector."

We all know that. With that small contribution, I commend the Minister for his initiative and support the Bill.

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes) (4.15 p.m.): I rise to support this Bill as it represents a major modernisation of the system of vocational education, training and employment in this State. It is a modernisation which has very tangible consequences for the economy of Queensland. To appreciate the economic significance of this Bill, we must look to the developments in Australia within the past decade. The past decade has been marked by a consciousness of where we are situated within this economic epoch. It has been marked by a consciousness of the need to change and to turn around the economic circumstances that had previously locked this country into the continuation of uneconomic business practices and unrealistic industrial practices. It is that consciousness which motivated Labor Governments in this country, Federal and State, over the past decade to turn that situation around so that we can go into the next economic period with a modernised industry and with an industry that has appropriate levels of micro-economic reform such that business can proceed on a sound economic footing.

It is the intent of this Bill to provide a culmination of those activities over the past decade in this State, in terms of vocational training in particular. It is the content of the Bill which provides for a responsiveness to the needs of industry and the community to provide for the framework for unions, the community and employers to come together, to work through those new training needs together on a cooperative basis and to end those days of confrontation between those parties.

It is a Bill which provides for the openness and equitable system of accrediting vocational education. It is a Bill which provides for a modern system to articulate between courses and to provide for cross-crediting such that we have a concrete manifestation of all those calls that we have heard over the past decade for career structures, for realistic remuneration structures within industry which will provide for cross-compatibility for workers wherever they work and from whatever area they come. It is also a Bill which enhances the streamlining of the apprenticeship system in conformity with those needs that have been expressed over the past decade.

The past decade has been marked by the major process of restructuring, industrial restructuring which has had its direct and tangible reflection in industrial award restructuring and the commensurate processes of rearranging the workplace that have been required over that time. An award and industrial restructuring process has brought into focus the relationship between industry, work organisation and training and the need for a more open, competitive training environment. There has been a growing realisation that people with broad and adaptive skills, rather than narrow-based training, will contribute most to the workplace productivity. The TAFE system, through the Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations, is responding with a range of training initiatives designed to satisfy the needs expressed, allowing it to function in a more open and competitive training environment. Those initiatives include the move towards modular, national, consistent courses such as the 350 module program of the national metals engineering curriculum, encompassing a wide range of engineering trade callings. This is one of the original and classic centrepieces of the award restructuring process that finds its manifestation within the TAFE environment in particular. The curriculum for the 350 modules has been developed by the department's Division of Curriculum Design and Development to reflect the move to competency-based training assessment outcomes. The successful implementation of this curriculum within the department will complement award and industry restructuring processes in Queensland.

Competency-based training and assessment is another major initiative being pursued in response to award restructuring. In Queensland, the department has already responded positively to its implementation. I note that, last year, the Minister endorsed the combined

ministerial conference recommendation that substantial progress be made towards a competency-based system of training and assessment by 1993. Implementation of modular competency-based training and assessment programs will increase the flexibility and responsiveness of vocational education and training within the bureau. Innovative curriculum design and development under the management of the department's Division of Curriculum Design and Development is being carried out in most vocational areas, with courses being developed in such diverse areas as electronics, mining, clothing, textiles and footwear, hospitality, agriculture and the health industry.

The development of responses to award restructuring is enabling the department to become more and more closely involved with industry and unions than ever before. Through the network of industry training advisory boards and the curriculum development committees, the bureau is consistently referring to industry and unions for comment and advice. Such tripartite committees are facilitating the linking of modular courses of training to industry competency standards and industrial awards. Award restructuring advocates the formal recognition of both on-the-job and off-the-job training with on-the-job assessment becoming increasingly more important. The department's trials of competency-based training have recognised the importance of such on-the-job assessment, as will its future courses. With the introduction of workplace assessor legislation, the department will find itself increasingly more involved in the assessment of skills both on and off the job. Competency-based training has seen the department become a major contributor to national training initiatives, and we can anticipate the incorporation of more national curricula into the department's programs in the future. That will bring with it corresponding national recognition of training programs and the need for greater consistency of training through TAFE Australiawide.

The department's contribution to national curriculum projects is widely acknowledged as being second to none. It has received national acclaim for such recent projects as the automotive mechanics modular integrated training system, the occupational health and safety bibliography, the workplace literacy program, typing skills for the visually impaired, Japanese language and culture for hospitality, and the national metals and engineering project resources. The department has significant involvement with the National Training Board in setting and attesting to competency standards as proclaimed by the NTB. Improvement of the links between school and TAFE is also seen by the department as an important part of its curriculum development strategy. Trials of cooperative programs have been undertaken in conjunction with the Education Department in which TAFE subjects have been incorporated into schools' curricula in the catering and engineering areas. Students successfully completing such subjects will receive full credit for them in subsequent TAFE courses. The local colleges in my electorate with which I have contact are keenly embracing the new developments. They must be credited for the very fine new initiatives that they are undertaking. They will fit into the regional structure very well. I am familiar with the Coorparoo campus and the South Brisbane campus. One of the major new initiatives that we are looking forward to is the new food technology building at the South Brisbane campus, which will relocate the Coorparoo campus apprenticeship courses and take some of the pressures off that campus.

Further, there is a college administrative restructure proceeding at the moment in relation to upgrading, or redesignation, in line with college restructuring projects and the formalisation of various permanent administrative positions within the college. One of the very fine new initiatives being undertaken, which is centred at the South Brisbane College of Tourism and Hospitality, is the contemporary music course. The recent publication of the Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations, *Forte*, which is the special edition for careers in 1991, sets out some of the details of the new Advanced Certificate of Contemporary Music. As the publication sets out, performance teacher, Rob Brock, indicated that the music industry wants to save a lot of aspiring musicians from the heartache and financial troubles that are part of making the break into that area. He indicated that the industry also wants to polish up its professional image. Although hospitality is big business in Australia and we have good food and wine, people ask, "What about the entertainment?" That is typical of the

new courses, the new innovations, within the department, which are keying into the very real demands in industry—the hospitality industry in this case—to provide well-trained workers who are competent, reliable and can fit in to the workplace niche in a very sound manner.

In years to come, the real benefits of that course will be apparent when we look to the additions to Australia's gross national product in dollar terms that are currently provided by the contemporary music industry. We see millions of dollars being contributed to Australia's balance of payments by a handful of people such as Midnight Oil and John Farnham. Although we cannot expect that that course will turn out people of that calibre next week, the overall impact in years to come will be very great. This is indeed a great initiative for the future of vocational education in Queensland. I am very proud and pleased to support the Bill.

Mr PITT (Mulgrave) (4.30 p.m.): Vocational education, training and employment services in this State are really vital elements in the Government's strategy to build upon the talents and skills of our work force. This is done in order not only that the State may be competitive in the marketplace, but also that a degree of satisfaction may be provided to workers in the role that they play.

The Bill before the House seeks to address long, overdue needs in the areas of the formation of policy and the delivery of service. The Bill comes after a lengthy period of consultation with industry, departmental officials and, of course, the community at large. I believe it was in September last year that a Green Paper on the formation of the Technical and Further Educational Training and Employment Commission was issued. The most important outcome of the large number of responses received was a clear indication that there should be strict separation of policy formation and regulation, and the actual system of delivery through establishments owned and operated by the Government.

The establishment of the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission will put in place a mechanism capable of satisfactorily addressing the requirements of policy and regulation. It is proposed that the commission advise the Minister in order that the Government's own priorities and policies in this area may best be meshed with the perceived demands of industry and the community at large. In his second-reading speech the Minister clearly pointed to many of those key areas where the advice of a commission at arm's length from the Government would prove to be invaluable. Those areas included strategic planning, labour market research, the formulation of curriculum policy, the allocation of finite resources, planning for programs of capital works, means of stimulating training by the industry itself and, of course, relationships with other providers of educational programs in the private sector.

It is proposed that the commission will have extensive executive powers which will enable it to oversee accreditation procedures for courses, as well as identify and monitor the quality of training received from private and enterprise providers. To do this, the Bill allows for the establishment of a number of standing committees. There are three in all. The first, the Accreditation Council, will have a charter enabling it to satisfactorily assess the quality of training courses, irrespective of the actual nature of the provider, be it Government or the private sector itself. To augment this, a State Training Council is to be established to specifically deal with matters involving apprenticeships and traineeships, that is, the established and formalised structured training avenues. The third important standing committee, that is, the State Planning and Development Council, has the important task of ensuring that available resources are directed in such a manner as to take advantage of those services which can be provided either by industry or Government or, in some cases, an amalgam of the two.

As the Minister has already said, it is not possible, nor is it desirable, for Government to take total responsibility for vocational education, training and employment activities. In reality it is more appropriate for Government and industry to work together—to complement each other—in order that the community may extract the best possible result from the limited resources and services available. From its point of view, the

Government continues to be committed not only to viewing tertiary education in exclusive academic terms but also to giving due recognition and impetus to trade and skills-based courses. As a consequence, the Minister's department has embarked upon a program designed to increase the number of places available in vocational education and training throughout the State through the Government's provider, that is, the network of TAFE colleges. The recent restructuring of fees will seek a greater financial contribution from those most able to meet it and will result, when matched with Federal funding, in an increased budget, bringing with it the opportunity to make TAFE courses available to a greater number of Queenslanders.

The Bill contains new provisions which have a direct bearing on this State's apprentices and trainees. Under this Bill, apprentices and trainees will have extended to them provision for superannuation entitlements that fall within their respective industry awards. This is truly significant, in that apprentices and trainees will then be in receipt of the same entitlements as are applicable to other Queensland workers under the Industrial Relations Act 1990. I also note that the Bill provides for a compulsory probationary period of three months for trainees. This compulsory period already exists for apprentices and it is an important step forward to have trainees placed on the same footing. This situation ensures that the employer is given prior notification of any particular matter which is to be placed before an industrial magistrate. I am sure that this alteration to the existing situation will be welcomed by all parties.

I now wish to speak briefly about the Cairns College of TAFE which is the major provider of this type of vocational training in the far-north Queensland region. The Cairns College of TAFE services a college region which is larger in area than the State of Victoria. The college district extends from its southern boundary at Babinda to the islands of the Torres Strait and the Papua New Guinea border in the far north and west to Normanton and the gulf. The main college campus is situated in Cairns, and it is recognised as one of the fastest overall growth areas in this State. It is estimated that over 15 000 residents of the far north undertake full and part-time study at the four campuses and at centres throughout the college region each year. The main campus is located at Cairns and other campuses are located at Mareeba and on Thursday Island where a new facility is currently being built. It is interesting to note that the construction of this facility is actually on target. There is a facility at Mossman/Port Douglas and a joint initiative at Weipa between the Government and Comalco. In addition, small training centres are established in Aboriginal communities on the cape that are mainly designed to facilitate enterprise development.

The Cairns region is one of the fastest growing and most popular tourist destinations in Australia and the college is playing a vital role through its programs in providing a well-trained work force to service particularly the tourism and hospitality industry. The tablelands campus at Mareeba offers rural, agricultural and horticultural programs, as well as full-time courses in areas such as business studies and other specialist service courses for industry. The main Cairns campus offers a wide range of programs up to associate diploma level within the following major schools of study—and I will list them—technology, business and general studies, tourism and hospitality, horticulture, a great variety of adult enrichment programs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, hair-dressing and cosmetology and art and cultural studies.

The Torres Strait campus is rapidly developing courses in business studies, technology, tourism and hospitality. Growth within the main campus, together with the developing satellite campus activities on the tablelands, the cape and Torres Strait, is enabling the Cairns TAFE college to make a major contribution to the social, cultural and, most particularly, the economic development of far-north Queensland. The future of the far-north Queensland region is indeed bright and many changes are about to take place. Throughout the next decade, despite the current recessionary influences, major regional growth can be expected to take place. There are certain significant features of that growth that will impact upon the need to continually assess and upgrade the courses and facilities available through the Cairns campus and its satellite facilities. The recent upgrading of the Cairns International Airport, which cost \$70m, is creating major increases in

international tourism as well as providing new overseas opportunities for exports. I might add that, as a tourism centre, Cairns has again reached the 1987 levels. As the Treasurer quite often states, Queensland will lead this nation out of the depression it is in right now, and I believe that the Cairns tourism sector is well and truly on the way towards doing that. Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hawaii, the west coast of the United States, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are all within a few hours' travel from Cairns, and the tourism industry is taking full advantage of that fact.

I was once quite critical of the fact that north Queensland seemed to have too many resort developments. It was often the case that hotel and motel rooms were vacant. However, it is amazing how this accommodation has filled in the last few years. When developers build tourism complexes, one wonders whether the area will ever attract enough people to fill them, but I am now of the view that the only way to go is to continue to develop the area. Major resort developments are being planned for far-north Queensland and, at this stage, they are being driven by the availability of overseas capital. This increased development will make more demands on tourism and hospitality courses offered by TAFE.

Major expansion is taking place in the agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture industries throughout the region. This has come about as the more traditional crops have given way to more diversified agricultural bases. In addition, if the Federal Government gives its approval and the assessment instrumentalities give the go-ahead, the Tully/Millstream hydroelectric power scheme will get under way in far-north Queensland. It is a project that I have always supported, and I hope that good sense will prevail, enabling that project to become a reality in the not-too-distant future. There also exists the possibility of a commercial space base on the cape. If that comes to fruition, it will also place demands on tertiary institutions because skilled people will be needed to back up the associated work force. The Federal Government has decided to establish the Scherger air force base, and its establishment will also be assisted by training offered at colleges such as the Cairns TAFE College. The bauxite mining company, Comalco, is planning to construct an alumina refinery at Weipa at a cost of \$1 billion. I understand that at this time the project has reached the feasibility stage. Cairns is rapidly becoming a major service area for large off-shore mining projects in Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya. Recent waterfront reforms in Cairns may continue to make the port an attractive proposition for mining development companies, and, if that is the case, a much greater development of industry will occur in Cairns. Papua New Guinea is increasingly seeking training and support from its nearest Western neighbour, which is Australia. Which better region than far-north Queensland can provide basic training through enterprises such as TAFE colleges? All these developments will impose greater pressures on the TAFE college in Cairns and its satellite facilities. I believe that the Government will have to be prepared to meet the huge demands that will be created in the future.

I now turn to speak briefly to the issue of accommodation. It is a fact that wherever a tertiary institution of education is located—irrespective of whether it is a university or a TAFE college—a problem in relation to accommodation always arises. In far-north Queensland, there is an additional problem caused by the fact that it is a tourism area, which makes temporary or low-cost accommodation hard to come by. During the last 12 months, the TAFE college conducted a survey on student accommodation. Questionnaires were sent out to students of the Cairns TAFE college, and two distinct groups of students were surveyed. The first group were those who were studying voluntary, full-time certificate and diploma courses and the second group consisted of those who are studying as part of a traineeship block, that is, they were sent to college to fulfil a training requirement. The aim of the survey was to find out the type of accommodation being utilised by students, the method used for locating that accommodation, the costs incurred and any problems associated with finding suitable accommodation. The final question in the survey was whether a student hostel would be acceptable to students, if it were available. The results of the survey were very interesting indeed. There were 197

female and 131 full-time male students in the certificate and associate diploma courses who completed the questionnaire in class-time, and together they made a total of 328 students, which is a fair sample. Their ages ranged from 15 years to over 21 years, and 72 per cent of those students were 18 years old or over—the official adult age. It is interesting to note that 63 per cent of the students came from Cairns and the immediate districts, that is, Gordonvale, Kuranda and the northern beaches. The remainder came from other areas in Queensland and a few came from interstate. The group from outside Cairns totalled 115 students in the survey. While 37 per cent of the students live at home with their parents, 13 per cent—the established, mature-age students—live in their own homes. Another 13 per cent of Cairns-based students live away from home. There is also a small number of students who live at home solely because of financial constraints. I am sure that those students would prefer to live more independently of their parents. Boarding, either with relatives, friends or private families, accounted for 20 per cent of the students, and shared accommodation accounted for 21 per cent, and they were the most common solutions to the accommodation problem. However, a few students resorted to renting caravans, and some lived in hostels, such as YAL and Aboriginal hostels.

To find their accommodation, most students surveyed—59 per cent—used the network of their family or friends, whereas 27 per cent relied upon newspapers and 7 per cent—perhaps the more affluent of them—relied on real estate offices. Major problems were identified as the high cost of accommodation—44 per cent—and proximity to the college—19 per cent. Anyone who has seen the Cairns TAFE College would know that it is surrounded by what is called the Cairns central swamp area, which is not likely to be developed in the near future. Therefore, close and handy accommodation for students of the TAFE college is not easy to come by.

Approximately 46 per cent of students are financially supported by either Austudy or Abstudy, although 21 per cent of them rely upon family support and 20 per cent of them have taken up part-time work as well. Those students who are not on Austudy or Abstudy are supporting themselves mainly by work and by drawing upon savings. Moneys paid for accommodation range from \$37 a week for students living at home—the lucky few, many of whom pay nothing—to \$58 a week board outside the family home, including meals. Students renting accommodation pay approximately \$63 a week on a share basis. The financial advantage of full board over share accommodation is quite strong. That information demonstrates the need for a hostel of some sort to be supported by some instrumentality. The other group surveyed was trainees. They are supported at college by wages, living-away-from-home allowances, where applicable, family and savings. Those people are directed to attend college. Therefore it is not necessarily their choice to come to Cairns. Of 54 trainees surveyed, 28 came from outside the Cairns district. Those students supported totally the concept of student hostel accommodation being provided. They expressed having the most difficulty in locating suitable accommodation, and they are utilising a variety of accommodation types. That group presents a special need for appropriate accommodation while they are studying at the Cairns college.

I draw the attention of honourable members to the three conclusions of the report. The first conclusion was that a significant proportion of TAFE students come to the Cairns TAFE from outside the immediate residential area. A growing number of people are utilising the facility. The second conclusion was that cost and proximity to the college are the two major problems for students seeking to find suitable accommodation. The third conclusion to be drawn was that there is a strong demand for suitable student accommodation both for medium to long-term students—20 to 40 weeks of the year—and for short-term students carrying out block training who require five to seven weeks' accommodation.

Although it is not possible or even reasonable to expect the Government to solve student accommodation problems on its own, it is important that the college be given the financial support necessary to come to grips with that particular problem. It was interesting to note that, following the Cabinet meeting held recently in Cairns, the

Premier announced that Cabinet had approved a \$3.5m project to provide new interim facilities for the Cairns campus of the Cairns College of TAFE. A newspaper article stated—

"Currently, Cairns campus students share established facilities at the Cairns College of TAFE. The new facilities will include a 200-seat lecture theatre, four lecture rooms and accommodation for about 30 staff.

Construction is due to be completed by the first half of next year and the facilities will revert to the College of TAFE once work has been completed on the first building on the 53 ha proposed Cairns university site at Smithfield, north of Cairns."

The push for a stand-alone university campus in Cairns will have an indirect beneficial spin-off for the Cairns College of TAFE.

In conclusion, the Minister is to be commended for the manner in which he has, since assuming his portfolio, taken industrial matters in this State out of the Dark Ages and set the foundation for a far more enlightened industrial scene. The Bill focuses squarely on the future. It addresses the concerns of the work force of the next generation and, at the same time, forges that all-important partnership with business and industry that is vital to the economic future of this State. I therefore support the Bill.

Mrs EDMOND (Mount Coot-tha) (4.50 p.m.): I rise to support this Bill, which overhauls vocational education, training and employment services, and to congratulate the Minister for introducing it. This Bill aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the TAFE sectors and, by doing so, to increase the tertiary education opportunities and the industrial relevance of training provided.

It has always been a concern of mine that Queensland has relied so heavily on importing skilled labour rather than adequately providing the appropriate training for our own youth. For too long there has been a suspicion of all education and training that pervaded the decision-making of Government, and Queensland has taken the cheaper option to the detriment of its own people—in particular, its own young people. I welcome moves to recognise the importance of a highly skilled work force in today's socio-economic climate and, also, that training for this work force should be provided in Queensland and made relevant to the changing needs of industry and the community. This Bill has evolved from an extensive review process that began with a Green Paper issued in September 1990 and involved industry, the community and Government.

This Bill will encourage the work of those TAFE colleges which have endeavoured to be innovative to meet industry needs, to fill the gaps in training and to ensure that other TAFES follow their lead. I am delighted to say that the Ithaca College of TAFE belongs to the former group of colleges, and much credit must go to the director, Rod Millican, now on secondment to the department, the acting director, Alan Betts, and their dedicated staff. TAFE colleges play an important educational role within the community, but it was actually the community activities of the Ithaca TAFE that brought it to my attention some six years ago when it helped the p. and c. landscape the Ithaca Creek State School in time for that school's centenary celebrations. They have continued those live-work community projects and I know that many other schools, including The Gap State High School, have also benefited from their landscaping ability. In recent times, they have built seating areas at Kenmore State High School, extensions to the Beachmere Youth Club, toilet blocks at the Pullenvale recreation area, and pergola and paving, garden beds and barbecues at Mount Maria school, as well as a diversity of other community projects. Woodworking teachers from Ithaca also donated their time and expertise to restore the old gates at historic Fort Lytton. Just recently, they offered to me a beautiful hand-made silky-oak card table to be used this year for fund-raising during the Australian Kidney Foundation appeal. I commend them for their continuing excellent community spirit and place on record my sincere appreciation.

The Ithaca TAFE's principal function, of course, is as a provider of quality tertiary education. Ithaca TAFE is a multipurpose facility which was opened in the mid-1970s

and has an enrolment of over 10 700 students on a full-time or part-time basis. About 20 per cent of these are apprentices. There are two campuses, one at Red Hill and the other at Grovely. Ithaca is the sole provider of the specialist apprenticeship programs of cabinet-making, French polishing and upholstery for the furniture industry, and spray painting, motor body building, panel beating and motor trimming for the motor vehicle industry. It is also the only TAFE to offer a boat-building apprenticeship. The spray-painting facilities have recently been upgraded to enable the painting of buses.

For those wanting a career in computing, Ithaca TAFE is the only TAFE to offer a full diploma of applied science in computing, and this has proved to be very popular. As proof of its commitment to teaching in the information technology field, Ithaca has refurbished a building and invested in 72 terminals. It concentrates on personal computer systems and small minicomputers, but also includes the theory and practical skills to adapt to mainframe systems. The college also offers four diplomas in business, accounting, marketing and management. The Grovely campus of Ithaca TAFE is the metropolitan centre of excellence in horticulture, providing training for those wanting to work in plant nurseries or in the areas of landscaping, greenkeeping, fruit and vegetable production or parks and gardens. It also provides courses in commercial floristry and in rural skills. This TAFE has illustrated exceptional qualities and leadership in its field by showing initiative and providing courses as needs have emerged in industry and the community. This responsiveness to voids in available training programs has seen the initiation of a diversity of courses, such as the only certificate in Australia in laboratory animal care and veterinary nursing and crane and plant operator programs, and close cooperation with the North Brisbane Adult Literacy Centre, which operates from one of Ithaca TAFE's houses.

Ithaca TAFE has been prepared to be innovative and to tackle the new technologies. It has opened Australia's first renewable energy centre. This facility was designed to help educate and train technicians for the renewable energy industry and now has some 70 part-time students. The centre also conducts industry seminars and teacher and community education programs. It is an interesting facility which itself applies and demonstrates renewable energy and energy conservation technologies. These include remote area power supply systems, solar efficient building designs, solar and wind water-pumping systems, composting toilets, building insulation, water conservation and waste water treatment. I encourage all members interested in energy conservation and alternative and renewable energy usage to visit this facility. Ithaca TAFE has shown the role that excellent and far-sighted TAFEs can play in the delivery of vocational education, training and employment services in this State. This Bill provides the framework for employers, unions and the community to advise the Government on vocational education and training needs and priorities and ensuring that other TAFEs can follow a path similar to that of Ithaca. I support the Bill.

Hon. N. G. WARBURTON (Sandgate—Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (4.58 p.m.), in reply: Firstly, I would like to thank all honourable members for their interest in and contributions to this debate. In particular, I would like to thank the members of my parliamentary committee. I believe that their contributions today put to rest many of the concerns raised in this debate by members of the Opposition. The Government has a very clear commitment to working with industry and the community towards improving the skills of the work force. In order to establish and maintain that work force, we require a vocational education and training system which is relevant to industry and which will assist Queensland industry to gain an advantage, hopefully, over our trading competitors. I believe that this Bill provides an appropriate legislative framework within which vocational education, training and employment services in this State can be made more relevant, responsive, effective and efficient. In short, I believe the Bill is more in tune with the Government's agenda for economic and social improvement.

The Government has been cognisant of the needs of industry. The membership of the commission and its standing committees reflects the important role that the stake-holders can, and I believe must, play in the formulation of vocational education and

training policy. Greater emphasis has been placed on the role of the local community. I raise this specifically, because Mr Harper spoke about it. I repeat what I said: greater emphasis has been placed on the role of the local community in advising college management on vocational education and training needs at the local level. This emphasis is demonstrated by the inclusion of legislative provisions which outline the membership, role and functions of the college councils. That was not present in previous legislation. The Government has provided the necessary framework to address matters which impact on vocational education and training services, such as technological advancement and competency-based training, another subject which was talked about by a number of speakers today. Of course, the Bill also provides for a flexible and wide-ranging vocational education and training system that can satisfactorily meet the needs of industry and is complementary to developing employment opportunities. The Bill also provides much needed added protection to apprentices and trainees, and that protection is consistent with that available to other employees through industrial relations legislation.

A number of honourable members expressed some concerns, and I will endeavour to respond to them. At the outset, I direct my comments to Mr Harper. Certainly neither his political party nor the Liberal Party can in any way be proud of their financial contributions to TAFE during their period of office. It has been the lack of sufficient State Government funding for at least the last 10 years, before we came into office, that has been responsible for a substantial unmet demand in this State, and that has led to TAFE colleges desperately trying to do the job with insufficient funds. The end result of insufficient State funding has been insufficient Commonwealth funding.

Mr Littleproud: You haven't made any more available.

Mr WARBURTON: Yes, we have; we had a 13 per cent increase in the last Budget. We have managed to bring about a more efficient system. We have more students in our colleges, and we have managed to make arrangements with the Commonwealth that never occurred under the previous Government. I suggest that TAFE is now a long way more efficient than it was when the honourable member's party was in power in this State.

The honourable member for Auburn mentioned capital works. The member for the Ingham area is not here, but I believe he mentioned what he suggested was a promise made by the previous Government. For the information of honourable members, I point out that the capital works planning schedule for the Bureau of Employment, Vocational and Further Education and Training, as it is at the moment, is reviewed regularly by the priorities executive and the QEVET board. They will stay in place until the legislation is proclaimed. These groups include representatives from industry and from the wider community. There have been no major changes in the membership of these bodies since this Government was elected. With respect to the projects that were mentioned, I believe they involved Ingham and Airlie Beach——

Mr Harper: And Dalby.

Mr WARBURTON: I will come to Dalby. I recently had an officer from my department travel to Ingham to discuss the requirements of the Ingham community with representatives of that community, and I expect to receive that officer's full report in the very near future. However, I must say this: preliminary information does indicate that it would not be efficient to provide what we call a full college in Ingham. Consideration needs to be given to the development of facilities that can be used in conjunction with secondary schools in the Ingham area. My department will continue to investigate the requirements of that particular area and will be seeking to provide recommendations on the most cost effective solution which can possibly be provided. At this stage I am awaiting a report, so I cannot give a final answer to the queries raised. However, we have taken steps to talk to the local community and meet the community's needs.

Mr Littleproud has spoken to me about Dalby. He brought a deputation of people to meet me on one occasion. As he would know, there is already a highly regarded rural training school operating in Dalby and, as he will also appreciate, rural training schools

come within my jurisdiction. In my opinion, any vocational and further education facility which is provided at Dalby needs to be closely linked to the rural training school. I believe, having now looked at the position carefully and knowing all the facts, that establishing a separate vocational education and training facility at Dalby would be irresponsible. It would be impossible to justify.

Mr Littleproud interjected.

Mr WARBURTON: I am telling the honourable member the facts. If he wants to write another article about me, he can do that, too. I am saying that I believe that establishing a separate college over and above the rural training school—and it is a very good training school that can be expanded—would be irresponsible, and it would be impossible to justify the cost-benefits of that solution. I personally consider that the most appropriate solution for Dalby will be to establish facilities there that can be utilised by the rural training school and by secondary school students. Both of those issues are currently under consideration, and I assure the House that they are not, as some reports seem to suggest, being ignored. The honourable member also indicated that he was fearful that under this legislation the commission could be somewhat subservient to the Minister.

Mr Harper: The provision is there.

Mr WARBURTON: Let me simply say this: the commission is being established to provide strategic advice to the Minister on vocational and educational training priorities within the State, and for that reason I know the honourable member would agree that it needs to have an extremely high profile within the community and needs to be made up of committed, high quality and well qualified representatives from industry, from employee groups and from the community. I believe it would be absolute folly to suggest that a body such as that, which will be very carefully put into place and which will be there for everybody to see, would be subject to improper directions or influence by any Minister.

Let me cite some further evidence of what I believe is our commitment to accountability. The honourable member should know that the Bill provides that all directions that are given to the commission by the responsible Minister must be in writing and, further, that any or all such directions have to be published in the commission's annual report, which is also required to be made public by being tabled in this House. I do not think any Minister will get away with any nonsense if in the future he decided to interfere—

Mr Harper: I didn't suggest that.

Mr WARBURTON: No, I am not suggesting that the honourable member did. However, I want to make it clear that I think that is a degree of accountability that is beyond reproach or criticism. The very fact that a Minister's directions have to be made public in a way such as I have indicated is a clear indication of the accountability that is built into that particular provision.

My only comment in relation to the remarks made by Mr Santoro is that he seems to want a more competitive and perhaps privatised vocational education and training system. That does not surprise me, because he is a great supporter of the New Zealand industrial relations system. He would obviously be aware that a system similar to the one that he expounded in this place did exist or does exist in New Zealand. Under that system, many of the colleges have gone to the wall financially.

Mr Santoro: I never said a word about the New Zealand industrial relations and training system.

Mr WARBURTON: Of course the honourable member did not. I am just saying that he was a supporter of the industrial relations system that operates in New Zealand. That is a well-established fact.

Some discussion has taken place about competency-based training. I want to assure those who may have some concern about it that I have been working with the Commonwealth in combining the apprenticeship and traineeship system and extending it to other occupations. In the near future, a discussion paper on that particular matter will be available. Obviously, as a result of that, a consultation process will be conducted in conjunction with the Commonwealth, and people will have an opportunity to have their say. Once again, I thank all honourable members for their contributions. I thank the Opposition spokesman for his support for the Bill.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (5.12 p.m.): I move—

"That the House do now adjourn."

Kangaroo-shooting

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory) (5.12 p.m.): The issue that I want to address this evening relates to the new laws that have been drawn up by the conservation Ministers in this country regarding the shooting of kangaroos. Those laws stipulate that kangaroo-shooters must shoot kangaroos directly through the head as it is the most humane way of killing them. I agree that it is a humane way. However, at times, especially at night-time when most roos are shot, professional shooters have great difficulty shooting kangaroos through the head. At night-time, some shots go astray.

The issue that I want to address is the stress that kangaroo-shooters suffer because of this new law. For a long time, kangaroo-shooting has been traditionally part of the primary industries of this country. During that time, kangaroos have always been heart shot. I would say that, of all the kangaroos that are heart shot, 99 per cent are total kills.

Mr Dollin: You put holes in their skin. You should shoot them in the head.

Mr JOHNSON: I am talking about the humane side of kangaroo-shooting.

Mr Nunn: We'll see.

Mr JOHNSON: Yes, we will see, all right. Because of this idiotic, crazy law, the kangaroo-shooting industry has now been put in jeopardy. I remind honourable members that many of the people in the industry are true professionals who understand the industry and who have been great contributors to the amount of revenue that has been derived from it. However, I point out that, at present, I am talking about the humane shooting of kangaroos. I remind the gentlemen on my left, who think they know all about it but do not, that many of the roos that are head shot are not shot properly and it is possible that some of them will take six to eight weeks to die. And they call that humane! I want to bring this matter to the notice of the Parliament and to the notice of the conservation people on the other side of this House who think that conservation is a real issue. It is an issue that worries me greatly.

Mr Prest interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: Some of the numbskulls opposite, such as the member for Port Curtis, would not have a clue. I am talking about humane shooting. As I have said, the kangaroo-shooters who shoot roos through the heart are true professionals. They ensure a clean kill. I believe that the law should be revised and that it should revert to its original form so that shooters are allowed to kill kangaroos with a heart shot.

Another issue that I want to address in relation to kangaroo-shooting is the tagging of kangaroos. It has been pointed out to roo-shooters that they must tag kangaroos in

sequence; that is, they must shoot 20 kangaroos, which is what the law stipulates, and then tag the female roos in sequence, say, 1 to 10, and the male roos, say, 11 to 20. This is absolutely crazy. I point out that many of these kangaroo-shooters are illiterate people. I remind the House that I am giving the facts and telling the truth.

Mr Prest interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: The honourable member would not have a clue.

Mr Palaszczuk: Are you a kangaroo-shooter?

Mr JOHNSON: I have done a bit of shooting.

Mr Prest: Are they graziers' sons that you are talking about?

Mr JOHNSON: No, I am talking about professional roo-shooters. Prior to this law being drawn up—and it was approved by the Conservation Foundation—some of these people might have voted Labor. I can tell the honourable member now that they do not vote Labor any more, because Labor has wiped out the industry.

Mr Prest: A fair go for the kangaroos.

Mr JOHNSON: I trust that the honourable member and other people on his side of the House who were in favour of this idiotic law will realise the problems confronting roo-shooters. Today, many people have been eliminated from the industry. The money which they made out of the trade is not there. At one time, there was a 99 per cent kill. That kill is now down to 85 per cent. It is not humane any more. I ask people on the other side of the House who use this——

Time expired.

Aboriginal Tourist Guides

Mr PITT (Mulgrave) (5.17 p.m.): I rise in the House today to lend my support to a proposed scheme to train the Malanbarra people as tourist guides. The Malanbarra Tribal Aboriginal Corporation represents a significant proportion of the Aboriginal population within my electorate, most particularly those whose ancestors occupied the upper reaches of the Mulgrave River and its major tributary, the Little Mulgrave. The Malanbarra people are a clan of the Yidinydji who lived in the rainforest on the coastal plains to the south of what is now Cairns. They were also present on the tableland, extending their territory as far as Kairi. The name "Malanbarra", when loosely translated, means "people belonging to the large flat rock". This is particularly apt when one takes into account the rocky nature of the Mulgrave River in its upper reaches.

The pilot scheme put forward should, if adopted, enhance the expertise of the Malanbarra tourist guide service. The guide service is one department of the Malanbarra Tribal Corporation, which is administered by a committee of management in consultation with nominated elders. The aim of the program is to establish a professional level of knowledge and presentation in the Malanbarra guides. It is important that suitable standards be achieved if a commercial enterprise showing paying tourists through World Heritage areas and traditional Malanbarra lands is to be successful. Of course, the project is seen to be part of a much larger goal of reaffirming the Aboriginality of the area.

It is proposed that the training program be conducted over a three-month period and be specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Malanbarra people and those they wish to have trained as tourist guides. It is intended that the program stretch over a three-month period consisting of four distinct stages. The first stage, that is, the first two weeks of the course, will enable students to review the history and cultural aspects of the Bama—the Aboriginal people—of the Cairns rainforest region. Emphasis is to be placed on the relationship between Aboriginals and Europeans since the arrival of the Europeans or Gadga. It is envisaged that an oral history program be presented to the trainees to complement the knowledge they will obtain in the field with the Malanbarra

elders during a later stage of the course. In the second stage, quite sensibly the program also includes an intensive first-aid course to be conducted by the Saint John's organisation. This is a must, considering the terrain to be traversed and the numbers of people it is anticipated will take advantage of the opportunity offered by the guided tours.

During this stage, two excursions will be provided for trainees. The first is to the Flecker botanical gardens where studies of flora to be encountered in the tour area are to be undertaken. This is followed by a cultural excursion to Kuranda where the trainees can obtain first-hand experience with the Tjapukai Dance Group who are widely recognised for their professional interpretation of Aboriginal dance. To round off this stage, a map reading and compass use course is envisaged, along with practice on field trips in the upper Mulgrave area.

In the third stage of the course, students will spend three weeks on the Yidinydji trail and four weeks on the Bala Dingalbarra trail in the company of tribal elders. It is proposed that this intensive fieldwork will give trainees greater knowledge of traditional Aboriginal customs. To assist the elders, guest lecturers will be invited to join the group. They include highly respected people such as Dr Tony Irvine, Mr Rob Jago, Dr Nicky Horsfall and Dr Jeanette Covacevich. For the long-term success of the venture, it is important that those who will become guides are indeed in tune with their own Aboriginality.

Consequently, the topics to be covered are especially tailored to the area in question and are of sufficient breadth to provide the trainees with a detailed fundamental knowledge which will stand them in good stead when explaining the significance of aspects of note. Topics include story waters; language names; customs; plant use, both medicinal and edible; animal life; construction of Djungal, that is, rainforest housing, and Bayu, that is, open country housing used by the original inhabitants; construction of stone fish traps; artefacts particular to the area; identification of corroboree grounds; and historical details of post-European contact incidents. During the fourth stage, the final week of the program will involve trainee guides in running trial guided tours along both the Yidinydji trail and the Bana Dingalbarra trail. During this process they will be accompanied by supervisors whose purpose is to assess their performance as the final stage in accreditation as fully qualified Malanbarra guides.

The members of the Malanbarra Tribal Corporation are particularly excited about this course as they see it as a positive step towards establishing a commercial enterprise in the area. The benefits are twofold. Not only will financial gain result but, more importantly, this dedicated group of Aboriginal Australians are taking the opportunity to re-establish their traditional roots in such a way that will not only benefit themselves but also give European Australians a much needed insight into the culture and customs—

Time expired.

Demonstration outside Parliament House

Mr DUNWORTH (Sherwood) (5.22 p.m.): On 29 May this year, this Parliament, which is listed and consequently protected under the Heritage Buildings Protection Act, was attacked by a rabble purporting to represent Aboriginal people who not only voiced their protest against the Aboriginal Land Bill but also smashed down the gates of this Parliament and, in doing so, destroyed the columns that supported these gates. This vandalism has cost the people of Queensland approximately \$17,000, which is made up of the cost of the stone, the cost of the labour of skilled stonemasons, plus the cost of demolition and transport.

This building is part of the heritage of all Queenslanders and must be protected from noisy rabble who wish to wantonly vandalise it. It appears that the perpetrators of that criminal act are above the law as, to my knowledge, no prosecutions have proceeded, even though attacks upon the most important heritage building in Queensland must be protected under the Heritage Buildings Protection Act 1990. Section 11 of that

Act states that any person who demolishes, develops or subdivides any heritage building otherwise than pursuant to and in accordance with a heritage certificate commits an offence against that Act. The penalty is not to exceed 17 000 penalty units. As a penalty unit is defined as being equivalent to \$60, that means that a penalty not exceeding \$1,020,000 is to be imposed if a person is found guilty. The Act goes further. Under sections 14 and 15, it outlines that proceedings for an offence against the Act are to be brought only by a person authorised in that behalf by the Minister for Environment and Heritage, in this particular case, and that all offences against the Act are to be prosecuted upon indictment before a District Court. It goes further in section 17 in that, as well as any penalty imposed, a restoration order can be made against the person guilty of an offence.

So, here we have the situation of a minority group that is not, in my opinion, representative of the Aboriginal people of Queensland being allowed not only to flout without threat of prosecution the laws of the Parliament but also to destroy the buildings of the Parliament. Why was that allowed to happen when there is an abundance of witnesses, including parliamentarians, attendants, security staff, police, journalists and also amazed members of the public? The evidence is also captured on television and video and in newspaper photographs. Those vandals can be easily identified. Those acts of desecration are also likewise recorded. There is no lack of eager witnesses. Why has no prosecution proceeded? Is the Minister for Environment and Heritage unaware of the vandalism, unaware of his responsibilities under the Act, unaware of the anger within this Parliament and the general community over the apparent tolerance of those criminal acts being committed against the Parliament of Queensland?

We can see also the new column and the restoration work that was performed on the second column. The tragedy is that that impressive entry will never be the same, as the original stone from Goodna was a darker colour and from a different quarry than the stone used for its replacement, which came from a quarry at Murphy's Creek. The Government must prosecute, as no-one can be allowed to destroy with impunity property that belongs to all of the people of Queensland. It must display the political will to act; otherwise, how can it proceed with prosecution of people who, without a certificate, change the bathroom of their own home, which is the subject of a heritage order? Is there one law for the rabble minorities and another for the rest of the law-abiding community? The Liberal Party asks the Minister to ensure that prosecutions are proceeded with. If they are not, the people of Queensland can ask: why does not the Labor Government have the guts to enforce its own laws?

Mr C. B. O'Neill

Mr BREDHAUER (Cook) (5.27 p.m.): I rise tonight to pay tribute to a great north Queensland. Charles Broadley O'Neill was born in Croydon on 3 February 1928, and his family moved to Normanton in the 1930s. He spent his entire life working in and devoted to north Queensland and particularly the gulf country. Charlie trained as a saddler under the guidance of his father but later commenced a cattle transport business. He began with just one truck but progressively built up a large and successful transport operation, which contributed significantly to the economy of north Queensland. Charlie was elected to the Carpentaria Shire in 1976 and became shire chairman in 1982. In March this year, in yet another vote of confidence in Charlie's style by the people of Normanton and the Carpentaria Shire, he was re-elected as chairman for his fourth term.

I knew Charlie for only a relatively short period but, in those few years, I developed an enormous respect for Charlie, which was the basis of our friendship. The fact that I was able to come to regard Charlie as a friend after a relatively short period is testimony to the style and character of the man. In common with so many north Queenslanders and people from the bush, Charlie was a straight shooter.

Charlie never pretended to be perfect, but he worked hard and did his best to represent the needs and aspirations of the region. Born and bred in the district and

having eked out a successful business over many years, Charlie became a great advocate at grassroots level for people in the gulf. When the local member came into Normanton and sought out Charlie either at the council or at home, or perhaps occasionally in the corner of the bar of the Albion Hotel, which his father had once owned, he would always let him know what was on the minds of the people in the town. If people in town were not happy about something going on, Charlie would tell the member. But he was fair and, if the member had done something good for the area, he would tell him that, too.

However, Charlie's contribution to the community did not stop with his business or with his representation at a local government level. He was an avid horse-racing fan and, at different times, owned, rode and trained horses. He was also president of the Normanton Diggers' Race Club. Charlie banded together with others in Normanton to push for the establishment of a Normanton Bowls Club. I remember well his pride on that day in 1989 when the former member for Cook, Bob Scott, rolled up the first bowl and Charlie and Bob jointly opened the club's new green. That club has gone from success to success. It now has a clubhouse. That was due in no small part to the efforts of Charlie on behalf of that club and the support that he gave it. It is a tribute to Charlie that the bowls club formed a guard of honour at his funeral. Charlie was also a keen fisherman, and one suspects that he would not have minded if he had known that his time would come while enjoying one of his favourite pastimes.

To those of Charlie's family whom I know well, his wife Joan, brother Jack and sister-in-law Joyce, Diane and Wayne Reeves and indeed to all his family, I extend my sincerest condolences on behalf of my family and the Cook electorate. I mention also Jack and Joyce's son, Brian, who has provided some of the information in the tribute that I am making here this evening. Charlie's funeral in Normanton yesterday was filled to overflowing with those paying their tribute to Charlie and wishing his family well. People from all walks of life, the Federal member for Kennedy, Rob Hulls, local government representatives from throughout north Queensland and especially neighbouring shires, Etheridge, Croydon and Burke, were there to farewell their colleague and friend. Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing and Local Government, Tom Burns, made a special effort to be there, and I thank Tom for that mark of respect. Unfortunately, two who could not attend were long-time friends of Charlie and his family—the former member for Cook, Bob Scott, and his wife, Jenny. I would like to record here their heartfelt sympathies to Joan and all of Charlie's family. Charles O'Neill epitomised the straightforward, honest and hospitable style of the gulf country, which makes it a pleasure to represent a seat such as Cook. Among many others, I will miss him.

State Public Sector Superannuation Fund

Mr STONEMAN (Burdekin) (5.31 p.m.): I wish to comment on the retirement benefits offered by the State public sector superannuation scheme. Honourable members will recall that the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act was assented to in June last year. In his second-reading speech the Treasurer, Mr De Lacy, said—

"It is proposed that the scheme conditions comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth Occupational Superannuation Standards Act and Regulations."

Many investment industry observers now believe that the scheme breaches the regulations and that many public sector employees may be disadvantaged as a result.

The scheme offers three options to public sector employees who retire prior to age 65. Firstly, they may withdraw their eligible termination payments in cash and pay Commonwealth lump sum tax on the withdrawal. Secondly, they may roll over their ETPs into approved deposit funds, or ADFs, within 90 days and defer paying the lump sum tax, or they may withdraw their funds from their roll-over at any time because the funds, as they say, are "unpreserved", and thirdly, Q Super is telling its members that they can leave their benefits in the super fund, and they say that benefits can be drawn down twice a year, effectively creating an ADF. Many industry observers believe that this third option breaches the Commonwealth Occupational Superannuation Standards Regulations in two ways. The superannuation regulations state that scheme members

may leave their benefits in their super funds only while they remain in the labour force. Scheme members who permanently retire must withdraw their ETPs in cash or roll them over into approved deposit funds. I am informed that Q Super is advising its retiring members to declare that they are looking for work, even when they are not, in order to take advantage of the draw-down offer. The member, not the fund, is legally responsible for the declaration, which is a very important point. The offer itself breaches the regulations according to ISC circular 18 (10) which states—

"Where a member decides to take a benefit before any maximum age that may apply, the entire benefit must be paid, or, in the case of a pension, commence to be paid. A superannuation fund may not act as an ADF and retain part of a benefit while allowing the remainder of a benefit to be paid."

I understand that the board of trustees of the scheme intends to meet tomorrow to consider the matter. An unfavourable decision would have disastrous consequences for the hundreds of public sector employees who accepted the draw-down offer. I stress that it would have disastrous consequences for the hundreds of public sector employees who have accepted the draw-down offer. The scheme's managers misled employees into leaving their entitlements in the fund and told them that they would receive a very attractive rate of return and would have access to their benefits. In fact, they would not have that access until they permanently retired from the work force. Occupational Superannuation Standards Regulation 9 (1) (c) states—

"If upon termination an employee elects to leave his/her benefit in the former employer's fund rather than receive or rollover the benefit, then the benefit must be henceforth preserved until permanent retirement from the work force."

Many of these people would need their funds before they retired permanently. I urge Q Super's board of trustees—which contains such luminaries as Dr Peter Coaldrake, amongst others—to suspend the retirement offer until the Insurance and Superannuation Commission can rule on its legality. I call on the board to allow the people who have already taken up the offer to reconsider their decisions and if that requires Government facilitation, then that must take place. After all, many Ministers, and in particular the Treasurer, always claim to "have it right". This time the Treasurer has it wrong.

Corrective Services

Mr PALASZCZUK (Archerfield) (5.36 p.m.): In this Adjournment debate I wish to continue with a matter that I raised this morning during the Matters of Public Interest debate and bring to the attention of the House all the misinformation and disinformation that the member for Nerang has been peddling throughout the length and breadth of Queensland about his supposed problems with corrective services in Queensland. By his actions and activities this morning, methinks he doth protest too much.

The member for Nerang's claims of widespread drug use have been disproved, not only by the commission's random drug tests, but also by investigations carried out by the police unit attached to the commission, with the result that five of the main centres came up clean. Queensland has the most stringent drug-testing system in Australia and I have no doubt that this State will continue to lead the country in identifying and combating the problem. The member for Nerang claimed that 37 New South Wales inmates have transferred north because they will get shorter sentences. He is wrong on both counts. Last year, there were five transfers from New South Wales to Queensland for reasons other than legal reasons and there have only been six transfers this year. At the same time, there were seven transfers from Queensland to New South Wales, where there is no remission on minimum sentences.

The member for Nerang deliberately merges breaches of leave of absence and dangerous escapes from secure custody. The fact is that there have been 29 escapes from secure custody this year, which is not good enough, hence the decision that Cabinet made yesterday. However, it is certainly a long way from the figure of 60 that the member for Nerang and his Liberal Party cohorts keep bandying around. Six of those

dangerous prisoners are still at large. It is also claimed that the Rockhampton Correctional Centre is about to close, but the member is wrong again. On 13 June this year, the member for Nerang was reported in the *Morning Bulletin* in Rockhampton as having hard evidence that a prison closure was imminent. Those claims—which, I might add, were wrong—obviously terrified the 127 officers who are employed at the centre. I suggest that those officers have more than enough stress to cope with, without having to handle Mr Connor's groundless scaremongering. The member for Nerang was also happy, apparently, to terrify the people of Burpengary with his erroneous claims that 56 Woodford Correctional Centre heavies were being sent to the Shaftsbury citizens campus. The Liberal Party even suggested that the commission's media officer was sacked after he refused to take up the position of Director of Custodial Corrections. It is all very bizarre and, once again, it is all very, very wrong. The member for Nerang is even actively promoting an anti-privatisation role—a move, I might add, that has put him at odds with his colleague the member for Merthyr, who is all for privatisation. He is also obviously at odds with the New South Wales Liberal Government, which has finally acknowledged that people who are not a threat to the community do not have to be locked up.

Mr Littleproud interjected.

Mr PALASZCZUK: The thing that frightens me most, and the thing that should frighten all members most—especially the member for Condamine—is that apparently the member for Nerang is not only happy to peddle false information but also willing to allow political advantage to get the better of his public duty. I will reiterate what I said this morning: he has identified himself with officers, such as those who appeared before the Criminal Justice Commission, who quite happily admit to deliberately trying to start a riot to destabilise the system.

Mr Dunworth: And he is an outstanding thorn in your side.

Mr PALASZCZUK: In common with the member for Sherwood, he associates with thugs and mugs. He is obviously not in favour of the Kennedy reforms. As I said this morning, he wants to return to the good old bash and gash days.

In conclusion, I quote from a communication issued by the Criminal Justice Commission, which, in reference to Mr Connor, states —

"That he should provide all relevant information in his possession to the External Investigation unit."

This statement leads me to the final point I wish to make: methinks the member for Nerang protesteth too much.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.