



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>
 E-mail: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au
 Phone (07) 3406 7314 Fax (07) 3210 0182

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 20 March 2013

Subject	Page
PRIVILEGE	753
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member	753
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	753
Loan of Documents	753
PRIVILEGE	753
Alleged Contempt of Parliament by the Premier	753
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 12 March 2013, from the Leader of the Opposition Ms Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, to the Speaker, the Hon. Fiona Simpson, regarding alleged contempt of interference with the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee.	753
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	754
School Group Tours	754
Register of Members' Interests, Referral of Matter to Ethics Committee	754
PETITIONS	754
TABLED PAPERS	754
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	754
Government Services	754
Cape York	755
Newman Government, Business Investment	756
Queensland Health	756
Class Sizes	757
Vegetation Management	758
Local Government	758
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	759
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	759

Table of Contents – Wednesday, 20 March 2013

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	759
Public Service.....	759
Member for Redcliffe.....	760
Business Support.....	761
Regional Community Association Moreton Bay.....	761
Cape York	762
Member for Redcliffe.....	762
Queensland Economy.....	763
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of website for the member for Mulgrave Mr Curtis Pitt MP, titled ‘Mythbusters #2—Sale of Assets’.....	764
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Stolen Wages	764
Agriculture Industry	765
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Stolen Wages	766
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Signatures of persons attaching letter to the Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, regarding stolen wages and savings, dated 31 October 2012.	766
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 1 November 2012, to the member for Mount Isa, Mr Rob Katter MP, from Lin Morrow, campaigner for Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, regarding withheld wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers.	766
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 22 January 2013, from the Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, to Ms Genevieve Meldrum, regarding stolen wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers....	766
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.....	766
Gladstone, LNG Industry	767
Department of Justice and Attorney-General	767
Yeerongpilly Electorate, Flooding.....	768
Main Roads	769
Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association	770
Social Housing Tenants, Antisocial Behaviour	770
Regional Community Association Moreton Bay.....	771
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT BILL	771
Introduction	771
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013.	771
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes.	771
First Reading	774
Referral to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee.....	774
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	774
COMMONWEALTH GAMES ARRANGEMENTS (BRAND PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL.....	775
Second Reading	775
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 19— Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013, government response.	775
Consideration in Detail.....	802
Clauses 1 to 18, as read, agreed to.	802
Third Reading	802
Long Title.....	802
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MANDATORY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OUTWORKERS) REPEAL NOTICE 2012.....	803
Disallowance of Statutory Instrument.....	803
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.	822
Resolved in the negative.	822
ADJOURNMENT	822
Queensland Inspiring Women Speaker’s Award	822
Father Barry Grayson.....	823
Northgate State School.....	824
Bundaberg, Floods.....	824
Youth Crime, Cairns	825
Logan Electorate	825
Cleveland Youth Detention Centre	826
Equality	827
Floods Recovery, Fassifern Valley.....	827
Umbrella Network.....	828
ATTENDANCE	828

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2013

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

Madam Speaker (Hon. Fiona Simpson, Maroochydore) read prayers and took the chair.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (2.01 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege arising from the speech given by the Leader of the Opposition during the Matters of Public Interest debate in yesterday's sitting. During the debate the member referred to the wife of the member for Redcliffe, saying, 'I submit that Mrs Driscoll has not declared a conflict of interest,' when the Leader of the Opposition knows full well that it is the member who is responsible for filling out the interests of related parties.

Further, whilst the Leader of the Opposition is allowed visual access to the interests of related parties, she is not entitled to make those interests public, as she did on several occasions throughout her speech. Unless the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to offer an unconditional apology and correct the parliamentary record, I will be writing to Madam Speaker to have the Leader of the Opposition referred to the Ethics Committee for deliberately engaging in unethical parliamentary behaviour.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Loan of Documents

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 29 May 2012 I advised the House that, in accordance with standing order 19, I had given leave to allow the removal of an 1873 petition for loan to the Supreme Court Library for its inaugural exhibition of the Sir Harry Gibbs Legal Heritage Centre. I advise that, following a request from the Supreme Court Librarian, the document will continue to be displayed at the heritage centre for a further six months.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament by the Premier

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 12 March 2013 the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Premier had attempted to interfere with the deliberations of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee. The Leader of the Opposition claims that the Premier has committed a contempt by prejudging issues that are currently the subject of that committee's inquiry and attempting to threaten the current members of the PCMC and to unduly influence their conduct in relation to that current inquiry. Under standing order 268(1) a committee of the House may report that a matter involving its proceedings has arisen and recommend that the matter be referred to the Ethics Committee, in which case the matter stands referred to the Ethics Committee. Accordingly, the standing rules and orders of this House contemplate that a committee will refer any alleged contempt or breach of privilege that relates to its proceedings directly to the Ethics Committee. In other words, standing orders do not provide a role for the Speaker with respect to such an allegation whilst the committee is still in existence.

I note that the chairperson of the PCMC has, in a media release on 9 March and in her opening statements to the public hearing for this inquiry of 13 March 2013, referred to public speculation and commentary on the committee's proceedings. I understand from the chairperson's statements that the committee has resolved not to report on the comments referred to in the Leader of the Opposition's correspondence and refer the matter to the Ethics Committee. I also note that in the chairperson's statement of 13 March she makes the committee's position clear when she says '... any improper interference with the free exercise by this committee of its authority or functions will in future, be actioned'. Accordingly, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition in this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 12 March 2013, from the Leader of the Opposition, Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Fiona Simpson, regarding alleged contempt of interference with the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee [2294].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

School Group Tours

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, in recognition of Harmony Day, I acknowledge the visit of the Waterford West State School choir, who earlier performed the national anthem in both Yugambeh and English. Yugambeh is the Australian Aboriginal language spoken by the Yugambeh Bundjalung people living on the South-East Queensland coast between the Logan River and the Tweed River, including South Stradbroke Island. The Waterford West State School choir is representative of the 23 different cultures that make up the school. I also acknowledge primary school leaders from all 11 schools in the Bulimba electorate. Today there are also visiting students from Sherwood State School in the Indooroopilly electorate and Darra-Jindalee Catholic School in the Inala electorate. I welcome you all today.

Register of Members' Interests, Referral of Matter to Ethics Committee



Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have been advised by the Clerk as Registrar of Members' Interests that he has received a complaint by the Leader of the Opposition against the member for Redcliffe for failing to comply with schedule 2 of the standing rules and orders. In accordance with section 14 of schedule 2, a complaint by a member in accordance with this section is required to be forwarded to the Ethics Committee by the registrar. I draw to the attention of members that standing order 271 now applies and the matter cannot now be referred to in the House.

PETITIONS

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

Public Service, Jobs

Mr Mulherin, a paper and an e-petition, from 419 petitioners, requesting the House to declare an immediate moratorium on the shedding of any jobs from all government departments and agencies, and on the transfer or sale of any government services to non-government organisations [[2295](#), [2296](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

SPEAKER'S PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following Speaker's papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Speaker of the Queensland Parliament (Ms Simpson)—

[2297](#) Letter, dated 13 March 2013, from the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties to the Speaker, regarding a report tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament, Report No. 132: Treaties tabled on 18 September and 30 October 2012

[2298](#) Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia—Joint Standing Committee on Treaties: Report 132: Treaties tabled on 18 September and 30 October 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Government Services



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.07 pm): Earlier at a barbecue lunch with the local member, I acknowledged the primary school leaders from 10 schools in the Bulimba electorate. They are now here to watch the parliament. I also acknowledge the members of the Waterford West State School choir visiting parliament at the invitation of the member for Noosa in recognition of Harmony Day.

Queenslanders deserve access to essential government services delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. In our first year of government we have made great strides towards our commitment to revitalise front-line services for the community in our schools, hospitals and emergency services. We have seen massive recruitment in the Queensland Police Service resulting in additional officers out on the beat in just one year. We are on track with our commitment to put an extra—and I stress extra—1,100 new officers on the beat and move another 200 back onto the front line.

What results have we seen? In the month of January this year we saw that 74 per cent of emergency patients in our hospitals travelled through the emergency department within four hours. We have also delivered additional school and community based policing officers around the state in a number of communities. In terms of ambulance officers, who are at the very front line of service delivery, this government has employed a further 60 ambulance officers in the last year, including 35 graduate advanced care paramedics.

Turning to our schools—and there might be a bit of this in the media today, as there has in the last couple of days—we increased our front-line staff, our classroom staff, employed by the state by 270 additional teachers and 300 teacher aides. We will see continued growth in these key front-line professions to meet growing demand. We are getting our priorities right to give great opportunities to all residents of this great state. We value our front-line employees and we have given, for example, our nurses and midwives a generous three per cent pay increase. We have signed an EBA with the Queensland Teachers Union that actually enshrines, in accordance with its wishes, the required or requisite teacher-children ratios—so let there be no mistake: we are complying with those EBAs—and we would seek reasonable, sensible pay deals with the emergency services workers across this state, and we hope that we can resolve those discussions as soon as possible. This government is about the basics. It is about delivering better quality and value for money in health, transport, emergency services, policing and education. At a time when we do need urgent fiscal repair, we have still made sure that Queenslanders across the state have the best possible access to the best possible front-line services.

Cape York

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.10 pm): Our government is determined to bring positive change for the people in the communities of Cape York. Cape York has all but been locked up from productive development by the Bligh and Beattie governments as they pandered to the radical agenda of the Greens in a constant sell-out of the state's interests for preferences needed to keep them in power election after election. In those preference deals the interests of the Indigenous people who live in the Cape York communities have been completely ignored. Well, no more. We are drawing up a regional plan with the people of Cape York to strive for a sustainable economic future in the region, where only about 10 per cent of the population has a job. One in 10 of the people who live on Cape York has a job. A core outcome of that regional plan will be to deliver land use certainty—land use certainty that can enable economic development and lead to a normalised economy for the region. This will be achieved by clearly distinguishing between those areas of land that are able to accommodate appropriate agricultural tourism and resource extraction activities as well as providing for the environmental protection that everyone supports for the environmentally sensitive areas on the cape.

When the plan is complete we will be removing the wild rivers legislation, which has tied up large areas of the cape where Indigenous communities have been prevented from doing virtually anything with their land. We have reignited the process to open up the Aurukun bauxite leases which hold great economic potential for the Indigenous communities. All Labor wanted to do with those bauxite leases was build a mine; we want to build a community, and we have told companies specifically that when expressing interest in this resource they must propose plans to do exactly that. Later today our government will be ensuring that these same Indigenous communities can benefit from jobs in agricultural enterprises on suitable land across the cape. The Labor/Greens wild rivers laws—the most appalling policy decision by any government in recent memory—were pushed through without any consultation with the people of the cape or any consultation with landowners and those who were affected. We have a very different approach in the regional planning process. We are giving the Indigenous people on the cape a say and an ability to make decisions about their future, and that future must involve a normalised economy. Likewise, the removal of the Beattie era vegetation management green tape for landowners across the cape will give hope for a better future for the Indigenous communities of Cape York.

The Bligh and Beattie governments put their electoral needs for Green preferences—their dirty political deals—over the needs and interests of many regions, communities and people in this state, but no more so than the Indigenous communities of Cape York. We are simply returning some balance and correcting those wrongs and giving people on Cape York some hope for the future. I am sure the Indigenous people of Cape York will agree with me that they, too, deserve to share in the opportunities and the prosperities of this great state.

Newman Government, Business Investment

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.13 pm): The Newman government is working to make Queensland the ideal place to live, work and do business. It has been a tough few years for many sectors of the economy, but our plans to grow the four pillars are helping to restore that confidence. In recent times several large businesses have made Queensland their home. Tatts Group Ltd, the giant lottery and betting agency, relocated its head office from Victoria, creating a workforce of 1,250 new employees. In December General Electric officially opened its new global mining headquarters in Brisbane's Sinnamon Park. The US based multinational's decision will support an additional 360 jobs across Queensland.

Later this week I will attend the official opening of the United Overseas Bank's Brisbane office. This is the largest bank in Singapore, with over \$4 billion worth of loans to projects in Queensland. That is a further vote of confidence in Queensland and the Queensland government. Qantas recently announced an investment of \$30 million to upgrade its heavy engineering and maintenance facilities, generating hundreds of new job opportunities here in Queensland. Earlier today I announced that Garuda Indonesia had established a base in Queensland to fly direct between Denpasar, Bali and Brisbane—another win made in conjunction with the Minister for Tourism. This is just one of the many international airlines that have recently established routes in Queensland, giving the tourism sector a much needed boost in visitor numbers.

Earlier this month, together with the Premier and Deputy Premier, I visited Ferra Engineering to congratulate the Queensland aerospace manufacturer on signing a major contract with multinational aerospace and defence giant, Boeing. Ferra Engineering supplies manufactured parts that go to the FA18 Super Hornets and will be supplying the F35 fighter being built in the United States. Queensland architectural firm Populous has gone from strength to strength, signing major deals to design an equestrian centre in China as well as Delhi's new convention and exhibition centre—an announcement I made late last year. At the Australian Export Awards held in Canberra in November, Queensland companies took out five of the 13 categories, including the Australian Exporter of the Year award. The winner, Yatala based PWR Performance Products, is renowned for designing and selling high-performance cooling systems to racing car makers and markets around the world. The international retail giant Costco has plans for at least four new stores here in South-East Queensland. As members can see, investors and businesses continue to view Queensland as a great place to live, work, invest and do business.

Yesterday afternoon's decision by Xstrata to relocate its head office to New South Wales, while deeply disappointing, has been speculated about for some time. Given Xstrata's pending merger with Glencore and the resulting push for operational efficiencies that have followed, the news comes as no real surprise. Given the depressed world market prices for coal, the high Australian dollar, the carbon tax, the mineral resources rent tax and the increasing level of green tape and red tape from the Gillard Labor government, it is a reality that mining companies are ruthless in finding efficiencies to compensate for falling prices. This should serve as a further warning to the Gillard—for the time being—Labor government, which continues to pursue antidevelopment policies.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Don't worry; get with Wayne. The carbon and mining taxes have hurt businesses and consumers while also failing to bring in anywhere near the promised revenue—in fact, anywhere near any revenue! The Gillard government continues increasing the red- and green-tape burden on business. This underscores why in Queensland we are getting out of the way of business and implementing policies that cut red tape, restore confidence and help grow a four-pillar economy. Trend unemployment has dropped four months in a row and trend employment has grown for the last five months. Under the Newman government, this is a great state with great opportunities for business.

Queensland Health

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (2.17 pm): Over 12 months major repairs to Queensland Health have addressed decades of damage caused by a political partnership between Labor and health union bosses. Now, we are moving to a new phase of lasting recovery. The Blueprint for Better Healthcare in Queensland, which the Premier and I launched last month, sets out the details. An important priority is to create a politically independent Queensland Health tailored to deliver for patients and workers, not a politicised Queensland Health tailored to deliver for union bosses and selected political parties. That is why existing policies that

enforce the political agendas of the Labor Party are now under review. To remove these provisions, amendments to the Industrial Relations Act are likely to be required. The obvious example is the Union Encouragement Human Resources Policy, which states—

Passive acceptance by managers and supervisors of membership recruitment activity by unions does not satisfy the requirements of the agreement. Encouragement requires managers and supervisors to take a positive, supportive role.

This doctrine provides for payroll deductions to be made on union request. It was signed into existence by its financial beneficiaries—Labor and the union bosses. They wrote its provisions into departmental industrial instruments, policies, awards and certified agreements. Where specified in industrial awards, these provisions can only be changed through the Industrial Relations Commission. Recently, I had letters sent to the bosses of health unions to invite their submissions on the relevance and appropriateness of such a policy. They have until the close of business next Wednesday to make their case.

For decades the creeping paralysis of politicisation infected Queensland Health. This government insists patients, not politics, must be the centre of attention of hospital and health services. For that reason union bosses who make submissions on the union encouragement policy will need to provide a declaration of transparency with the following details: dates and details of any political affiliations or memberships of the relevant association or its components over the last 10 years and links to any other industrial organisation or association linked to a political party over the same period.

This is a policy implemented on the quiet by our political predecessors for their own advancement. The funds it raised have been diverted to impact on election campaigns and the political fortunes of those who implemented them. Under this policy, members of health unions in Queensland have suffered political calamities like the failed Health payroll system, cuts to funding and political cover-ups, while union bosses stood by their Labor mates in silence. These issues affect the basic rights of Queensland Health employees. They are free to contribute to union activities, but they should do so without political interference.

Schools, Class Sizes

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (2.21 pm): Another day, another union scare campaign from the Queensland Teachers Union. President Kevin Bates was on the ABC this morning claiming that there are 500 fewer teachers in Queensland schools despite the fact that there are 9,000 more students. Wrong! The truth is that there are 270 more teachers this year than there were last year, and if Mr Bates spent more time fact checking and less time blindly regurgitating lines from Julia Gillard he would know that.

The government remains committed to allocating front-line staff in schools in response to increasing student enrolments whilst ensuring that the state's finances get back on track. As part of the budget process last year we made two key decisions: firstly, to move key teachers and resource teachers out of their assistance roles and put them back in front of classes; and, secondly, to remove the random arbitrary bonus allocation that was given to schools that meant they were always rounded up to the nearest full FTE number for their allocation.

What is important is how classrooms have been affected this year and how the unions and their mates opposite have deceived Queensland parents. These are the facts. The union has agreed that class size targets are 25 students per teacher in prep to year 3 and in years 11 and 12. Targets agreed to by the union are 28 students per teacher in years 4 to 10. This is in the enterprise bargaining agreement that the union agreed to last year. The union agrees that these are appropriate class sizes. Ninety-five per cent of classes met or were below these class size targets in 2012 and we are expecting similar figures this year. Not only that, class sizes are currently well under the targets. In years 4 to 7, the average class size in 2012 was 23.2 students. That is 4.8 students below the target for that age. In prep to year 3, the average class size in 2012 was 20.9. That is 4.1 students below target for that age.

Let me stress this point. The union agrees that the appropriate class size for a student in years 4 to 7 is 28. Our average class size is 23.2. The union agrees that the appropriate class size for a student in prep to year 3 is 25. Our average class size is 20.9. As a result of our two decisions, these average class sizes are expected to rise only fractionally and will still be well—well—below class size targets.

The QTU breeds organisers who are used to scaring people. They breed organisers well schooled in the lowest form of politics, and we see it again on this issue. For example, the Brisbane North QTU organiser, Fiona McNamara, is well known to the Premier as the person who oversaw Kate Jones's campaign in Ashgrove—and we know the calibre of politics on display by Labor there. She is now the candidate for Brisbane Central, where Kate Jones is her campaign director. She needs to choose if she wants to be a union representative or a member of parliament. I would encourage Mr Bates, who no doubt wants a seat himself, to make his points using facts rather than political propaganda.

Vegetation Management

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.24 pm): It gives me great pleasure indeed to inform the House about the Newman government's historic changes to Queensland's onerous vegetation management framework. This morning the Deputy Premier and I travelled to Hughenden in the state's north-west where we outlined the Newman government's plan to overhaul the Vegetation Management Act 1999—a piece of public policy that has contributed to the stifling of agricultural and community development in regional Queensland for more than a decade.

The Newman government believes that landholders are responsible stewards of their land. These reforms will pave the way for the sustainable development of new agricultural precincts across the state, but particularly in North and North-West Queensland and Cape York Peninsula. We are proposing the introduction of a range of self-assessable codes for routine vegetation management activities, such as pest management and weed control, fodder harvesting and thinning, which will save landholders time and money. While these reforms will remove regulations regarding regrowth control on freehold and Indigenous land, regulations will remain in place for landowners on leasehold land and in reef watercourses. Today's announcement in no way indicates a relaxing of environmental standards. Landholders are still not permitted to indiscriminately clear land.

The radical green policies implemented by previous Labor administrations prevented landholders from managing their land sustainably, to use land for agricultural production for Queensland's growing population and for export to other domestic and international markets. Unlike our predecessors, this government supports landholders and values their contribution to the state. The reforms announced today will hand back control to landholders, allowing them to more effectively manage their businesses and their livelihoods.

The Newman government has made no secret of its plans to double agricultural production in Queensland by 2040. These reforms are vital to that effort and to achieving that goal. We are boosting agricultural production and delivering job opportunities for our regions while maintaining environmental standards. We are reducing red tape for those in the rural sector. We are creating opportunities for farming businesses to expand cropping operations and build important infrastructure without burdensome regulation. We have thrown a lifeline to Indigenous communities on Cape York and in the gulf country where development has come to a standstill, where they really need a new economy.

Queensland has a proud history of food and fibre production and, unlike those opposite, we will continue to support our valuable primary producers. Despite the hysterical claims from radical green groups, this government takes seriously its responsibility to sustainably utilise our natural resources and to feed and clothe ourselves and our trading partners. In only one year, we have achieved what consecutive Labor governments could not achieve: a balanced approach to vegetation management, an approach that allows landholders to responsibly utilise their land while ensuring that ecologically significant land is protected. We are restoring a balance to Queensland's vegetation management framework while retaining key environmental protections and we are doing that because we are committed to investing in agriculture and we are committed to investing in regional Queensland.

Local Government

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.28 pm): The Newman government went to the 2012 state election proposing to re-empower local government across Queensland and I am proud to inform this chamber that that is what we are doing. One of my core beliefs is the purity of councils as the form of government closest to its people. I was happy as deputy mayor of Townsville but could no longer sit by in council chambers and see what was happening to local government. I wanted to be part of the solution.

In councils across the state, Labor reduced elected officials to puppets who were left to deliver state programs they did not want or believe in, like the dreaded waste levy. In 2007, councils in Queensland entered one of their darkest chapters when the Beattie government rounded up 156 of them and turned them into 73. Queensland councillors are not silly people. They knew that change was afoot and that there was a need to restructure, but the brutality ensured that the embers of community discontent continue until this day.

In March last year the LNP was brought to power on a promise to help communities address these wounds. Nineteen councils applied to have their amalgamations reviewed. This could never be a simple exercise, as the splitting of councils five years after the fact is a complicated and expensive proposition. But the communities that could prove there was a chance of creating two viable council areas were progressed to the Boundaries Commissioner for analysis by Queensland Treasury Corporation.

Madam SPEAKER: I would ask that the minister wrap up.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I seek leave to have the balance of my statement incorporated into *Hansard*.

Madam SPEAKER: I have viewed this. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Of those five, four areas went to referendums. With these communities knowing full-well the significant costs involved, all four areas voted to revert to their original shire councils. As I stand in this House today, I know that there are other areas who would also have voted to revert to their shires, but the costs that are involved in splitting councils five years after joining them would have left them financially unviable.

We now begin the next journey to make those remaining amalgamated councils work for their regions. Another proud achievement that has heralded a new relationship between councils and the state is the signing of the councils' member body's Partners in Government Agreement. This agreement, which was torn up by then-Local Government Association of Queensland President Paul Bell to protest councils' disgust at the forced amalgamations, was more than words on paper. When Premier Newman signed this agreement on July 4, 2012, it marked the start of a new era in State and Local Government relations. And it showed councils we were fair dinkum about working with them, rather than dictating to them.

On November 13, 2012, the biggest reform of Local Government in a generation was achieved when 170 amendments to the Local Government Act and the City of Brisbane Act were passed by this House. The heavy layers of regulations and rules were stripped away, once again putting elected Mayors and Councillors back in charge. The consultation that led to these changes was one of the most comprehensive in the state's history, with me visiting each of Queensland's 73 councils, asking what councils wanted to better represent their communities. As the State braced to address the desperate financial mess left by those sitting opposite me, the Newman Government put what money we did have to good use. GraffitiStop is a classic example of a small amount of money doing the most amount of good. In a new page of our record books, all 73 Local Governments signed up voluntarily to be part of a \$2 million pool to help councils beat the expensive and time consuming blight of graffiti.

On February 4, the Local Government portfolio was expanded by Premier Newman to include Community Recovery and Resilience in answer to the disasters of this year. Since then, 56 local government areas have been activated for flood recovery assistance from both the State and Federal Governments. To anyone who has seen the devastation, the inclusion of Resilience in the title of this new portfolio is a sad reminder of what these communities have repeatedly endured in the past three years, and the need to do better. We have made no bones about the fact that we can't flood proof a State as big and diverse as Queensland. But we can build smarter, stronger, and avoid the traps learnt through the many bitter lessons Mother Nature has taught us. These events have created trying times for these communities, but with empowered local governments they are better placed than ever to rebuild.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (2.29 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the report date for the Health and Community Services Committee's inquiry into palliative care and home and community care services be extended to 28 May 2013.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Public Service, Jobs

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (2.30 pm): My question is to the Premier. Did the Premier acknowledge the sacking of 14,000 workers and cuts to front-line services at the LNP government's exclusive first anniversary cocktail party at the Rendezvous Hotel last night?

Mr NEWMAN: I'm sad to reflect for the Leader of the Opposition that perhaps what we did reflect on was that some of her colleagues are no longer in this place and for good reason, because they ran this state into the ground. They trashed the economy and the only thing really keeping us alive was the LNG industry and the residuals, if you like, if I can put it that way, of the coal resources boom. They did not have a balanced economic plan for Queensland and we know what they did to the state's finances. So I can inform the Leader of the Opposition that we spoke about those sorts of things. We spoke about the way that it was so important to get a new government in Queensland that would focus on the four economic pillars that would build up agriculture, tourism, construction and, yes, mining. We spoke about those things.

But in relation to informing the member some more, I can also reveal that I spoke to a passionate advocate for the same forces of politics in Australia, the conservative side of politics, the people who are sensible and progressive but not crazy and radical and destructive as those opposite are, and I'm talking about Mr Mark Textor, one of the principals of Crosby Textor. This gentleman is a passionate advocate for change in Australia and he has helped many states see an end to Labor state governments that trashed their economies and, again, their state's finances.

I spoke to him about our mutual desire to see an end to this dysfunctional Commonwealth government, because they are a dysfunctional Commonwealth government. What a wasted period we have had in this nation—almost three years.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: It's been no cocktail party of fun for the people of Australia. As they have seen a total impasse in this nation, as we have a gridlock, as we have seen dirty deals—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NEWMAN: I am trying to let her know what I discussed with Mr Mark Textor last night. Does she not wish to know? I am openly and honestly, in the spirit of accountability of this government, telling her about the conversation with Mr Textor, about how we have to get rid of not just Julia Gillard but Kevin Rudd, Wayne Swan and Bill Shorten and all these people who have never been in business, who do not know about the real economy, who are incapable of running the nation's finances, who have racked up \$300 billion worth of debt and who have never run a surplus. That is what I spoke to Mr Mark Textor about at the cocktail party last night.

Member for Redcliffe

Ms PALASZCZUK: My next question is to the Premier. Has the Premier spoken directly to the member for Redcliffe and asked him specifically about the allegations relating to the appropriate expenditure of taxpayers' funds through the Regional Community Association Moreton Bay?

Mr NEWMAN: Well, that is an interesting question. Let us just examine it. We have the Leader of the Opposition 48 hours ago, if I recall correctly, and indeed one other member in this place, saying that the matters should be referred to the Crime and Misconduct Commission. So here this afternoon I am being asked was I taking it upon myself to investigate one of my own government members. I say to members that would be highly inappropriate. That is the way the Labor Party did it. They probably got Gordon Nuttall in the room and said, 'Hey, Gordon, matey, mate, tell us you didn't do it, matey. It's okay, Gordon. Look me in the eyes, Gordon.' And what happened is he looked then leader of the Labor Party in the eyes and that was enough, no questions asked. So they came in here and they totally defended him and they changed the laws to protect him against the lying to parliament or misleading parliament legislation. They did all that, but they did not properly investigate it. I say again this afternoon that I have done the right and proper thing and so have the ministers in this government. Every single allegation that has been brought to our attention has been sent for investigation or audit by the appropriate authorities—not the government, but by the appropriate authorities.

Yesterday I revealed that the Crime and Misconduct Commission had already looked at one of those matters that was the subject of an allegation made in November 2012 and they had come back and said that there was no official misconduct. So I just say this: it is not appropriate that I speak to the member for Redcliffe about serious allegations. And I do not for a moment suggest they are not serious allegations. They have been taken seriously. I make this point: every single one of these allegations that has been canvassed in the newspapers, as far as I understand it—or in the media—was referred to relevant authorities by relevant departments prior to it actually getting into the media.

That is my understanding. So it did not take urging in this House, it did not take the squawking of the Leader of the Opposition for us to take action, we took action as early as November 2012 and we will not stand over here and engage in the same sort of Nuttall quasi-investigation that those opposite were into. How outrageous, how disgraceful. We will just get Gordon Nuttall in here, we will ask him if he is a good bloke. Yes, he is a good bloke. Off the hook. Come into parliament, defend him, and never properly investigate it. That is the Labor standard and we will have nothing to do with it.

Small Business

Mr HART: My question without notice is also to the Premier. Premier, can you please update the House on what action this government has taken to support business in this state?

Mr NEWMAN: That is indeed the more appropriate question for this place this afternoon, because rather than the sort of politics we have heard already, it is really ultimately about how to get this state back on track. We have been doing a lot because we know how essential small business is to the Queensland economy. We have been cutting red and green tape. We have been giving small business the support that it needs to prosper. Over 320 red-tape reduction initiatives have been identified and more than 150 have already been implemented. Easing the burden of red tape will stimulate the economy and create jobs for Queenslanders. The government has saved business approximately \$7 million a month by removing the waste levy; it has changed plumbing and drainage regulation saving the kitchen and bathroom industry approximately \$25 million a year; it has increased the payroll tax exemption threshold to \$1.1 million; it has established the independent Office of Best Practice Regulation; it has established a task force to cut environmental impact assessment time frames by half; and it has lowered the costs associated with assessments.

I was in my electorate of Ashgrove last Friday and I visited over 10 local small businesses in the motor dealer and smash repairer field to tell them the good news. I talked to the owners of Manny's Mechanical Repairs, Greer's Smash Repairs, Alderley Automotive, Australian Mechanical Supplies, Pickering Smash Repairs, Repco Motortech Automotive, Crowhurst Motors, Mac's Auto Service Centre, Hagen Performance Motors and Pedders Suspension and I told them that an environmental licence will no longer be required for the operation of their motor vehicle workshops, that they do not need to pay a fee of up to \$1,515 and, I think, 20c anymore, or put the certificate on the wall anymore.

That is a great bit of news for local businesses. I went to Carline Enoggera and spoke to Andrew Dredge, the owner. He has received many local business achievement awards from Quest newspapers. What did he say about the removal of green tape? He said—

Any saving in time and money is always welcome from small business in a tough economic climate. It was great to get that feedback. I stressed to the people whom we spoke to and I stress to all people in small business today that we will listen to them, we will consult with them and we want to get more reforms going. We want to get the reforms right to make sure this is a great state with great opportunity. My message to small businesses is this: tell us what else we need to do and give us the specifics. If it makes sense, it will happen. They do not have to worry about those opposite, any more. They do not have to worry about their total inability to understand what drives small business. These days they have friends on this side of the chamber, because we want to create great jobs for Queenslanders.

Regional Community Association Moreton Bay

Mr MULHERIN: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Yesterday when the minister was asked about the activities of the Regional Community Association Moreton Bay she confirmed the group delivered emergency relief funding, and said—

What is terrific is that they are still delivering that to the community.

I ask: will the minister advise if she is aware of claims by the association members that this group is in such disarray that, despite the hard work of staff, it has been forced to stop distributing funding to families who are in dire straits?

Ms DAVIS: I thank the honourable member for his question. It was my understanding that the community organisation was delivering all of those services that it is funded to do. It does a very good job, as do all of the neighbourhood centres across Queensland, in delivering and doing referral work for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. As I have just indicated, we will continue to support the community organisation in delivering its work. The funding that the department provides to community and neighbourhood centres is a little flexible. If that is what the organisation is choosing not to deliver at the moment, then that is a matter for the community centre. I can say that our department is working hard with the community centre to ensure its viability.

Cape York

Mr KEMPTON: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the Deputy Premier give the House any further information regarding what the state government is doing to create a normal economy on Cape York and ensure future generations of Cape York communities have hope and employment opportunities like people across the rest of Queensland?

Mr SEENEY: I thank the member for Cook for the question. It is a good question from a member who is concerned for the future of his communities. Many of the communities that the member for Cook represents are totally welfare dependent. Many of the people who live in those communities have no hope for the future, except for a life on welfare. That is the result of many years of Labor governments that pandered to the greens movement in preference deals, election after election, and that sold out the future of the people whom the member for Cook represents, time and time again, in cheap political deals.

We are determined to take a different approach. We are determined to restore some balance, to give some hope to the people of the cape, the Indigenous people who live in those communities. As I indicated in my ministerial statement this morning, we have already done that by instigating a regional planning process that will plan the future for those communities and for that region; that will ensure that the environmentally sensitive areas are protected, but the areas that are suitable for economic development are also made available for economic development.

It is undeniable that any normal economy in the cape has to be dependent upon resource extraction and agriculture. Those are the two industries that will build a normal economy in the cape. Those are the two industries that we are facilitating through the regional planning process. However, they are also the two industries that are so strenuously opposed by the Labor Party and its political allies, the greens movement. They are the ones who continually oppose mining development and agricultural development on the cape.

How incredibly arrogant it is for Labor Party members and their green allies to sit secure in their urban comfort zone and deny the people of Cape York the opportunity to develop farms and mines and the jobs that those enterprises will deliver. How incredibly arrogant it is for people who live in such comfortable surroundings to deny the dysfunctional communities on Cape York the hope of jobs and an economic future that offers something other than welfare.

This morning we have heard the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines talking about the proposal to allow farms to develop on the cape, to allow jobs to be available in agricultural enterprises for the kids at Kowanyama, the people who live at Lockhart River or the people who live in Weipa. We have heard extreme hysterical comments from the Labor Party and its greens allies, which indicate why those communities are so dysfunctional. They are so dysfunctional because those people sold them out, time and time again. We will not do that. We will restore the balance on Cape York.

Member for Redcliffe

Mr PITT: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to audits being conducted by Health and Communities into allegations involving organisations associated with the member for Redcliffe and also that the CMC is now assessing those claims as well. I ask: will the Premier now show some leadership and today commit to forwarding all the information gathered by the state government regarding these allegations to the Crime and Misconduct Commission?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for the question, but I must say it is an extraordinary question. There are a few little elements in it. I will go back a step. Yesterday, they came in here, all guns blazing, and they went—splat—into a brick wall, because they had been calling for a CMC—

Ms Palaszczuk: I don't think so.

Mr NEWMAN: I will take the interjection. They were calling for a CMC investigation and they then found out there had been one back before Chrissy.

A government member: An own goal.

Mr NEWMAN: It was an own goal, because all the stuff that they had been talking about 48 hours ago, that is, two days ago, generally had been investigated or had been assessed by the CMC and dealt with. Where are we now? Taking the various bits of information and putting them

together, yesterday the House heard from me, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Communities that there had been allegations. Indeed, the Minister for Health gave a very comprehensive explanation, saying that matters had been referred for investigation and I think he mentioned audits going on. It has all been looked at. The CMC itself made a statement that it is looking at these matters again. I notice that it is up on its website.

Now, I turn to the second part of the question. Again, we have an extraordinary question before the House. Am I now meant to reach across and tell the CMC to do something? The other day, on another matter that I will not go into, they said I should not interfere and how dare I criticise the CMC. Today, through this question, they are implying that I should interfere.

Mr Nicholls: You should do the investigation.

Mr NEWMAN: Not only am I not going to do the investigation in the way that was suggested—that is, do it the Gordon Nuttall way—but also I am not going to interfere with an independent crime-fighting body or the statutory responsibilities of directors-general of state government departments—

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order. Regarding relevance, this is completely not answering the question. He has literally completely misunderstood the question.

Madam SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The Premier is answering the question and has time on the clock.

Mr NEWMAN: For the benefit of the members opposite who seem not to understand the laws that they presided over, directors-general of state government departments have a clear statutory responsibility if they believe they have seen official misconduct—the hint, the whiff, a sniff of official misconduct—to refer it to the Crime and Misconduct Commission.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Members on my left will cease interjecting. The Premier has time on the clock and is answering the question. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: I only end by saying this: the matters are being investigated fully, totally, unequivocally by professionals, by people who have the statutory responsibility to do that. At the end of the day, let us see what they determine to be the facts.

Queensland Economy

Mr TROUT: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Is the Treasurer aware of any policy positions or alternatives to correct the state's financial position?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the honourable member for Barron River for his question. Can I commend him on his haircut. Obviously feeling the pain of many Queenslanders, he has gone out and got his hair cut over the shave for a cure weekend. Congratulations to you.

Under the previous Labor government Queensland was heading towards a \$100 billion debt, with fees, taxes and charges increasing. We all remember how high \$100 billion in \$100 bills was going to be.

A government member: How high?

Mr NICHOLLS: It was 140 kilometres high. We had verification from the Reserve Bank and NASA about that. We were in outer space.

Unlike those opposite, the LNP government has a plan to pay down debt and to regain our AAA credit rating. Regaining that AAA credit rating will reduce the state's interest bill, enabling us to spend more money on service delivery—on the front-line services that the Premier announced in his ministerial statement today.

During the previous sitting week I reminded Queenslanders that Labor's only plan to fix the state's finances when they were in government was to increase taxes and their secret plan to sell off assets. Instead of prudently using the proceeds from the sale of those government businesses to pay down debt and invest in Queensland's future, Labor continued to spend at an unsustainable rate and went further into debt—heading towards \$100 billion.

I also tabled the member for Mulgrave's mythbuster fact sheet which was posted on the member's website on 2 September 2009. I read extracts of some of it. I remind people what it said. It said—

Privatisation does not always mean a reduction in worker numbers.

There are a number of examples around the world ... has gone from strength to strength since it was privatised.

MYTH: The Government is selling off businesses that are highly profitable.

FACT: All together the five businesses brought in about \$280 million in dividends and tax equivalent payments for the taxpayer for the last financial year.

However, over the next five years the businesses will require around \$12 billion in investment ...

I did table the—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members on my left, I will warn you under standing order 253A if you do not cease your interjections. I call the Treasurer.

Mr NICHOLLS: The memories roll on, of course. Imagine my surprise after 3½ years of proudly displaying the 'Mythbuster #2' sheet that within five hours of me mentioning it the sheet was pulled down and replaced with a new mythbusters sheet. The member for Mulgrave was obviously not getting enough traffic because he thanked me for directing traffic to his site.

Mr PITT: Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would be very happy for the Treasurer to table that particular piece of information.

Madam SPEAKER: You are asking the Treasurer to table the document?

Mr PITT: The document he is reading from.

Madam SPEAKER: Will the Treasurer oblige and table the document?

Mr NICHOLLS: I am happy to table it. It is on the website. It makes no difference to me. What I want to point out is that it talks about the difference between them and the LNP government. But what he fails to say is that the fundamental difference is that they did not tell the people of Queensland they were going to do it before they did it. What are we doing? We are having a conversation. We are trusting people. We are telling them the truth.

Tabled paper: Extract from website of the member for Mulgrave, Mr Curtis Pitt MP, titled 'Mythbusters #2—Sale of Assets' [2299].

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! We will wait for order. I call the member for Condamine.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Stolen Wages

Mr HOPPER: My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs. Today I met with a delegation of First Australian people, led by my shadow minister Les Mucken, to discuss 22—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! We will allow the member to ask the question in silence.

Mr HOPPER: He is twice as a smart as all of them, I can tell you. We discussed \$22 million still owing to them, as promised by previous governments, as so-called stolen wages. Would the minister be happy to meet with these people as I was?

Mr ELMES: I would like to thank 'Senator' Hopper for his question—member for Condamine, I am terribly sorry. The member for Condamine has had more parties than I have had birthdays, and he is still trying to decide where he is going to be after 14 September. It is just a shame that it was not the honourable member for Mount Isa who asked me this question because, of the three amigos at

the back, I know he is the only one who has a real interest in Indigenous affairs in this state. I work very closely with him in his part of the world, particularly with the Kalkadoon people who are the Indigenous representatives around Mount Isa.

The stolen wages issue has been around for a long time. The previous government under Premier Beattie dealt with the stolen wages issue. I think it finalised in 1998 or thereabouts. There were a number of payments made during that period of time. There were increments. There was \$5.9 million paid at one time. There was another \$35½ million paid at another time. There were subsequent payments made to Indigenous people who were treated in a very appalling manner.

Everywhere I go—in all the communities I go into—I see the wrongs that have been perpetrated on Indigenous people by our forebears. It is a very serious thing to them and I understand it. But there was a time to call a close to that. The former government did the right thing by calling a close to that. But can I say that what they did is they took the rest of the money in the fund and set up the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation which allows young Indigenous kids to have a future. I have been really privileged to have gone to a number of those functions. I see the result of stolen wages. I see a future for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Aboriginal kids in this state. I support what the foundation does. In this particular case—and it is rare for me—I support what the previous Beattie Labor government did. I can tell members that no way in the wild world will this government revisit the issue.

Agriculture Industry

Mrs MENKENS: My question without notice is to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Can the minister outline some of the achievements the LNP government has made for the agricultural sector over the past 12 months?

Mr McVEIGH: I thank the member for her question. Next week is the first anniversary of the night that an LNP government was elected by the people of Queensland. In the 12 months that the Newman government has been in office, agriculture—a major economic driver of our economy—is getting the recognition it deserves after 20 years of absolute neglect by Labor.

The LNP has delivered on our election commitment to create a stand-alone department of agriculture to represent the interests of Queensland's primary industries. We have appointed front-line officers across regional Queensland including wild dog officers, crop protection officers, pest and weed officers, cattle tick officers, horticulture and fisheries management officers. The land audit to identify additional future production in Queensland is on track and the Central Queensland section of the state audit has been completed. We are delivering on our \$9 million election commitment to buy back inshore commercial fishing licences along the east coast. The second round is still open to commercial fishers who hold an N1 or N2 licence until the end of this month.

The LNP government is planning for the next generation of farmers at the same time. After receiving nearly 100 submissions, our 30-year agriculture strategy is nearing completion. Our horticulture workforce plan has identified critical issues in expanding the sector and our timber industry plan will help ensure the viability of our regional timber industry and the communities that it supports. It is a plan that will deliver common-sense outcomes for this important industry that supports nearly 20,000 jobs, balancing environmental issues with the need for sustainable timber production.

The Queensland barley program has been saved from being moved to Western Australia. We are ensuring that our grain growers have the benefits of research into barley varieties best suited for Queensland. We are doing the same with sorghum following the announcement of a significant research project, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, by me, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the member for Nanango just last week in Dalby. We are supporting the beef industry through the Northern Beef Research Alliance with the University of Queensland, and I must acknowledge the enormous efforts and vision of the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines in relation to their vegetation management announcement today.

Agriculture is one of the four pillars of our economy, and it was my pleasure to announce Alison Fairleigh as the winner of the 2013 Queensland Rural Women's Award just yesterday, a constituent in the honourable member's electorate. The Newman government supports dynamic, creative and passionate people such as these rural women to encourage innovation and growth of our primary industries and communities, and we will continue to do so.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Stolen Wages

Mr KATTER: My question is again to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs. The minister stated that he supports the stolen wages scheme. I now table correspondence on behalf of our First Australian people who still have \$25 million owing out of the promised package from the previous government. Will the government now commit to repay this money that is owed?

Tabled paper: Signatures of persons attaching letter to the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, regarding stolen wages and savings, dated 31 October 2012 [2300].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 November 2012, to the member for Mount Isa, Mr Rob Katter MP, from Lin Morrow, campaigner for Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, regarding withheld wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers [2301].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 22 January 2013, from the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, to Ms Genevieve Meldrum regarding stolen wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers [2302].

Mr ELMES: I thank the honourable member for Mount Isa for the question. I am almost sure that a couple of minutes ago I congratulated the Beattie government for drawing it to a close and suggesting that we were going to leave the matter where it lay.

Mr Knuth interjected.

Mr ELMES: Before one of the other turncoats in the Katter party decide that they want to interrupt too much, can I say that one of the problems that people realised as time went on was the intergenerational situation that took place so far as the stolen wages issue was concerned. It was getting very difficult for my department, as it was then, to be able to track people who had a legitimate claim on the fund. It became more and more difficult. The fund paid out at least twice—it may have been more—separate amounts of money to people as they became apparent and their case could be proved to the government.

So I think rightfully the government then decided that they would set up QATSIF and I talked about the make-up of QATSIF before. I think for the sake of honourable members it might be worthwhile just to have a look at some of the things that QATSIF has done, in terms of the raw numbers, with some young Indigenous kids.

The foundation has completed the third round of its Certificate of Education sponsorship funding to schools and has to date allocated 992 scholarships to students in 90 schools to assist these Indigenous students to successfully obtain the Queensland Certificate of Education by completing grade 12. The first round of 80 scholarship recipients graduated from year 12 in 2011, with a further 262 having graduated in 2012. On 5 October 2012, the foundation announced the successful applicants for its fourth round of scholarships for students commencing year 11 in 2013—this year—with a total of 769 scholarships, totalling \$1.85 million awarded to students of 118 schools throughout Queensland. That is this fund in action. That is the future for Indigenous people—giving them an education, getting them to finish school with a great education, getting them into jobs and allowing them to take part in the fullness of Queensland society that the rest of us take for granted.

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

Mr DAVIES: My question without notice is to the Acting Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister please outline to the House initiatives that the LNP government and her department have undertaken to build a better Queensland since coming to government 12 months ago?

Ms DAVIS: I thank the honourable member for the question. Can I start by acknowledging the member for Buderim and wish him well in his recovery. I know he is very much looking forward to getting back into the House and getting back on the job.

When the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing was formed, it was tasked with an important agenda. The agenda includes opening up our national parks to new types of recreation by improving access, it includes encouraging Queenslanders to get more active through participation in sport and recreation activities and it includes revitalising our racing industry.

Access to Queensland's national parks will be quicker, easier and more convenient after the Newman government introduced a raft of permit improvements and reduced red tape by 50 per cent for commercial and recreational activities in the state's national parks, state forests and other protected and recreation areas.

As part of our commitment to restore confidence and reinvigorate Queensland racing, we appointed an independent panel to oversee racing board appointments to three new code specific control boards and a new Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board. These bodies will start work shortly as part of our plan to get Queensland and the racing industry back on track.

I also want to touch on all the wonderful grassroots work that is underway to ensure that thousands of Queensland kids now have an opportunity to 'get in the game'. It is fantastic to see the Newman government's \$18 million grassroots sport and recreation funding program has been such a huge hit with Queensland families and Queensland sporting and recreation clubs. Today I am announcing that I have approved \$3.371 million to 475 clubs under Get Going. This funding will provide up to \$10,000 to assist clubs with initiatives such as promotional activities, equipment purchases and membership drives. In addition to this, over 12,000 vouchers of up to \$150 to help kids join a sports club have been issued.

We look forward to continuing our commitment over the next three years to grow our clubs and keep our juniors involved in sport and recreation. It is a great state with great opportunity for our sporting heroes big and small.

Gladstone, LNG Industry

Mrs CUNNINGHAM: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier earlier indicated the importance of LNG for Queensland's economy. The previous government did little to prepare and equip the Gladstone community for the massive development that is LNG. Will the current government agree that significant assistance is needed in areas such as roads, housing, health and community services and confirm to the affected community that funding will be committed across government for this necessary infrastructure?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the member for Gladstone for her question. I acknowledge that indeed there is significant LNG development in her city and it is the case that that community has seen substantial growth in recent years. As honourable members would know, we have, as part of our commitment to regional Queensland, introduced a Royalties for the Regions program, which will see \$485 million over the next four years going across this state to areas that are impacted by the resources boom. I note that Gladstone so far has not been successful in achieving an outcome within that program. But I need to stress that it is indeed a competitive program. At the moment we have a smaller pool for this first year. I think the pool is about \$60 million, if my memory serves me correct, in this first year. But in a couple of years' time that will be built up to \$200 million a year on an ongoing basis. Of course, it is our stated intent that we will see that pool grow.

Honourable members would recall that the previous Premier announced during last year's election campaign that royalties would be going into a so-called Mines to Minds program, which essentially was just spending the money holus-bolus. If we do see significant royalties out of CSG-LNG, I can assure the honourable member and other members from the resource regions that they will see more money going into the pool.

To come back to the issue of Gladstone, it like many other communities that were eligible was able to bid. It was the local council with perhaps the assistance of local members that was certainly welcomed that had an opportunity to bid for projects. Some councils were very successful. I pay tribute today to the Mayor of Roma, Rob Loughnan, who achieved a significant amount of funding particularly for the levy system to protect the town from flooding which I and the Deputy Premier announced last week.

In summary, my point, Madam Speaker, through you to the honourable member, is that she needs to work with the Gladstone Regional Council to put up really good projects that have great cost-benefit equations that really will deliver for the community. We are delighted to support them, but it is going to be a competitive round. Unlike the previous government, we are about value for money. We will get the most bang for the buck, and we need the best possible submissions from communities across this state.

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Mr CAVALLUCCI: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and I ask: what progress has been made by the government over the past 12 months to make Queensland a safer place, reduce unnecessary red tape for Queenslanders and increase access to justice?

Mr BLEIJIE: I begin by thanking the member for Brisbane Central for the question. I also acknowledge the former conservative Attorney-General in the public gallery, Mr Denver Beanland. I must say that I am immensely proud to be the conservative Attorney-General following Denver and particularly his fashion style. It is good to see that Mr Beanland still has a kerchief in his left-hand jacket pocket, something which I have followed with interest.

This government is all about access to justice and cutting red tape and, as I have said before in this place, is unapologetically tough on crime because that is what Queenslanders want and that is what Queenslanders expect. Over only the last 12 months with the assistance of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General we have introduced some 21 bills into parliament, 14 of which have passed. We have increased the penalty for serious assaults on police officers from seven to 14 years imprisonment and mandatory non-parole periods for murder from 15 years to 20 years. We have introduced a new murder provision period—a mandatory non-parole period of 25 years for murdering a police officer. We have introduced the toughest two-strike policy in the nation with respect to sex offenders. We have introduced an offender levy. I am pleased to advise the House today that the offender levy—a charge of \$100 in the Magistrates Court and \$300 in the District and Supreme courts—has generated an income for the state in the sum of \$4.1 million.

We have also recently announced that we are modernising with the times and reintroducing Queens Counsel into the state. We have instigated the Carmody Child Protection Commission of Inquiry because we want Queensland to be the safest place to raise a child. We have instigated two trial sites for boot camps in Queensland—one on the Gold Coast, which is an early intervention camp with the Kokoda Challenge down there, and the other in Cairns, which is almost up and running.

In terms of red-tape reduction, I have released draft PAMDA bills. The property agents and motor dealers legislation is split into four pieces of legislation. This is about making it easier to buy and sell property in Queensland—cutting the regulation and cutting red tape when people buy or sell property in this great state of Queensland. Construction is, of course, one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. I am pleased to advise the House that the REIQ recently looked at the draft bills and has made a submission to me. It thinks it can cut down the property bill by a third in terms of duplication, inefficiency and Labor Party red tape that has developed over the last 15 years. I think Queenslanders will be excited by that prospect in terms of fair trading.

We have given an extra \$2 million to victims of crime groups right across this state. Court Network Inc., Living Well, Protect all Children Today, Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group and WWILD. We are getting on with delivering for the state and getting the state back on track.

(Time expired)

Yeerongpilly Electorate, Flood Mitigation

Mr JUDGE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience. In respect of the long-term task to get all levels of government to focus on how we can minimise the impacts of flooding on towns and vital infrastructure, can the minister please explain what action he will be taking to fulfil his ministerial responsibilities for the Yeerongpilly electorate, which was heavily impacted by the 2011 floods and is the location of impending major developments including the Cross River Rail, Yeerongpilly Transport Oriented Development and proposed higher residential density as outlined in the Brisbane City Plan?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for that very lengthy question which cut across many different portfolios and some planning matters as well, but it is with great interest that I will address the question. The most important thing that the member can do is begin liaising with his local council. The philosophical difference between those people who sit over here and those people who sit over there is that we understand that local know-how is not cooped up in this building here. We understand that local knowledge and local know-how rests out in the community.

In the case of the member's electorate, he mentions many of the planning things that are happening. He mentions many opportunities to prevent flooding and I say that indeed he is right, but it is something that must be driven by the local community, because we have seen in this place what happens over a generation when you have views foisted from here down on local communities. It does not work. It is an epic failure. What happens when you take that approach is you have communities that feel ram-raided and trashed in their views, and I will never be part of that.

My challenge to the honourable member today is that, if he feels he has an idea, if he feels he has some local know-how, by all means take it to his council. How can we help that council? We can help his council in the same way that we want to help all 73 local governments, not just the largest but

the remaining 72 and, indeed, the BCC. We can help them by doing the following. First of all, when disaster strikes and we rebuild we need to do it properly. For the first time we have an attitude in this state that says, rather than replace like with like, rather than go through the motions, we are going to create a betterment fund to do it properly.

Currently what we have on the table is only \$40 million from the federal government. We believe that falls well short, but in an election year we will continue to fight and we will hunt. We will not just hunt one side of politics but both sides because this issue is too important. The federal government should be falling over itself to be part of this, because when disasters strike 75 per cent of the money that is spent on recovery comes from the federal government. We have offered to spend 50-50 on that betterment over and above the replacement, so it is in their long-term interest. I acknowledge that it does not present photo opportunities for politicians to fly in from Canberra and get their photo taken beside a crumbled piece of infrastructure, but local communities are sick and tired of seeing it.

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

Madam SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Yeerongpilly?

Mr JUDGE: I was asking about the Yeerongpilly electorate and there are state government projects in the area—

Madam SPEAKER: Please take your seat. That is not a point of order. I call the minister.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have to say that I have seen too many examples of infrastructure that has crumbled five times in the last couple of years, and I acknowledge the member for Gympie as someone who has been an ardent critic of that approach. The second way that the member can help is by fighting in our push to create local, state and federal government fund on a 40-40-20 basis to prepare communities better for the floods of the future.

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Mr DILLAWAY: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister outline what the Department of Transport and Main Roads has achieved over the past 12 months to keep Queenslanders moving?

Mr EMERSON: I thank the honourable member for the question, because I know he is a determined advocate for his area. There have been significant achievements over the last 12 months in Transport and Main Roads. There are many but I will name three in particular. The first one is freezing car registrations for families across Queensland. I see the Leader of the Opposition laughs about that. The fact is that, under its reign, Labor increased car registration fees by 30 per cent over its last four years. What have we done? We have frozen family car registration, benefitting 2.5 million Queenslanders. Labor's policy was to keep ramping up car registration; ours is to freeze it for the term of this government.

Secondly—and this is a project that should be dear to the heart of Queenslanders, although we know it is not to some opposite—there is the Bruce Highway. What have we done? We have drafted our crisis action plan. We have set on the table \$1 billion over the next decade in additional money as long as the federal government also puts in its money in the traditional 80-20 split. Then I heard the member for Mulgrave—and we know what he told the *Cairns Post* in April.

A government member: Famous words!

Mr EMERSON: We know that those famous words are etched across Far North Queensland. People there know that the member for Mulgrave said that state money being spent on the Bruce Highway was misspending. While we want to put an extra billion dollars—additional money—over the next 10 years into the Bruce Highway as well as the federal government also stepping up with its 80-20 split, what does Labor in Queensland want to do? They want to rip state money off the Bruce Highway. That is its policy.

Finally, there is the issue of public transport fares. What did we see from the Leader of the Opposition when she was the transport minister? We saw 15 per cent increases every year—year after year after year after year. That was Labor's sole policy that she voted for, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition voted for, the member for Mulgrave voted for and other members who were in the House at the time voted for: fare increases. Labor has one policy—it is Labor's only policy—of a 15 per cent increase.

Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association

Ms TRAD: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Can the minister advise the House what action he has undertaken in response to the serious concerns raised with his office this week about the validity of the appointment of office bearers to the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. As I said yesterday in the House when I was asked a similar question by the member for Rockhampton, if there have been allegations they ought to be given to the appropriate authorities. After I said that, I received an email yesterday from a gentleman from the IGA who has written a complaint to the QIRC. For those members opposite who do not believe in the separation of powers, the QIRC is not government; it is independent of government. Like the CMC, I do not direct the QIRC. The Industrial Registrar conducts investigations and inquiries as appropriate. A complaint has been made. Yes, I acknowledge that. When I mentioned the matter in the House yesterday I said if there are complaints to be made, they should be made to the appropriate people. It turns out that someone did make it to the appropriate person, which was the right thing to do. This person from the IGA who has made this complaint has now brought it to my attention and has sent me a copy of the correspondence that he sent to the Industrial Registrar. As I am advised, as of today the Industrial Registrar was investigating it. There was an issue that the person who put the complaint, who I understand was on the board, is no longer on the board.

We will ensure that the Industrial Registrar conducts the investigation as he sees fit. That is his job. I am not going to intervene or interfere with the process of investigation. In January this year that particular association wrote to the Industrial Registrar requesting an extension of time to give the audited financial books to the Industrial Registrar. Guess what? The Industrial Registrar as an independent body granted an extension. So those books have now been given to the Industrial Registrar and the Industrial Registrar is going through those books, as appropriate. Until such time as the Industrial Registrar comes to any sort of conclusion I am not going to comment any further on the matter.

Social Housing Tenants, Antisocial Behaviour

Mr KING: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Will the minister advise the House of what action is being taken to address antisocial behaviour in social housing properties across Queensland?

Mr MANDER: I thank the member for his question. I know this is an issue of great concern for him and for the people of Cairns.

When this government came to office the social housing system was a complete basket case. Maintenance bills were up, rents were down and the waiting list had blown out by around 50 per cent in the past three years alone. After years of neglect from those opposite it has fallen to this government to stop the rot and put social housing back on a sustainable footing.

One of the biggest challenges we face is dealing with the destructive and antisocial behaviour of certain tenants. As things stand, there are 23,000 households waiting for social housing and, unfortunately, there are simply not enough properties to put them in. In the face of so much unmet need, it is important that our scarce resources go to those most in need and are not squandered cleaning up after people who are hell-bent on destroying their homes.

The overwhelming majority of public housing tenants do the right thing and give us no trouble whatsoever. However, there is a minority who is determined to do the wrong thing, whose antisocial behaviour can have a terrible impact on those unfortunate enough to live nearby. Last year alone badly behaved tenants did more than \$5 million worth of damage to our properties. Just this morning I visited a couple of properties that have been mistreated by the previous occupants, and in both cases what was left was not fit for human habitation.

Every week I see dozens of letters from highly distressed people who are sick of being harassed by social housing tenants who are running amok next door. Last weekend we saw an incident at Acacia Ridge where public housing tenants hosted a Facebook party which resulted in police being assaulted and a council bus being destroyed. This sort of nonsense simply cannot go on.

Social housing is a privilege and with that privilege comes certain responsibilities. Unfortunately, the policy that we inherited from Labor is a toothless tiger. No matter how badly you behave, it is almost impossible to get evicted, and this is simply unacceptable. The Newman

government is proposing to crack down on this sort of unruly behaviour by introducing a three-strikes policy. This is about restoring individual responsibility to public housing and giving Housing staff the tools to put bad tenants on notice and nip bad behaviour in the bud before things spiral out of control. A strong message must be sent to problem tenants that the community will not accept disruptive, dangerous and illegal behaviour. I stress again that this is about cracking down on the worst of the worst. This policy will send a clear message to the antisocial minority that if they do not appreciate their homes there are plenty of others who do.

(Time expired)

Regional Community Association Moreton Bay

Mrs SCOTT: My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Will the minister advise if she is aware of claims by members of the Regional Community Association Moreton Bay that staff of the association recently have not been provided with pay slips and that their wages have been paid from an account held by a bank other than the association's regular bank?

Ms DAVIS: I thank the honourable member for the question. As I spoke about yesterday, this is a matter that is being investigated by the department and they will continue to do so. Anyone would think that those opposite actually care about this particular community organisation. They did not know it existed until these allegations were made. I wonder whether part of the drive of this might have something to do with the marginal seat of the federal member for Petrie, Yvette D'Ath, and her very great desire to withstand an onslaught from the very fine candidate in Luke Howarth. It is an important issue that is being investigated by my department, and it will continue to do its job.

What is also of concern to me is that those opposite do not understand process when a complaint is made to my department. Since 2008, some 24 complaints have been investigated, including those during the time of the former government. There is a process and it will be followed. What do those opposite feel should be done here? A process is being followed. Some more information has been passed on to the CMC and it will investigate, as required, and an outcome will be reached. What is important is that due process is followed. That is what is happening.

Our department was proactive last year—proactive well before it came to the attention of the *Courier-Mail* and those opposite and was referred to the CMC, and it came back. The findings were that there was nothing to be answered with the material, and that is the response. So I do not quite know what those opposite are after. These are issues that require investigation. That is what is happening. Those opposite have no interest in the community centre in Redcliffe, other than to use it for political purposes. That is what they do—gutter tactics, anything to bring anybody down. They do not care about the real service delivery that is being—

(Time expired)

Madam SPEAKER: The time for questions has finished.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (3.31 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Vegetation Management Act 1999, the Land Act 1994, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Wild Rivers Act 2005 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013 [\[2303\]](#).

Tabled paper: Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes [\[2304\]](#).

Since its election, the Newman government has wasted no time in delivering a program of significant legislative reform that seeks to reduce red tape and encourage growth in the four key pillars of the Queensland economy. Today I am absolutely delighted and excited to introduce to the House a package of reforms to Queensland's vegetation management laws that will support growth in all four of these pillars but in particular the agricultural sector. The Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013 represents a key milestone in delivering on the Newman government's core commitment to reduce the regulatory burden on industries that are the backbone of the Queensland economy—agricultural businesses that produce food and fibre for local and

international markets. These proposals represent the most significant reforms to legislation affecting agricultural production in decades. These reforms restore much needed balance to the state's vegetation management framework—a set of laws that had become so skewed towards supposedly protecting the environment that they forgot about protecting people, their livelihoods and the communities that they are a part of. Twenty years of Labor allowed the pendulum to swing too far towards radical green policies that threatened the ability of landholders to effectively manage their businesses and maintain productivity.

The reforms I present to the House today will bring to an end 20 years of Labor pandering to the extreme green movement. They also expose the furphy that Labor really cared about the environment. What Labor really cared about was securing green preferences at state elections, and every time it tightened the vegetation management screws it sold out the people of the bush and demonstrated absolute disdain and disrespect for the contribution rural Queenslanders make to the state's economy. These reforms bring to an end layer upon layer of vegetation management laws that were imposed on landholders, strangling them in red tape and crippling their ability to improve productivity. The cumulative effects of successive amendments to vegetation management legislation led to an onerous web of red tape that constrained even the most routine of vegetation management activities.

For too long the legitimate concerns of landholders about Queensland's burdensome Vegetation Management Act 1999 have been ignored. Today I present reforms that bring to an end a sorry chapter in the history of public policy in Queensland. This bill heralds a new era of supporting sustainable land management practices undertaken by Queensland's most committed and experienced stewards of the land—Queensland's farmers and graziers. Not only did the previous administration's policies create angst and uncertainty across Queensland; they also cost all Queenslanders dearly in terms of lost jobs and lost economic opportunities as a result of lower farm productivity. This fact is reinforced by the recent findings of the Office of Best Practice Regulation's interim report on measuring and reducing the burden of regulation, which concluded that the vegetation management framework increases costs and prevents efficient use of property.

The reforms proposed in this bill respond to these complaints and findings. I will take some time now to outline the proposed amendments to the Vegetation Management Act. The bill proposes a number of significant changes to the vegetation management framework to provide a balance between the conservation of vegetation and biodiversity values and the sustainable economic development of the state. The reforms presented today are practical, sensible reforms which will make it easier for landholders to manage their properties and pursue viable rural businesses. Firstly, the purpose of the Vegetation Management Act is to be amended to include the management of vegetation in a way that allows for sustainable land use. This fundamental change will mean that, for the first time in almost a decade, vegetation laws will recognise the importance of landholders being able to sustainably manage the landscape to produce food and fibre. This amendment is just the first of many that will swing the pendulum back to the centre to a position where the legislation supports, rather than vilifies, primary producers.

The bill proposes to repeal regrowth regulations that apply to freehold and Indigenous land. In a display of breathtaking arrogance, the previous Labor government in 2009 stripped away the fundamental property rights of freehold landholders by extending the restrictions previously applied to regrowth vegetation on leasehold land. That decision, like so many others, destroyed any remaining trust that landowners had in the former Labor government and left them feeling betrayed and abandoned. More worryingly for the families and the communities that surrounded them, it took away long-term planning certainty and any hope that they could maintain and improve the productivity and profitability of their rural enterprises. Repealing these damaging provisions will return the legislative requirements on freehold and Indigenous land back to those that were in place prior to the regrowth regulations that were imposed in November 2009. In recognition of the importance of maintaining the integrity of creeks, streams and waterways close the coast, the regulation of regrowth vegetation within 50 metres of reef watercourses in priority Great Barrier Reef catchments will remain.

This bill also creates a new head of power under the Vegetation Management Act allowing for the development of additional self-assessable vegetation management codes. For too long landholders have had to apply for clearing permits to undertake routine management of their land. The creation of self-assessable vegetation management codes for certain activities, including maintaining fences or firebreaks, fodder harvesting, property infrastructure, thinning, encroachment management and pest and weed management, will not only reduce the regulatory burden and paperwork for landholders but empower them to once again be responsible stewards of their land. In

many parts of rural Queensland where vegetation encroachment on grazing land is threatening biodiversity and the natural balance between rangelands and timbered country, these reforms will allow graziers to undertake vegetation management in compliance with a new self-assessable code.

Similarly in South-West Queensland, the harvesting of mulga for stockfeed will be allowed under a self-assessable code. Right across Queensland, where woody and invasive weed species are threatening biodiversity and the productivity of grazing land, these amendments will cut the red tape within the vegetation management framework to ensure routine vegetation management practices can be conducted responsibly and in accordance with these self-assessable codes. Practically speaking, this would mean that day-to-day vegetation management practices that contribute to the sustainability and profitability of a farm business can be carried out in accordance with a self-assessable code and without the need for a permit, provided the Department of Natural Resources and Mines is notified.

The bill proposes that the Vegetation Management Act also include a new exemption for clearing purposes for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture and necessary environmental clearing. These provisions will strongly support the development of Queensland's agricultural sector. Clearing for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture, which includes annual and perennial horticulture and broadacre cropping, will be able to occur where landholders can satisfy a number of requirements. These include that the land is suitable, the activity is economically viable and, where irrigated high-value agriculture is proposed, there is sufficient water available for the activity. To ensure long-term sustainability, applicants will need to submit a development plan to demonstrate the application is for high-value or irrigated agriculture. Once the development plan is approved, the application will then be assessed against the regional vegetation management code. These requirements are intended to balance the sustainable use of Queensland's agricultural land with appropriate environmental considerations. I stress, however, that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will ensure this process is streamlined and efficient.

The Newman government is committed to its clear target of doubling the value of agricultural production by 2040. Reforms such as these will contribute greatly to that target. As each cyclone and wet season passes, I hear constituents from my electorate of Hinchinbrook talk about the terrible damage to public and private infrastructure and the impacts that serious flooding has on the landscape and to the social and economic fabric of local communities. In some cases this damage could have potentially been avoided if landholders were able to undertake pre-emptive environmental clearing.

Introducing the new purpose of clearing for necessary environmental clearing will allow landholders, natural resource management groups and local governments to achieve good environmental outcomes through activities such as stabilising riverbanks, erosion prevention and remediation of degraded or contaminated areas. This purpose will also include clearing for pre-emptive works in preparation for potential natural disasters. Where landholders have not been able to pre-empt and prevent damage caused by a natural disaster, a proposed change to the Sustainable Planning Regulation will include a new exemption for clearing after natural disasters. This exemption will help landholders and regional communities to get on with the task of recovery and rebuilding following these events.

Another common complaint from landholders and developers that the bill responds to is the complexity of the vegetation management maps attached to the act itself. Other reforms in the bill include a suite of changes that will see major simplification of the vegetation mapping used to identify vegetation types. The improved mapping will clearly define and identify regulated and non-regulated areas of vegetation, making it much simpler to use and interpret.

In addition to the complaint of being overburdensome, the vegetation management framework is also frequently criticised for extending development assessment timeframes for far too long. Currently, an application for a material change of use and/or reconfiguring a lot permit triggers concurrence agency assessment against the Vegetation Management Act by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. These applications are referred from the local government to my department for assessment if assessable vegetation is going to be impacted and the area in question is two hectares or more.

To streamline this process and facilitate efficiencies for small scale developments, it is proposed to amend the Sustainable Planning Regulation to increase the trigger for concurrence from two hectares to five hectares. As part of the broader reform package, the Sustainable Planning Regulation will also be amended to provide exemptions for supported transport infrastructure as well

as infrastructure on land which would meet the requirements for community infrastructure designation under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. This will reduce costs and facilitate the building of essential and important infrastructure that benefits the community and the economy.

The bill also proposes to repeal the interactions between the Vegetation Management Act and the Wild Rivers Act, removing the current duplication between the two pieces of legislation. Finally, the bill also removes a number of unfair offence and penalty provisions under the Vegetation Management Act and the Land Act. This includes removing the guide to sentencing under section 60B of the VMA following a recommendation from a review by crown law and removing the reversal of onus of proof provisions in section 67A of the VMA where a landholder is taken to be responsible for clearing without any further evidence to the contrary. In particular, the removal of the section 60B penalty guide will provide the opportunity for more equitable consideration in cases of inappropriate land clearing.

Previously under this section, a person who unlawfully cleared a small area could pay significantly more on a per hectare basis than another person who cleared vast tracts of protected vegetation. The penalty guide did not specifically consider issues such as the capacity of a defendant to pay, the impact on the property, the level of knowledge the individual had or even if the defendant has derived a benefit from the clearing. In many cases magistrates prosecuting these cases found the guide confusing, but had little alternative apart from using this schedule to fine rural landholders near the maximum prescribed penalty for these offences. The bill will also remove section 67B. In removing this section, it will ensure that landholders who make an honest mistake cannot be charged with an offence where that person has a reasonable and honest but mistaken belief that led to the offence. As a result, they will not be criminally responsible for their acts.

In summary, the reforms proposed in this bill are significant, but they are necessary to remove the shackles of decades of Labor overregulation of vegetation management activities. What I have outlined is a snapshot of the extensive work that my Department of Natural Resources and Mines has completed in developing these reforms. I also acknowledge the strong support of the Deputy Premier and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning in the preparation of this bill. The reforms I have outlined provide a balanced and practical approach to sustainable land use and environmental protection. These reforms will benefit the resources sector, the property and construction industry and local governments.

However, the most significant benefits and opportunities in this bill are afforded to farmers and graziers, agricultural industries and regional and rural communities across Queensland. It gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction and pride to commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (3.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (3.47 pm) by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee report to the House on the Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill by 14 May 2013.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES ARRANGEMENTS (BRAND PROTECTION)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Resumed from 13 February (see p. 145).

Second Reading

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (3.48 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for its expeditious consideration of the bill, and I note members of that committee here in the House this afternoon. The government has carefully considered the committee's report, which was tabled in the House on 7 March 2013. I am now pleased to table the government's response to the report, which I note has been approved by the Premier.

Tabled paper: State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 19—Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013, government response [\[2305\]](#).

The committee made eight recommendations. The government supports six of the recommendations either fully, in principle or in part. Two recommendations are not supported. I will now speak briefly to the recommendations. The government supports recommendation 1 that the bill be passed and it appreciates the committee's support in this regard. The second recommendation is that the bill be amended to address the issue of ambush marketing. The government supports this recommendation in principle. The premise of this recommendation appears to be that 'the bill omits any explicit provisions prohibiting ambush marketing' outlined at page 4 of the report. There appears to be some confusion about what constitutes ambush marketing so I will endeavour to clarify this.

Ambush marketing includes the direct unauthorised use of intellectual property, as well as various other strategies to leverage off the goodwill and publicity surrounding an event. The bill in fact does address, very directly, the kinds of ambush marketing that need to be addressed at this point, five years before the games. Protection against ambush marketing by way of the unauthorised use of intellectual property is required years before an event such as a Commonwealth Games because emblems, slogans, mascots and the like are launched years before the event. The new games emblem will be launched on 4 April this year and it is important that we have certain protection in place as soon as possible.

There are a number of issues that will need to be dealt with in legislation prior to the games, including ticket touting, ambush marketing by way of advertising close to venues, transport and, of course, security. Most of these issues do not require legislation this far out from the games. In particular, regulating advertising near venues is not urgent. My department has an ongoing legislative development program that will deliver all the legislative needs of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in appropriate timeframes.

Recommendations 3, 4 and 5 relate to negotiations with the Commonwealth government about policy and legislative development within its jurisdiction. The government supports these recommendations in principle. My department is already undertaking officer-level discussions with the Commonwealth government about complementary legislation for the games. I have also written to the Minister for Sport, Senator Kate Lundy, about complementary legislation. However, given the current point in the Commonwealth electoral cycle, there is no realistic expectation of Commonwealth legislation before late 2014 at the earliest.

I am not concerned about this timing. Although existing remedies will not be sufficient closer to and during the games, they are effective for the current context and are already being used by the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation and will continue to be used as required. In the bid for the games, the Commonwealth government has made a commitment to progress appropriate brand protection legislation. I am confident that the Commonwealth government will honour its commitment and progress its legislation at the earliest opportunity. I will forward to the Commonwealth the committee's recommendations 4 and 5 about reviewing the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 and the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999 to ensure the necessary protections for brand protection of major events. However, it will be up to the Commonwealth government on what it progresses.

I make the observation that interjurisdictional enforcement, particularly as it relates to internet breaches, is one with which governments and intellectual property owners around the globe have been grappling with for many years. It is not unique to the games, it pre-dates the games and will be around for a long time after the games. It is not an issue that domestic legislation is able to resolve, whether the jurisdiction is Queensland, Victoria or Canada. The proposed new section 48 provides that the brand protection provisions will apply outside Queensland to the greatest extent possible, but no government can empower its officers, by legislation or otherwise, to go into another jurisdiction to enforce its laws.

I am confident that the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation will be able to deal promptly and effectively with breaches originating outside Queensland but within Australia using the Commonwealth legislation once it is passed. International breaches will be a matter for the corporation and the Commonwealth Games Federation and their respective legal advisers to manage on a case-by-case basis.

The committee also made some comments on the work and research done in developing the policy basis for the bill. To clarify, the process included reviews of legislation prepared for the Sydney 2000, Melbourne 2006, London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 Olympic and Commonwealth games. Numerous discussions were undertaken with senior executives and officers from the Victorian Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination and the M2006 Corporation. Consultation also occurred with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation and its specialist intellectual property lawyer and with relevant Queensland government departments, in particular the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The ambush marketing legislation review referred to in the report was also considered early in the project.

The government also supports in principle recommendation 6 that external stakeholders with appropriate expertise are consulted in the development of further legislation. We will continue to consult relevant external stakeholders with appropriate expertise in the ongoing development of games related policy. I note the committee's suggestion in its report that the Gold Coast chamber of commerce should have been consulted on the bill. The object of the bill is not to provide a framework for commercial use of Commonwealth Games branding on which it may have been appropriate to consult the business community; it is to prevent the commercial use of games branding without the permission of, primarily, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation. It is necessary to give the corporation control of the commercial use of images and references in order to achieve the broader objective—that is, to not allow the use of images or references in a way that would dilute the value of the brand to sponsors. If Gold Coast businesses want to use Commonwealth Games references or images for commercial or promotional purposes they will need to negotiate with the corporation. The appropriate point of engagement for local businesses interested in opportunities to benefit from the games is, therefore, with the corporation. I should caution though that permission to use references or images for commercial purposes will usually only be given to sponsors, official suppliers and the like, otherwise there would be no point in becoming a sponsor.

The committee also suggested that the Law Society of Queensland should have been consulted. The government considers sometimes it will be appropriate to consult bodies such as the Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland in the development of legislation. But this bill is relatively straightforward. It is modelled on legislation that was effective only seven years ago in Melbourne. This bill does not require the detailed opportunities for public input that some other bills do.

Recommendation 7 is that my department develop guidelines for the disposal of seized or forfeited goods under the legislation and that the guidelines form part of the Commonwealth Games regulation when it is developed. While the government agrees to develop and publish guidelines, we will need to further consider whether the guidelines will form part of a regulation. We will seek advice from the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel before a decision is made.

The final recommendation is that the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation amends the bill to include all games related images and references as a schedule to the bill in order that the legislation has sufficient regard to the institution of parliament. There are a range of references and images that are still in development and many on which work has not even started yet, such as the pictograms that will denote each sport. The bill provides the detail of how games references and images will be protected. This is the critical material that requires parliamentary consideration. The actual references and images to be protected here are, in a policy sense, much less significant and appropriate to be included in subordinate legislation. The committee notes in its report that the corresponding legislation for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games included all

their references and images in their act rather than a regulation. However, the Victorian Commonwealth Games Arrangements Regulations 2005 prescribed a number of references and images pursuant to a head of power in section 57 of their Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2001. Members will, of course, have the opportunity to scrutinise the references and images included in any regulation and move a disallowance motion if any are felt to be inappropriate.

The committee mentions generic games references in particular. The bill allows the unauthorised commercial use of generic games references if the use does not refer to the Commonwealth Games and would not reasonably be taken to refer to the Commonwealth Games. This is because generic games references are those that could, with no intent to deceive, be used to refer to other events such as the Masters Games. Given that references can be prescribed by regulation, it is necessary to also allow the prescribing of those references as generic games references. This will enable the regulation to maintain consistency with the policy of the bill where a new reference could legitimately be used to refer to another event. The government does not consider that allowing the prescribing of images, references or generic references by regulation represents a lack of sufficient regard to the institution of parliament.

I would like to put on record my thanks to the committee for its report. However, I am aware that only three members of the committee—the chair and the members for Burleigh and Sandgate—were able to attend the briefing given by officers of my department on 20 February. I particularly thank those three members, as well as the committee secretariat, for their consideration of the bill.

I now turn to the bill. As I said in this House when I introduced the bill on 13 February this year, the bill will insert into the Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011 a framework for the protection of the branding materials and goodwill of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. This bill is one part of an overall package designed to allow for community ownership and celebration of the games, while not allowing the use of Commonwealth Games images or references in a way that would dilute the value of the brand to sponsors. This would compromise sponsorship revenue, which forms a sizeable chunk of the games budget. It is prudent that we take reasonable steps to protect the government's significant investment in the games.

The bill provides streamlined procedures for the enforcement of intellectual property associated with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, references such as 'Commonwealth Games' and 'Queen's baton relay' and images such as the games emblem and mascot. It also prevents people from falsely suggesting that they have a relationship with the games as a sponsor or supplier. There are criminal sanctions co-existing with civil remedies, injunctions, corrective advertising, damages and account of profits. Seizure powers also apply in the critical few months leading up to and including the games, in and around games venues and other key locations to be prescribed, such as public transport hubs and live sites. It is critical that we have these fair but speedy enforcement options to give sponsors the confidence that their investment will be protected.

As I said before, the proposed new section 48 provides that the protections and remedies will apply extraterritorially to the greatest extent possible. Part 1 of the new chapter 3 sets out some critical definitions for the terms 'prohibited purpose' and 'deceptively similar'. The definition of 'prohibited purpose' includes exceptions for things such as genuine news reporting, criticism and review or education.

Part 2 sets out the offences and includes the special arrangements for generic games references, which can be used in good faith to refer to other events such as the Masters Games, and the safeguard for people who happen to already be using an image or reference that becomes protected.

Part 3 provides authorities for the use of references and images that would otherwise be a prohibited use. The corporation can authorise the use of games images and references that are essentially those that are created for the Gold Coast 2018 games. The Australian Commonwealth Games Association and the Commonwealth Games Federation can authorise the use of their own references and images, their names and their emblems. The minister can authorise the non-commercial use of games references to ensure community celebration of the games is facilitated where there is no impact on sponsors' rights or on the integrity of the Commonwealth Games. There is also provision for a publicly available register of authorisations, so that any member of the public can check if they have suspicions that someone is misusing a protected reference or image.

Part 4 sets out the civil remedies which co-exist with the criminal sanctions. The civil remedies, of course, will be heard and decided by courts exercising civil jurisdiction to a civil standard. They are injunctions, corrective advertising, damages and account of profits, although for any single incident a court can order damages or an account of profits, but not both.

Part 5 sets out the powers allowing police to seize contraband in key places from January to April 2018. This is the period when this is the greatest risk of the kinds of ambush marketing activities that occur in places where the media or large numbers of people will be gathering; places such as Commonwealth Games venues, airports where athletes will be arriving, public transport routes and hubs and live sites where large screens will be erected in public places to broadcast the games. The power extends to electronic devices that contain unauthorised references or images. It requires a reasonable belief, by a police officer, that the reference or image is being used or is intended to be used in contravention of the bill. There is comprehensive provision for transparency and natural justice after a seizure. The same provisions apply where an item is surrendered to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation. This is important, as it is hoped that all matters can be resolved informally and quickly, which will usually involve the surrender of the alleged contraband to a corporation officer in the field.

Part 5 facilitates sensible outcomes. For example, if all parties agree that a seizure was in error, the item can be returned promptly to its owner. Alternatively, if the person acknowledges a use was unauthorised but there is no public interest in commencing either civil or criminal proceedings, the person can forfeit the item to the state and that can be the end of the matter. If no proceedings are commenced within six months, the item is to be returned to its owner.

Part 6 includes a range of provisions, including an assurance that the bill does not affect any existing civil right or remedy, and the expiry of the provisions at the end of 2018, when the justification for the criminal sanctions and the streamlined civil remedies will have passed.

As I said earlier, this bill is one part of an overall package designed to allow for community ownership and celebration of the games while not allowing the use of protected images or references in a way that would dilute the value of the brand to sponsors. The other main part of the overall package will be a suite of options for not-for-profit community uses, including a blanket authorisation that will allow low-key use subject only to common-sense guidelines. The government will work with the corporation on the development of these options.

This bill is another important step in our preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, which will be proudly hosted on the Gold Coast. This promises to be the best games yet and will create a wonderful legacy for the Gold Coast and indeed for all of Queensland and Australia.

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. The opposition will not be opposing the bill and wishes to place on the record our ongoing support for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Being awarded the Commonwealth Games was a wonderful achievement of the previous government. All Queenslanders understand the benefits in tourism that will flow from delivering this world-class event on the Gold Coast. The games will bring major tourism and economic benefits to Queensland and the Gold Coast region, and we were happy to see the government provide its ongoing support to the games.

I thank the research staff and members of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for their work in relation to this bill. I particularly wish to thank the committee members who have made a number of significant and valid recommendations for the consideration of the House. I note that the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games introduced this legislation into the parliament and she is sharing responsibility for the games with the Deputy Premier. I note the work the Deputy Premier began last year. It was the Deputy Premier who introduced the bill which established the Commonwealth Games Infrastructure Authority. The bill essentially put in place the groundwork for the major infrastructure build and planning of the games. The jobs that will flow from delivering these infrastructure projects can only benefit the Gold Coast community.

The debate in this place is often robust, but I can assure those opposite that the spirit of this debate is delivered in a bipartisan manner. We need to work together to ensure a successful Commonwealth Games for the benefit of the entire Queensland community. It is important to view this legislation in context. This kind of legislation has been introduced for the Sydney Olympic Games, the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, various world cup events, the London 2012 Olympic Games and will even be used into the future at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games to be held in 2014.

Clearly we are not reinventing the wheel here in relation to brand protection at major sporting events, which is why it is a little surprising so many recommendations have been submitted by the committee. The stated aims of this bill are to protect sponsorship revenue for the Commonwealth Games and to protect the brands of companies that invest as sponsors of the games.

The chair of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee clearly lists the mechanisms for achieving the aims of the bill which are: prohibiting unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial or promotional purposes; prohibiting conduct falsely inferring an association with the games; providing for an administrative regime of authorisations for not-for-profit community purposes; and providing for a standard practice for resolving breaches informally if possible and appropriate, with proceedings usually a last resort.

I note that during the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne not one person was prosecuted in relation to the Victorian legislation. I also note the underlying aim of this legislation is to resolve breaches through an informal process with formal proceedings literally as a last resort. I think this legislation seeks to strike the right balance by providing informal processes as well as providing a sufficient deterrent for those who would seek to damage the reputation of the Commonwealth Games, the sponsors and our great state by providing both civil and criminal sanctions.

The committee recommended that the bill be amended to consider ambush marketing, which includes the situation where a company or brand associates itself with a major event without paying for the rights to that event. Ambush marketing has become especially prevalent with the reach of the internet. The potential for photographs and videos of marketing stunts to go viral and cause considerable damage to the reputation of brands and revenue streams for the games requires the careful consideration of the parliament.

I am aware of some criticisms of the legislation that state that the laws are too heavy-handed and that they may affect the larrikin nature of Australian culture which should be on display for international visitors to enjoy during the games. The direction to resolve breaches informally, combined with the recommendation put forward by the committee to amend the bill to include a schedule listing all the Commonwealth Games images and references to provide adequate guidelines and warnings for business and individuals, should ease some concern.

The minister needs to ensure adequate training is provided to those from the various organisations tasked with enforcing the legislation. International relationships and other business interests could be adversely affected through either ill-considered action or inaction by the relevant authorities which may be outside the formal control of the minister—for example, customs of the New South Wales police. Considerable sums of money and reputations are at stake and could damage the reputation of the host of the games.

I would ask the minister for some clarification on how these training issues will be managed and what advice she has received on how this will be achieved given the obvious jurisdictional issues which I will now discuss. The major concerns of the committee generally relate to the negotiations and working relationships required with the federal government to achieve positive outcomes for the Commonwealth Games. Upon viewing the committee recommendations, argument could be made that further negotiation with the Commonwealth should have been made prior to introduction of the bill. I hope the government will take on board the recommendations of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee and take this as an opportunity to improve and build on these relationships. It is also important to note a number of cross-jurisdictional issues that affect the bill.

I recall that the minister addressed some recommendations. I think they were recommendations 4 and 5. She said that she would forward them to the Commonwealth for further consideration. I seek some clarification from the minister on that. The minister is actually confirming that that was the case. I thank the minister for that clarification.

I turn to the cross-jurisdictional issues that affect this bill. The Gold Coast is very close to the New South Wales border and if those seeking to profit from the exploitation of the Commonwealth Games decide to operate over the border in New South Wales they could defeat the purpose of the bill. The committee expressed a preference for the Commonwealth introducing legislation to ensure that issues were covered uniformly. The committee went even further when it said—

The committee encourages the Department to actively progress the issue of national uniform legislation and give particular attention to enforceability of a consistent regime in Queensland and New South Wales.

I support action by the Commonwealth government that may close this potential loophole. Making the federal and state jurisdictional issues even more complex is the existing and sometimes overlapping federal legislation. Those aggrieved by breaches of the law relating to this bill may wish to use the Australian Consumer Law or the federal legislation that relates to broadcasting over the

internet to remedy the issues that impact upon their businesses. The committee believes these negotiations with the federal government and federal government departments should be commenced immediately. I give support to the committee's recommendations given the complex civil, criminal and jurisdictional improvements required of the bill.

I note the jurisdictional issues do not only relate to the New South Wales border issues and federal law issues. The international nature of the event and the use of internet domains and websites, which are often hosted overseas, add further complexity to the jurisdictional issues. The games will be upon us before we know it and work is required behind the scenes to ensure its success. Everyone can be assured that we here in the opposition will support any measures that will assist the games organisers. The responsibility to drive these reforms, however, rests with the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games, who is responsible for delivering these necessary reforms and negotiations.

The committee report makes a number of criticisms with the process that has led to the introduction of the bill. This event is a community event and should enjoy a high level of community consultation so that the community have some sort of ownership over the event. One source of revenue is the sponsorship of the games which we are discussing today, but it is important not to forget another source of revenue which is selling tickets for the games.

The criticism from the committee that the department 'had not consulted with any outside stakeholders', and this included the Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce, who I would have thought would have been a key stakeholder, is surprising. The department also indicated that it had not sought any advice from the Law Society or other key stakeholders in relation to the jurisdictional issues that I previously mentioned, and I do believe that consulting the Law Society could have aided in this exercise.

Finally, I support recommendations that community and stakeholder engagement strategies are placed front of mind in relation to any further amendments that may be required in relation to this bill. I think we all understand that community and stakeholder engagement will allow the community to develop ownership and pride associated with the Commonwealth Games. I ask the government to take the community on this ride with them, on this journey, which will only see positives both in the short and long term, not just for the Gold Coast but for all of Queensland. The opposition will be supporting this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (4.21 pm): It is a pleasure to rise as the chair of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to speak to the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. At the outset I thank all the committee members and the secretariat staff for their support in being able to analyse this bill and provide the report within a fairly short time frame but one I believe as a committee we were able to do very well. I also thank all members of the committee, government and non-government. It is important that this bill has unanimous support of the parliament, and it is clear from the Leader of the Opposition that it has that. I note that we have no dissenting reports from our non-government members.

It is also very pleasing to see that this process—the way in which committees analyse bills, make recommendations and then present them back to the government to consider—is one that is working well in this parliament. The fact that this report made eight recommendations and the government has been willing to support six either fully or in principle I believe is very important. It shows that the process is working well. In terms of the two recommendations that are not supported, I note the minister has made very clear the reasons for that, and again I thank her for her time in that area.

This bill addresses a very important matter and one that is not normally looked at from a state perspective, and that is the issue of intellectual property. Within Australia brand protection usually sits at the Commonwealth level, and it rightly does so because brands today are either national or indeed in many cases international and need to be protected accordingly. Within the Commonwealth there is the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 and also the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999 that provide for brand protection and indeed for brand protection online.

The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are unique in that traditionally when we see a major event like we have seen in Australia, whether it be the Sydney Olympics or the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, it occurs within the boundary of a state or territory and not close to the border. The Gold Coast games present a very unique situation in that in being so close to the New South Wales border there are some interesting interjurisdictional issues that extend beyond the capacity of this parliament to look at and to deal with. I note the minister's response on those issues

with the ongoing work that is occurring at an intergovernmental level, and that is important. But I flag for this House, and indeed for the people of Queensland, that I think the Commonwealth needs to do more.

We are at a time now where we are seeing more and more international events. As we know, with those international events their sponsorship is by far one of the most important income streams that they have to be viable, whether it be the Commonwealth Games, whether it be the Olympic Games, whether it be motor sports events. States and nations bid for these major sporting events. They bid for them not only because they see the value in the infrastructure they bring to the communities and the legacy that that infrastructure will deliver but also for the sense of community pride and opportunity that comes with hosting an international event.

I believe the time has come when the Commonwealth needs to look at this very seriously and provide some overarching legislation that would be specifically available to be accessed by major events that are of an international nature. The very reason the current protections are provided and accessed by major companies is to protect their brands. I think we are all very familiar with an incident that happened recently where McDonald's took a sporting club to task for having the name 'Macca's' on their jerseys. Those major companies are protecting their brands, but that can be time consuming. The courts are not quick. When you come to a major international event you need to be able to react quickly. The legislation needs to ensure that, whilst rights are protected, the sponsors themselves and the major money that they have paid for those sponsorship rights are also protected in themselves.

That leads us to the issue of ambush marketing. It is an issue about which the committee looked at quite seriously. I note the minister's comments with regard to it. Ambush marketing is becoming a very effective way for small organisations, start-up companies and cheeky operators to really seize the day and take an association and the dollar value associated with the event and leverage off that when they have no right to do so. We feel that the bill could have been amended to be stronger in that area because it is an area in which we are seeing rapid growth. The types of ambush marketing we are now seeing and will be seeing further into 2018 are well beyond what we saw at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and certainly well beyond what occurred at the Sydney Olympic Games. So that is a very important issue for ourselves.

As has been outlined by the minister, this bill will protect sponsorship revenue. It does that by prohibiting the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial or promotional purposes and by prohibiting conduct falsely implying an association with the games. It also provides for an administrative regime of authorisations for not-for-profit community purposes. Can I just pause and touch on this because I commend the minister for her direct involvement in this.

One of the things that we saw as a negative with the London Olympic Games was where community not-for-profit groups who wanted to associate with the games with a sense of community pride—who wanted to hold an event or something and use those famous Olympic rings, not for any benefit commercially but for the community to be able to have that sense of opportunity and occasion—were being stopped from doing so. I really think that was one of the fair criticisms of the London Olympics where it just got a little bit heavy-handed. I remember there was a story with regard to either a butcher or a baker who had either produced sausages in the shape of the Olympic rings or baked some Olympic rings and was basically told, 'You need to get rid of those.' They are small commercial operations and not in the not-for-profit category. But, again, we need to ensure that we keep that community spirit alive with us as we move forward towards the Commonwealth Games.

The bill also provides for a standard practice of resolving breaches informally if possible and appropriate, with proceedings usually a last resort. I believe this is a very important element that has been taken from other major events, such as the Melbourne games, because we do not want to see the games being tarnished by a series of breaches with court proceedings. In most cases, I believe, people would understand and would act appropriately.

That brings me now to the point with regard to the internet. I must say—and I put on the record—there was a sense of concern from the committee as it questioned the CEO of the Commonwealth Games Corporation, Mr Mark Peters, with regard to that. He made the remark, and it is recorded in *Hansard*, that this legislation would give them the authority to close down websites, and clearly it does not. Well it does but only with regard to websites that are hosted within Queensland. I think that Mr Peters was perhaps not wise in his choice of words. To imply that this legislation would enable you to close down websites is clearly inaccurate. What we then found from further questioning was that a Commonwealth level group has been looking at this issue and this bill would enable them to commence the conversation rather than actually taking the action.

I think it is important that when public servants—and Mr Mark Peters is indeed a public servant—appear before a committee of this parliament that they do so well prepared and they do so knowing that this committee is looking at a bill in the interests of the people of Queensland. We do not approach any bill that we look at from a partisan political position, nor do we approach any inquiry from a set or determined outcome. It was disappointing, I will say, as chair of this committee, for the CEO of the Commonwealth Games Corporation to be so ill-prepared for our public hearing.

That said, it is important that we move forward with this bill. I note the minister's comments about the official announcement of the logo, and that will be a very exciting time. The focus will be brought back to the Commonwealth Games and that event on the Gold Coast in 2018. It will be exciting because I think we will now see an opportunity where corporation sponsors will really start to step up and be engaged. I am sure that the minister through her department and the Commonwealth Games Corporation will be eagerly seeking those who wish to leverage off the great success that these games will be not only for the time in which they are held but also as a legacy. What it will provide for the Gold Coast is something that will be talked about for years to come. We only need to reflect upon the Sydney Olympic Games or the first Melbourne Commonwealth Games to remember how they were spoken of so fondly for decades afterwards. I have full confidence that the Gold Coast games will be one of those great legacy events where in years to come we will be talking about not only the sporting records that will be broken at the games but also the great infrastructure that has been delivered and people's sense of pride. People will be talking about how they volunteered at these games and how they were involved in playing their small part as the world looks upon the Gold Coast and Queensland in 2018 for those games. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (4.32 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise in the House to support the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. The 2018 Commonwealth Games is going to be an incredibly exciting time for the Gold Coast in particular, but for all Queenslanders. As an avid sports lover, I am looking forward to seeing sportspeople from all around the world travelling to the Gold Coast to compete at the highest level. It is always great to see a good contest, particularly one where Australians fare so well.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games will be a great promotion for the Gold Coast and Queensland in general and a great boost for tourism. This will be an opportunity once again to put Queensland on the world map. Of course, it will be a huge event for athletes. It is important that we hold events where our elite athletes can compete against the best, show their wares and have an opportunity for Queenslanders and Australians in general to cheer on our champions.

The 2008 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games will be a great incentive and fantastic goal for young athletes who are 14, 15 and 16 years of age today who will be ready to compete on the world stage in 2018. These young people want to emulate people like Sally Pearson, James Magnussen, the Hockeyroos and all these great Australian teams and athletes that we see today. Young sportspeople want to emulate these models in their goal to compete in the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

One of the reasons I so strongly support this bill is that I remember quite fondly the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games. What a fantastic event that was. It was one that was embraced by Queenslanders, Australians and people from all around the world. That event and Expo 88 a few years later really put Brisbane on the world map. Who can forget some of those fantastic events? Who remembers Matilda, as she did that great lap around the oval and did that little cheeky wink?

Mr Costigan: She was winking at you.

Mr MANDER: Thank you for your interjection, member for Whitsunday.

Mrs Stuckey: She is down at Tugun.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection as well from the minister. She is still alive and kicking at Tugun. Who can remember the little joey bunnies—not bunnies, sorry; the joey kangaroos.

A government member interjected.

Mr MANDER: Sorry, I got mixed up with the spirit of Easter. Remember they ran out of the stomach of Matilda?

Mr Costigan: They have cross-bred with the bilbies.

Mr MANDER: They did that as well. Who can remember Tasmania being missed on the Australian map? Tasmanians still remind us of that terrible omission. That was a fantastic event which I embraced myself. I went to many events. One of the great things about the Commonwealth Games

is that while of course I went to events like athletics there are unusual sports that you probably do not hear about much and do not support very often. I went to the badminton and that was a fantastic experience. I went to the weightlifting to see Dean Lukin win the gold medal for Australia. That was a surprising event. I did not appreciate how exciting it would be. That was a fantastic event to be involved in.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast will be a great event for Queenslanders because Queenslanders have a history of supporting sporting events, and I am sure they will support this event as well. These games will not happen without sponsors and supporters, the Queensland government being one of the most significant supporters. We have to make sure that the brands of supporters and sponsorship deals are protected. That is why it is very important that this bill is passed in the House.

The objective of the bill is to prohibit the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial or promotional purposes and prohibit conduct falsely implying an association with the games. Major sporting events tend to attract large numbers of people and businesses taking advantage of the publicity and goodwill surrounding the event, without seeking the appropriate permissions. These circumstances have resulted in it becoming the norm for host jurisdictions to enact special legislation for events such as Commonwealth and Olympic Games and world cups of major sports. This is not a new thing. It has been done before and it needs to be done again.

It is hoped that some of the penalties outlined in this bill will achieve the policy objectives without having to be used, that they will be a deterrent sufficient to ensure there is minimal misuse of games related intellectual property and what use there is ceases on the first informal approach from a games official. I am encouraged to see that a common-sense approach will be applied to non-profit and community groups. We do not need overzealous regulators dampening the spirit of the games. It is good to see there will be a soft touch when it comes to those particular groups.

Mrs Stuckey: A ministerial touch.

Mr MANDER: A soft ministerial touch. I take that interjection from the minister. It appears that this bill will have bipartisan support with the opposition supporting it. That is a good thing and a common-sense approach. This is a good bill. I congratulate the minister for bringing it before the House and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise in support of the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013 introduced to the parliament on 13 February 2013 by the honourable Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games and my electoral neighbour, the member for Currumbin. This amendment bill is some 39 pages in length but has a very simple objective: to prohibit the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial and promotional purposes and prohibit those people who might imply an association with the Commonwealth Games.

In this era of instant communication, fast-run manufacturing and electronic commerce, special rules and regulations are needed to protect various interests involved in the running and promotion of short time span events. The Commonwealth Games, to be held on the Gold Coast from 4 to 15 April 2018, is such an event. The lead-up, promotion internationally and massive investment by many organisations need to be protected. This special legislation aims to provide commercial comfort to those investors.

From past experience, both in Australia and overseas, there will be an extraordinary number of organisations that will try to take commercial advantage of such an event without investing in authorised and legitimate activities or products. This quantum of potential breaches of intellectual property relating to the games makes usual enforcement methods costly and impractical, particularly when related to the time frames involved. These amendments allow fast and simple remedies which are strong enough to act as a serious deterrent.

One area of intellectual property in particular that I have been concerned about is the potential explosion of domain names and electronic based organisations who will try to exploit the promotion of the event on the web. When researching this matter for this speech I completed a number of Google searches to see whether there are already organisations set up for this purpose. I am pleased to discover that no such activities were present at this stage in the first three pages of my searches. In fact, it was heartening to see that the main official site—goldcoastcity2018.com—is well and truly the dominant site on the first two pages of Google listings. We all know that if you are looking for anything on the web, you go to Google or Bing and you type it in. Anything that comes up on the first two pages is the sort of thing that people will look at. If you have to go to any more than two pages people

will start to lose interest. This amendment bill will ensure that any non-authorised websites that pop up will be able to be removed with swift action by those responsible for policing the intellectual property of the games.

I am also pleased to see that the Newman government's charter of reducing red tape did not try to recreate the wheel, but in fact based the amendments on similar legislation that protected the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, the London 2012 Olympic Games and the upcoming Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. This bill is, therefore, consistent with fundamental legislative principles while reinforcing the existing state and national framework for the protection of intellectual property. It merely provides strengthened certainty in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games context. However, due to the special circumstances of this international event there are exceptions in the creation of offences to co-exist with civil remedies and the power to seize unauthorised goods or advertising material. These are all developed to ensure we have fair but very speedy enforcement options. This is essential to give legitimate sponsors, who will be investing heavily, the absolute confidence that their investment will be protected.

Effectively, through this legislation, breaches of the games' intellectual property are exposed to a dual potential of both civil remedy and criminal prosecution. In outlining that fact, it is important to note that the relevant provisions are due to expire on 31 December 2018. This ensures that relevant activities undertaken after the games and, therefore, no longer having a significant effect will not attract this dual exposure of civil remedy and criminal prosecution.

I comment particularly on three new sections of the legislation, being section 51, 52 and 66. These specify the actual breaches and enforcement of remedy. New section 51 establishes the first of two offences: the unauthorised use of protected images and references for prohibited purposes. This offence will occur, for example, in the promotion and sale of items of unauthorised clothing that may be printed with copies of things like the games logo or images. A section 51 offence may also occur with the unauthorised use of logos and images on websites that will appear closer to the games time period of opportunity.

New section 52 establishes a second offence: conduct falsely suggesting a sponsorship arrangement or conduct falsely suggesting an affiliation with the games, a games related entity, or an event or program associated with the games. The detail of this section 52 offence is self-explanatory and experience may show that a particular unauthorised activity will in fact breach section 51 and section 52. An example of this may be a T-shirt that is produced to promote a particular games cycling event or games cycling in general featuring the official games cycling logo and the dates of the games. This could effectively breach both section 51 and section 52. This breach, for example, may then activate section 66 which states that, from 1 January 2018 through to 18 April 2018, a police officer may seize goods, advertising material or a device. The officer may act if he finds the goods or material in the immediate vicinity of a relevant place and believes that the goods or material contravenes section 51 or 52 or both.

It must be noted that new sections 67 to 76 specifically address the actions of authorities in relation to the seizure of goods and materials. These sections safeguard a fair and speedy process to ensure the rights and protection of sponsors and the organisers of the games. In outlining these relevant and important amendments contained in this bill I must note the first of the other main tools which will be an administrative regime of authorisations for not-for-profit community purposes. The second main tool will be a standard practice of resolving breaches informally if possible—and appropriate—with proceedings usually as a last resort. The intention of the amendments is, therefore, not all about breaches and policing.

During its discussions with the department, the committee did have concerns about the proximity of New South Wales to the Gold Coast. We all know that with regard to any sort of games on the Gold Coast—the Commonwealth Games in particular—it is only a hop, skip and a jump to Tweed Heads in New South Wales. So I think it is pretty clear that we can expect people who do want to take advantage of these particular laws and the opportunities that the Commonwealth Games do provide to go down and do these sorts of things in New South Wales. That was one of the reasons the committee suggested that the minister move as quickly as possible to start talking to the Commonwealth government. We have heard from the minister this evening that that is well and truly underway. I commend the minister for that. I think the member for Gympie touched on the fact that as a nation it is the Commonwealth government that should have an overarching area of responsibility as far as legislation goes for these sorts of events.

One would think that after several Olympic Games, a couple of Commonwealth Games and major events like the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne for the last several years there would in fact be some sort of overarching cover for intellectual property for these very short-term events. We must remember that the duration of the Commonwealth Games will be about two weeks, but obviously there will be a lot of activity in the years leading up to that. Given that we are five years away, the minister and the department have a lot of time to get this right.

I am also very happy to see that the government does not intend on taking the heavy-handed approach we saw in London in the last few years. It would be terrible, as the member for Gympie said, to tell that person with their sausage rings or their bakery rings or whatever that they cannot do that. I would hate to see, for instance, the fun police on the beach at Burleigh telling someone that they cannot draw a few rings in the sand. I say to the minister and the department: let us encourage business on the Gold Coast in that regard, and I note that the legislation is well and truly there, especially given that this government is all about promoting business. In the current environment, it is really up to the government to promote those sorts of things—that is, giving people the opportunity to build their businesses, to employ people and to take care of their families. This is going to be a great thing over those couple of weeks.

I finish by repeating the objective of the bill—that is, to prohibit the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial and promotional purposes and to prohibit conduct falsely implying an association with the games. The bill amends the Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The amendments will give sponsor investors and game organisers speedy remedies and protection from unscrupulous people and firms who may attempt to profit from the games without sharing in the cost that those legitimate partners are putting forward. I commend the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games and my neighbour, the member for Currumbin, for the work associated in bringing this bill before the House. I also want to thank my fellow members on the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for its speedy work in looking at this bill. I especially want to thank the hardworking staff in our secretariat. They do a wonderful job. Without them I am really not sure that we would be doing our job properly, so I want to thank all of our staff. With that, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.52 pm): This afternoon it gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. As the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games and my Gold Coast colleague in Currumbin has already illustrated, this bill is about introducing a framework for the protection of branding materials for the Commonwealth Games. As I am sure all of my colleagues appreciate, particularly my Gold Coast colleagues, the Commonwealth Games are indeed so very important not only to Queensland but particularly to the Gold Coast. It is our opportunity to shine. It is our opportunity to show the world just how fantastic the Gold Coast is. All of us in this House of course know that the Gold Coast is heaven on earth and it is our opportunity to showcase our fantastic attributes to the world. This legislation is part of an overall package that is designed to allow for community ownership and celebration of the Commonwealth Games—and that is so crucial, because this is our games. It is our opportunity to celebrate who we are and to celebrate what we have become and of course take up the fight to the old motherland, as I am sure we will succeed in beating England on the medals tally not only in gold, silver and bronze but of course overall. It is not just about our community embracing the Commonwealth Games and the spirit of the games; it is also about ensuring that we do not send the fun police out to restrict what our communities are trying to do as we celebrate the Commonwealth Games and as we celebrate the spirit of this magnificent event.

This bill will protect images so that value to sponsors is not reduced, and we all know how crucial sponsorship is to the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games budget comprises a sizeable chunk of which is sponsorship. It is only fair that we take reasonable steps not only to protect the investment that sponsors are making but also to ensure that the investment that Queenslanders are making in these games is protected. We as a government are making significant contributions to the cost of these games. As I say, it is only fair that we as a government ensure that Queenslanders know that we are doing everything in our power to make sure that the spirit of these games is in no way diminished, that the value of our sponsors' dollars is in no way diminished and that the value that Queenslanders put into the games is in no way diminished at all. This bill will provide streamlined procedures for the enforcement of intellectual property that is associated with the Commonwealth Games and prevents people from falsely claiming to be a sponsor or a supplier. As I said, we have an obligation to ensure that sponsors' contributions are in no way diminished and it is

incredibly important that we protect their intellectual property. As a show of gratitude and thanks for their sponsorship, we have to ensure that we protect their investment. We do need a fair but speedy enforcement option so that sponsors do indeed have confidence that their investment not only in the Commonwealth Games but also in the Gold Coast and Queensland is indeed protected. That is why this bill is so critically important.

We will have available to members of our community a public register so that they can participate and ensure that nobody is trying to take advantage of the goodwill that is associated with these games. We think it is so very important that people are able to have confidence in the games and of course in the logos. We also think it is very important that people are not taken advantage of and people are not vulnerable to those in our society who would seek to take advantage of the goodwill that is present not only on the Gold Coast but also right across Queensland when it comes to these games. When talking about providing avenues to protect sponsorship and protect intellectual property and ensuring that people are not taken advantage of, it is very important that we do have protections of natural justice and transparency. It is very important that the minister outlined how these will work in her second reading speech, because it is so very important that we do not make mistakes and that we do provide for natural justice where it is appropriate. It is also interesting to note that this is part of an overall package that does allow for community ownership and celebration of our games. As I said, it is so important that we remember how special these games are, not only for the Gold Coast but Queensland and of course Australia, particularly as we take on England and continue to beat them in the swimming. It is critically important that we do not let people tarnish this event, and this is what this bill will ensure. We need to protect those who are supporting us and who are supporting our games. We will also be providing common-sense options so that not-for-profit groups in our community are able to help us celebrate these fantastic games.

With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker Berry, I thought that I might also illustrate how important these games are for the people of Broadwater. I am very proud to say that the electorate of Broadwater will be hosting not only the squash but the weightlifting during the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and I am particularly pleased that we will be hosting the weightlifting. When Dean Lukin won gold at the Brisbane 1982 Commonwealth Games I may have been merely a figment of my parents' imagination, but as a student of history I am keenly aware of how important this was for Australian sporting culture.

I am keenly aware of how we have this amazing opportunity to recreate on the Gold Coast in the great electorate of Broadwater our own Dean Lukin moment in 2018. Earlier, I was having a discussion with the member for Burleigh. He reminded me that Mr Lukin was a commercial tuna fisherman. I thought that we really may have the great opportunity to have our own Dean Lukin from the Gold Coast because, as I am sure all members are aware, the Gold Coast has a very vibrant commercial fishing industry. We produce some of the best seafood in Australia, if not the best seafood in Australia. I have no doubt, having met representatives of the commercial fishing industry on the Gold Coast, that we might be able to produce not only a great weightlifter from the Gold Coast but also one who is able to resource the seafood industry in Queensland and continue to feed the mouths of the many people who will, of course, visit the Gold Coast as a result of the Commonwealth Games. That is something that the minister is also keenly aware of. She is, of course, not only the minister for the Commonwealth Games—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! Honourable members, the noise is a little high.

Miss BARTON: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection. They are, of course, being incredibly rude but I think they are just jealous of how brilliant the Gold Coast is.

As I was saying before my colleagues became a little bit too rowdy, we on the Gold Coast are keenly aware of how important the tourism sector is to our area. The minister is, of course, working very hard to ensure that across her portfolio—and she is indeed a very busy minister; her portfolio covers many areas. The minister is keenly aware of the great opportunities that we have to sell the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast really is the premier tourism destination of Australia. We have a fantastic opportunity to sell ourselves through the Commonwealth Games. We have an amazing opportunity to show our beautiful beaches. We have an amazing opportunity to show our beautiful hinterland. I will, of course, be encouraging all of those who visit the great electorate of Broadwater when they come to see the weightlifting and our own future Dean Lukin to also come to see the great event of squash and to take advantage of the fantastic South Stradbroke Island and the Broadwater, which is the jewel in the crown of the Gold Coast.

Mr Crandon: Take advantage of the waters around Coomera.

Miss BARTON: I will take the interjection

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, are you actually sitting? Thank you so much.

Miss BARTON: I will take the interjection from the member for Coomera and point out that the magnificent waterways around Coomera come from the magnificent waterway that is the Broadwater. I congratulate him on taking advantage of what we in the Broadwater provide his electorate with.

This is fantastic legislation. It is going to be the start of more fantastic legislation surrounding the Commonwealth Games. It will be a great games. It is a great opportunity for the Gold Coast. It is a great opportunity for Queensland because, after all, we are indeed a great state and particularly a great city. I look forward to going to the 2018 Commonwealth Games. I look forward to cheering on the Australians as we beat those from around the Commonwealth. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms MILLARD** (Sandgate—LNP) (5.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill and I commend the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games for her work in developing legislation that will protect the integrity of the 2018 Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast.

Hosting the Commonwealth Games in Queensland in 2018 will be one of our state's proudest moments, a great boost to the tourism sector in the south-east and hopefully beyond throughout our great state. This legislation is about protecting the unique value and integrity of the Commonwealth Games, which is almost as much about the branding and identity of the event as it is about the sportsmanship and the sponsorship.

This amendment bill seeks to protect the investment and good faith of sponsors who pour millions of dollars into making the Commonwealth Games the success that I know it will be. It will eliminate all the confusion about who is legitimately linked to the games by providing streamlined procedures for enforcement of intellectual property, including the capacity to seize unauthorised materials, resolving breaches and proceedings as a last resource only. I note that this amendment bill would make legislation consistent with past practices and protections surrounding similar events in other states, for example, brand protection laws for the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006. This legislation will be lifted at the end of 2018 and not enforced any longer than absolutely necessary.

One may ask why it is even necessary to legislate. Does this not simply add red tape? No, it does not. I note the proliferation of internet domain names for commercial gain which misleadingly imply an association with the Commonwealth Games when the Gold Coast was first announced as the host. Those operators share neither legitimacy nor costs with Commonwealth Games sponsors. In turn, they undermine commercial viability and, most importantly, the spirit and goodwill that are embodied in the Commonwealth Games tradition.

Sufficient protection of intellectual property is the mark of any investor-friendly and identity-rich state. I believe that Minister Stuckey, whose portfolio covers the Commonwealth Games, summed it up beautifully she when spoke of the much-anticipated unveiling ceremony of the games emblem to be held in April. The emblem will symbolise to the world the Gold Coast's distinct character and unique attributes while highlighting the Commonwealth Games as one of the world's great international sporting events. This will be a momentous occasion in the history of the city. I say to Mr Deputy Speaker and my parliamentary colleagues: now, that really is something worth protecting. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (5.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. Queensland—and, in fact, the Gold Coast—is going to be the financial beneficiary of these games not only whilst they are on but also into the future with infrastructure for generations of Queensland athletes.

As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee, I can say that the committee had the task of considering the policy to be given effect by the legislation. The committee recommended that the bill be passed with seven recommendations. I agree with the comments that the chair of the committee made in his speech when he said that the Commonwealth needs to have a greater role in these Commonwealth Games.

This bill protects the value of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games as historically similar legislation did for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and the London 2012 Olympic games. Fundamentally, the bill is aimed at prohibiting the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial or promotional purposes and prohibiting conduct falsely implying an association with the games. Existing laws and statutory devices such as copyright and trademarks are often overlooked at large events of such a scale and measures need to be in

place to protect sponsors and intellectual property. One remedy is expedient and immediate enforcement to avoid substantial brand damage and associated costs. We need to be very mindful that sponsors' revenue is pivotal to the organisation of these games and like events and understand that this investment needs to be protected alongside the government's significant investment.

The bill will achieve its policy objectives by providing criminal penalties and civil remedies for the unauthorised use of certain references and images for commercial gain and conduct falsely implying an association with the games. It will also provide powers to seize goods or advertising material in the critical time leading up to and including the holding of the games. One can only hope that these warnings by games officials will act as a suitable deterrent to those opportunists who falsely imply an association with the games. The provisions also provide a publicly available register of authorisations so that any member of the public can check if they have suspicions that someone is misusing a protected reference or image.

The bill will provide a framework for the protection of sponsor branding but at the same time allow as much community ownership and celebration of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. I would like to thank the chair and the members of the committee, along with those who gave evidence and participated in the consideration of this bill. I also thank the departmental and secretariat staff. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—Ind) (5.08 pm): Honourable members, the Commonwealth Games is coming to the Gold Coast in 2018 and it deserves all our support. I support it. The residents of the electorate of Gaven are very fortunate, because the Metricon Stadium at Carrara is located on the eastern border of the Gaven electorate. That stadium is a key piece of the infrastructure that will be used for the Commonwealth Games.

My constituents know this and they are really looking forward to the games, particularly the opening ceremony, competitions and other parallel events. We are actually getting all sorts of events, including bowls, BMX and, of course, a lot of the athletics and main events in the stadium. Across the Gold Coast there will be all manner of games events. Some have been highlighted today. Planning is underway and the games committee and games executive are working hard to achieve the best games that we have ever had. It is a great objective.

This legislation has a heavy emphasis on intellectual property. In general, laws focusing on these matters will give certainty to those partners of the Commonwealth Games committee who need to be assured that the government will provide them the kind of legal protection that they would seek. They are making financial steps into the unknown. In fact, they are large capital commitments and they have to make them well ahead of time. The minister has made a response to the issue of ambush marketing. It sounds fine. All the talk in the world though will not reassure those needing brand protection. When we make broader statements saying we will wait and see what response the federal government will make, it is not appropriate always to rely on others because they may let you down just when you least expect it, even if they are the same political party as yourselves.

Unfortunately in the modern world where boundaries are indistinct we may need to pursue those beyond those boundaries, particularly our own. With such events as these it is not abnormal for states to have a proactive role in facilitating reinforcement of brand defence. I implore the minister and the government to do so. The minister has correctly, in my view, stated the bill is not strictly a government commercial response. In line with that the government is deferring these matters back to the organising committee. It also very fairly addresses the concerns of the not-for-profits. I actually heard that address by the member for Everton. I think that was well covered.

This is the type of event that will enhance our reputation as a city where major events such as these can be held. I think the Gold Coast has an admirable record already. For example, the Gold Coast Marathon, the Masters Games, the former Indy, and Gold Coast motor racing would determine that we are a good event host. We need to build on that and maybe reinvigorate and attract the attention of those who may not otherwise have us on their radar. With 11 million tourists annually—roughly one-third overseas, one-third interstate and one-third local—and a capacity of 15 million, it is really a great opportunity to build infrastructure that will assist the local community achieve the goal of breaking the boom-bust cycle which unfortunately is the thing that is affecting the Gold Coast. It is one of our fervent hopes that we will end up braking that cycle forever—one can only hope.

To address a broad sweep of the committee's recommendations, I sense that most of them are in the nature of looking at this as a whole-of-state games and insisting on a strong community focus. The games are very important to the state. We must get it right. I have concerns that, whilst we are really taking this seriously and have bipartisan commitment, we may be facing some very worrying emergent cash flow issues that are separate from branding and not necessarily the state's, but may

well have a big effect on branding ultimately because any bad news will affect the brand. There is the two most recent statements of the Gold Coast City Council of the \$90-plus million annual interest bill currently, which has arisen in the last 12 months, and the assumption of another \$400 million of borrowing. I hope, and I am sure everybody does, that a large chunk of this is going towards the games infrastructure, but that is very unclear at this point in time. I am very concerned that the Gold Coast City Council may not be able to meet its medium-term objectives and obligations to assist us. This could do any branding legislation irreparable harm. I think the minister needs to quickly get onto it.

 **Mr HOLSWICH** (Pine Rivers—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Bill 2013. This important bill is one part of an overall package designed to allow for community ownership and celebration of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. It is an important bill at this stage of the 2018 Commonwealth Games lifecycle because it will provide a framework to ensure the protection of the Commonwealth Games brand from unscrupulous opportunists who are already looking to make a quick nasty dollar out of these games. It is certainly important, as the minister has already pointed out, that we have these provisions in place before the unveiling of the games logo and branding on 4 April this year.

This bill will prohibit the use of images or references to the Commonwealth Games that could lessen the value of the games brand or compromise sponsorship revenue. Without these protections there is the very distinct possibility that worldwide sponsorship revenue could be compromised. As is outlined in the chair's foreword to the committee report, this bill will prohibit the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial or promotional purposes, as well as prohibiting conduct falsely inferring an association with the games. The need for this legislation is well highlighted in the explanatory notes. They note that even before the Gold Coast had been awarded these games there had already been at least 20 internet domain names that had been acquired by private operators and an unauthorised website set up by people seeking unauthorised commercial gain from the Commonwealth Games and Gold Coast brands.

One of the issues that was raised in the committee's review of this legislation was the difficulty the department had experienced in attempting to raise interjurisdictional issues with the federal government. The department advised the committee that, whilst discussions had commenced with the federal government, only very limited progress had been made because of the current position of the electoral cycle in the federal parliament. I am glad to hear the reassurances from the minister that any corresponding or associated federal legislation is not time critical at present, but that whole issue of the current position in the electoral cycle in the federal parliament alludes to an issue that is being felt across the entire nation at present because of the instability created by the Gillard—or Rudd or Crean or whichever one it is—Labor government and its inability to actually govern our country, as well as their apparent desire to run a drawn-out nine-month election campaign which seems to be having a negative ripple effect that is being felt far and wide.

Whilst the current Labor Prime Minister—or at least she was still the Prime Minister a few minutes ago when I last checked before this speech, so that may have changed since—is still the current Labor Prime Minister and while she might like to say that this year is all about governing and not campaigning, it is disappointing that in so many areas her petty political ploys are negatively impacting the way our country is governed. Let us just hope that this current position in the electoral cycle is soon resolved and that Labor can agree on who is the next to jump on their prime ministerial merry-go-round and then remember that they are actually there to govern our nation, not to play musical chairs so that everyone gets a go as Prime Minister.

Whilst the importance of the prohibitive powers is an important aspect of this bill, I think the real common-sense wins in this legislation are in relation to providing a framework to ensure that local community organisations and individuals can celebrate the Commonwealth Games without fear of prosecution. This legislation will allow great organisations such as the Strathpine Community Kindergarten to get into the spirit of the games and hold a Commonwealth Games morning tea without fear of prosecution. This legislation will allow the Dayboro Bakery to bake and display Commonwealth Games themed cakes in their shop without fear of prosecution. It will allow and actively encourage students at Lawnton State School to hold a Commonwealth Games fun day for students without fear that they are in breach of legislation. This is common-sense. This is practical legislation that will allow all Queenslanders, whether they are on the Gold Coast, in Pine Rivers, in Gympie, or maybe even in the gem fields of Central Queensland, that opportunity to enjoy the Gold Coast games and really enter into the spirit of the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Crandon: Come down and spend your money.

Mr HOLSWICH: That is exactly right. It is this spirit of the games that goes beyond just the athletes who are competing in games events and it is critical to the success and the legacy of these games. I remember the time of the Sydney 2000 Olympics. At that time I was living in Sydney and I had the opportunity to work as a volunteer in some of the activities associated with those Olympic Games. For the two weeks of those games I spent most of my days and many of my nights in areas of Sydney such as Circular Quay, Darling Harbour, Bondi Beach, Cronulla Beach and the buzz that reverberated throughout the entire city for those two weeks was absolutely infectious. I remember watching Roy and HG and their infamous late-night program with their wombat mascot whom I will not name in this speech. I remember watching that show on the big screen live sites throughout Sydney with thousands of other people who had caught that Olympic bug and again the atmosphere was just amazing. I remember being involved in organising one of the hundreds of live sites that were authorised to operate in parks and schools throughout Sydney for the opening ceremony so that people could watch that opening ceremony with their neighbours, friends and families. And even though we were a good 20 kilometres away from the stadium and could only just see the fireworks in the distance, I remember the cheers and the excitement of those gathered when the Australian team entered the stadium and when the Olympic flame was lit and then rose, with some delay, to the top of the stadium.

That is the spirit of the 2018 Commonwealth Games that we want to ensure we capture and this legislation helps to establish a framework to make sure that that will happen. When we get to 2018, which of course is only five years away—when the youth of Pine Rivers will take their place in Australia's Commonwealth Games team, when swimmers from Lawnton Swim Club take the blocks against the Commonwealth's best in the 50-metre free, when netballers from the Dayboro Dodgers Netball Club line up for Australia against New Zealand in the gold medal match, or when the lawn bowlers from Pine Rivers Memorial Bowls Club win the 18th end of a sudden-death semi-final with a pinpoint backhand draw that rests against the jack to take the win—then we can celebrate their successes by putting their faces on a cake and schoolchildren can make posters of their heroes and get into the spirit of the games without the fun police raining on their parade. I look forward to the unveiling of the Commonwealth Games logo and branding on 4 April. I might even bake a Commonwealth Games themed cake myself to celebrate that milestone. Thanks to this legislation, I can bake that cake without any fear that it will be confiscated and I will be able to enjoy my baked masterpiece.

This is a common-sense and necessary piece of legislation for a great event that will focus worldwide attention on our great state and our great opportunities. It will give a significant boost to the state throughout the remainder of this decade and beyond. I commend the minister for the fine work she has undertaken to ensure that these games will be a showpiece that our state can be proud of. To have a minister who is so passionate about these games and about tourism can only be a bonus in the organisation of these games. I am pleased to commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise to support the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. Firstly, I thank the committee, its chair and the minister for their fine work in putting together this wonderful legislation. It is truly an exciting time for us down on the Gold Coast. The games are only a short time away. It is only five years until the Commonwealth Games come to the Gold Coast, where we will be hosting them from 4 to 15 April 2018. The Gold Coast will be showcased to the rest of the world. The games will put the Gold Coast on the world stage and back on the map for international tourists. This is an exciting event. The Gold Coast City Council has just changed its logo to GoldCoast with a full stop—certainly it will be a full stop.

Mrs Stuckey: It's not a red dot, okay.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Without the red dot; I take the interjection from the minister. It should have been a blue dot. I was doing a bit of research into the old Commonwealth Games emblem, which was designed by Hugh Edwards for the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games. It is an impression of a bounding kangaroo with three bands that represent 'A' for Australia. That is quite an impressive little symbol. I take my hat off to him for his artistic abilities. I am sure my Gold Coast colleagues would agree with me when I say that we are fortunate to live at the best address on the planet.

Mrs Stuckey: Hear, hear!

Mr BOOTHMAN: The airport is in the electorate of the member for Currumbin and people will be flying in by the bucketload to visit the Commonwealth Games. The member for Coomera and I will be watching people streaming down the highway from the rest of Queensland, coming down to

celebrate the wonderful games. In 1982 I was about five years old, but I still remember Matilda, the 13-metre high kangaroo with all the little joeys—not rabbits, as the member for Everton said—bouncing out. It was one hell of a sight.

During the games the Albert electorate will be hosting some very good events. We will host the boxing events, which will be very interesting to watch. Certainly I will be down there supporting my local businesses. We will be hosting at Movie World. We will also be hosting the table tennis competition. I must say, I have never been a pro at table tennis.

I return to the grassroots of the bill, which is a framework for the protection of branding materials and the goodwill of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. This gives the community ownership whilst protecting the Commonwealth Games references and images to ensure protection of branding material for brand sponsors. Unfortunately, major sporting events do attract a number of individuals who take advantage for their own financial gain without sharing the costs in the way that legitimate sponsors do. The bill is designed to ensure that everyone shares the costs and the rewards of this fantastic sporting event. Certainly I feel that this is necessary. We need to protect the sponsors, because they put up an enormous amount of money. Without the sponsors, the games would be incredibly hard to put on in respect of costs. Therefore, this is crucial legislation.

Business investment in the games needs streamlined procedures to protect the intellectual property associated with the games and the bill will provide those safeguards. The bill delivers streamlined procedures to enforce the protection of intellectual property. The Newman government is about protecting and building business in this state. The Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill gives sponsors the confidence that their investments will be protected.

This legislation will not stop Queenslanders celebrating the Commonwealth Games, within reason. The games are about embracing the spirit of the Commonwealth Games. It is not about sending the fun police in. It is about Queensland jumping on board to celebrate this wonderful event. As I have previously stated, there are safeguards and there will be swift action taken against those who seek to profit from a dishonest use of the games branding or who claim to be a sponsor when they are not. The bill gives the police the powers to seize unauthorised goods and advertising material marked with protected references or images near the games venues. I should add, these provisions expire at the end of 2018.

Queenslanders and Gold Coasters are encouraged to celebrate this great event. This is about making the Gold Coast games the greatest games in history. The boxing events will help put my wonderful electorate on the map. The member for Broadwater talked about her wonderful electorate. Likewise, the electorate of Albert is a picturesque place. We have mountains in the background, the Coomera River feeding down to the Broadwater—

Mr Pucci interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: And the Logan and Albert rivers, yes; I take the interjection from the member for Logan. This is all about tourism and jobs. The residents of Albert are looking forward to the games. There are a lot of manufacturers located in the northern parts of the electorate, around the Yatala region. Those manufacturers will be gearing up for this wonderful event. We have beverage manufacturers and breweries—you name it. We are ready to host and ready to supply the needed beverages to the Commonwealth Games. If my residents of Albert do compete in the Commonwealth Games, certainly we will keep our fingers crossed that somebody gets a gold medal.

I wish to add to what the member for Broadwater said in her speech about the English. At the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games we beat England by one gold medal. Let us make sure we beat them again and are No. 1. This is our games. This is the Gold Coast's games. The games are for people in South-East Queensland and all of Queensland. I thank the minister for the bill. She has done a fantastic job; good on her. I look forward to the games and this exciting time.

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (5.30 pm): I rise today to contribute to the debate and support the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. For the fifth time in the history of the Commonwealth Games our nation will host the games. From the days of the British Empire Games to today's modern Commonwealth Games, our great state of Queensland will be the only state within our Federation to host the games for a second time.

Much has changed in Queensland since the inception of the games in 1930, and even since the 1982 Brisbane games. However, our state's enthusiasm for sport and athletics is still maroon red with passion. Once again, our great state will have the opportunity to show not only the country but also the world why Queensland is beautiful one day and perfect the next.

Mr Symes: Just like the LNP.

Mr PUCCI: Just like Logan. With the build-up to the 2018 games, the opportunities that this historic event will bring to not only the great south-east but to all Queensland are tremendous. Industries from all walks of life will benefit through the significant investment in the construction of infrastructure and the running of the games.

Tourism forms one of our government's four pillars to get our state back on track. Failing to support these games would be, in effect, failing the future of Queensland. Communities across Queensland, in one way or another, will play a vital role in supporting the Commonwealth Games. Queensland is a state 'on the grow'. In the years that follow, our state will be in better shape due to the hard work of this LNP government. In one year alone we have made changes—and, yes, some were tough—but the long-term gains for Queensland will last generations. From these changes more great opportunities will come. In order to reach and capitalise on those opportunities we must ensure that industries supporting the Commonwealth Games are protected and not impeded by illegal entities which seek to exploit this wonderful event.

The build-up to the staging of the games will provide many across South-East Queensland with excellent job opportunities. Growing regions, like my electorate of Logan, are rich with possibilities, many of which will be bolstered by the upcoming Commonwealth Games. While on that, I recommend if people want to get away from the hustle and bustle that they take a ride up to country Logan and have a look around. They could take a look at Yarrabilba, have dinner at Yarra House Restaurant, come over to Flagstone Rise, come up to the Browns Plains Hotel or come over to the Greenbank pub. I recommend highly that people visit country Logan.

One industry that will see a welcome boost will be the hospitality industry. I recently had the honour of hosting the roundtable discussion between local principals and the Minister for Education. Students at Browns Plains State High School, who are studying hospitality and culinary arts, provided catering services for the occasion and displayed an extremely high standard in what could become their chosen career.

As we prepare for the Commonwealth Games we are providing a chance for thousands of Queenslanders to either start or build upon their career in what will be an amazing opportunity which can put them in good stead for future years. This bill will bring about streamlined procedures for the enforcement of intellectual property associated with the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. This refers to, for example, reference to Commonwealth Games or Queen's baton relay or images such as the games emblems and mascots.

This bill will also bring about legal protection for these Commonwealth Games by preventing people from falsely suggesting that they have a relationship with the games, whether as a sponsor, supplier or any other affiliation. Further, this legislation will prohibit the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial or promotional purposes and prohibit conduct falsely inferring any association with the games.

Other main tools in this amendment bill will be, firstly, an administrative regime of authorisation for not-for-profit community purposes and, secondly, a standard practice for resolving breaches informally, if possible and appropriate, with proceedings usually reserved as a last resort. These protective measures will ensure that the sponsors can have confidence in their investment into our Commonwealth Games as well as enable speedy enforcement of regulations so those offenders who seek to deprive honest partners the right to fair marketing opportunities are dealt with appropriately.

Queenslanders can still party. They can still have fun. They can still celebrate the games—in Logan. They just need to ensure that their party or celebrations cannot be confused with being officially connected to the games and that legitimate sponsors have no real concerns.

This bill is a demonstration of this government's commitment to ensuring that only fair and accountable marketing and associations are conducted throughout the lead-up and the conduct of the games. This bill encourages all Queenslanders to enjoy the festivities. Like all national events, the 2018 Commonwealth Games will unify our great country, as we embody the strong competitive spirit that every Australian emulates, especially people in Logan.

Australia has a sound legal framework for the protection of intellectual property. However, significant events that were held in our nation's past tended to attract a considerable number of people or businesses taking advantage of the publicity and goodwill surrounding the event for their own financial gain. This form of behaviour is heavily detrimental to business enterprises, both large and small, that have sought endorsement to be sponsors or support the Commonwealth Games.

Brand protection that we are introducing today is in line with similar legislation introduced both here and abroad. In both 2000 and 2006, Sydney and Melbourne respectively legislated to protect the name and good standing of all enterprises associated with the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Our Commonwealth brethren across the globe took further steps to ensure that similar issues would not arise in their home nation. Most recently is the planning behind the 2014 Glasgow games. Legendary boxer Muhammad Ali, Cassius Clay, has been quoted as saying—

Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision.

That is what this Commonwealth Games is about—desires, dreams, vision. I applaud the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games, the Hon. Jann Stuckey, for fostering the desire, dreams and vision of all Queenslanders who take part in this illustrious, world-renowned event. Success for the games would not be possible if it were not for the minister's tireless efforts and the dedication, professionalism and hard work of her staff and departmental employees who played a critical role in helping to form this legislation in support of such a significant event in our great state's future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferny Grove—LNP) (5.37 pm): I rise today to speak very briefly in support of the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. It is the objective of this bill to ensure that the balance is struck between the commercial protection of sponsors and government investment, and the capacity for the wider community and the people of Queensland to embrace the atmosphere and enthusiasm for the games and the capacity for local businesses to create an appropriate atmosphere without fear of legal ramification.

It is, of course, critical to attract investment and sponsorship participation in the 2018 Commonwealth Games if they are to be successfully undertaken. No organisation would invest substantially if there were not sufficient safeguards in place to protect that investment. Company sponsorship forms a significant part of the revenue inputs of the games budget and anything that would significantly reduce the marketing appeal to those sponsors needs to be addressed. There will be those seeking to make a quick buck to profit through the effort of others and to elevate or overstate associations with the intent to deceive and make profits.

The bill therefore provides protection that ensures the integrity of images, expressions and sponsorship arrangements are maintained by prohibiting the unauthorised use of images and protected references, by prohibiting conduct that infers association and by conferring rights to redress wrongs. It is important to note that the meaning of 'prohibited purpose' is clearly defined as if the use is for a commercial purpose or for an advertising, marketing or promotional purpose, or would cause a reasonable person to believe that the representation that is made relates to a games entity, the Commonwealth Games or an event or program associated with the games.

This bill does not prohibit the use of the branded images, expressions et cetera if the use is to either report news of, or association with, the games, to make criticism or review, or to undertake research or education. Of course, in these days of social media and general access to the worldwide web, it is necessary to ensure that we are able to apply the laws across jurisdictions. It is therefore outlined within section 48 that this bill is applicable extraterritorially to the extent possible. This provision should ensure that the swift action to address inappropriate utilisation of the branding and imagery associated with the 2018 Commonwealth Games is able to be undertaken across jurisdictions.

At the end of the day, the bill as debated is intended to ensure that there is sufficient protection in place to protect small, medium and large businesses if they wish to engage in commercial operations once they are registered for authorised use of images and branded marks of the Commonwealth Games 2018, while ensuring that organisations or individuals that undertake deceptive or unauthorised use of brands and images will be appropriately dealt with. It will also ensure that the celebration of the games by the Gold Coast communities, Queenslanders and Australians at large will be encouraged widely. It will also ensure that the confidence in the brand, protected images and references will be retained so as to maintain the confidence in sponsorships and therefore maximise the financial return to the state of Queensland.

In closing, and just for the record, in 1982 when Brisbane last hosted the games, five games records were set: individual men's archery, 2,446 points; women's archery, 2,373 points; 200-metre women's sprint, 22.19 seconds; and we were particularly favourable to our Pacific neighbours, New Zealand, who set records in men's javelin of 89.48 metres and men's skeet shooting, with Laurence Woolley—an appropriate name for a Kiwi—scoring 197 points. All of these records remain. How exciting it would be for the current archers at the Samford Valley Target Archers to have one of their

very own set the new high-water mark for the years to follow. So I encourage everyone to get on board with this event, partake in the celebration and let us all build something that will be added to the growing list of outstanding Queensland achievements. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (5.42 pm): I rise to make a small contribution to the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. May I say how fantastic it is to hear the enthusiasm of my colleagues. It does not matter where you come from in Queensland you get enthusiastic about it. You are trying to hijack our tourists up to your areas! I can see it all. I can see a bit of jealousy going on. Even Pine Rivers is planning on winning most of the gold medals from what I recall from the contribution from the member for Pine Rivers. But it really is fantastic.

We are all Queenslanders. Some of us are fortunate enough to live on the Gold Coast. Our electorates are on the Gold Coast which means we are able to say, 'Yes, my electorate is on the Gold Coast where the 2018 Commonwealth Games are going to be held.' Some of you can say, 'Yes, I'm in Logan City, just next door to the Gold Coast where the 2018 Commonwealth Games are going to be held.' If you are in Brisbane, you can say, 'Yes, we are only a hop, skip and a jump from the Commonwealth Games venue on the Gold Coast.' If you are in the rest of Queensland, you can say, 'Yes, I'm from Queensland where the Commonwealth Games are going to be held on the Gold Coast.' So you always have that opportunity to talk about your state.

Mr McArdle: Be careful.

Mr CRANDON: I take the interjection. There are a number of genuine opportunities. I can just see it now. Last sitting week we had some Segways here for everyone to give them a bit of a test run, to have a bit of a run-around on them. One of my constituents is running businesses using Segways—those two-wheeled things.

Mr Emerson: I enjoyed that.

Mr CRANDON: The Minister for Transport certainly had a go and thoroughly enjoyed himself. I think he has framed photos in his office now of that little effort. They came from the Gold Coast. We are talking about people on the Gold Coast. They are innovative. One of my constituents is looking to get those Segways. I can just see them now running around the villages, running around the retirement villages on these little Segways. I can see it now. We are going to be running around everywhere on these Segways by 2018. It is going to be a great boost for our economy when we introduce those Segways, that is for sure.

Some of the areas covered by the bill are sponsorship revenue, determining 'official sponsor arranged programs' to allow revenue streams to flow back to sponsors. Enforcement of intellectual property is a very important one: cracking down on unauthorised images and providing protection against the use of advertising material, with police having the power to seize unauthorised goods. So that is great news. Another area is local product and content. This includes promoting the use of locally owned businesses within the Gold Coast and surrounding area, employing Queenslanders to create jobs and source local product that will instil pride and keep profits within our state. That is very, very important. This is the area I want to focus on in my small contribution to this debate.

A government member: Very small.

Mr CRANDON: I take the interjection. It is very important for my electorate. We do have a relatively high unemployment rate in my electorate. A lot of our people have been affected by the downturn in the building industry. It really is important that we start to ramp up now with some of the building and construction that will be going on over the next five years. That employment will not just be for the period of the games but it will heat up and build up over time right the way through to the games.

I am hopeful as well that we may win some games venues. I take the point that the member for Albert raised a short while ago. I understand that we might even have the shooting held in the electorate of Coomera. That is certainly something that we will be pushing for. As a matter of fact, my two brothers join a member of this parliament, the Manager of Government Business, every now and then to have a bit of shooting practice down there in the cane lands.

Coming back to the point the member for Albert was making, he seems to think that by the time the 2018 Commonwealth Games come around the boxing venue will be in his electorate and the table tennis venue will be in his electorate. Clearly he has not heard of the idea of the redistribution of boundaries. Sometime in the next five years there is going to be a redistribution more than likely in that area because of the growth in the population. So I suggest that the possibility is that in fact the

state seat of Coomera will have the boxing venue, the table tennis venue and the shooting venue for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. That is what I am hoping for anyway. So he can do all the hard yards now and we will take all the glory when the distribution happens!

I commend the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games for the effort she has been putting in in relation to promoting the Commonwealth Games and all of the activities leading up to the Commonwealth Games. I do have one or two questions for her, however. One of them is: are we going to go down the nostalgia line? For instance, are we going to recycle Matilda? Matilda was on the coast for a while and she was moved up the north coast—somewhere in the Noosa area, if I remember correctly.

Mrs Stuckey: She's at Tugun.

Mr CRANDON: She is back at Tugun, is she? Are we going to recycle her for the Commonwealth Games as a bit of nostalgia?

Mrs Stuckey: She doesn't need recycling. She's just fine.

Mr CRANDON: I just thought it would be good if we could bring some nostalgia back to the games.

Mr Elmes interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I am hopeful that we will win those games venues. My constituents will certainly benefit greatly from the increased activity leading up to the Commonwealth Games. One thing is absolutely certain: we are in for a very exciting time in 2018. With those final words, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.49 pm): I am absolutely delighted to rise in the House tonight to speak in support of the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. When it comes to the modern world of professional sport, brand protection is of paramount importance. I am acutely aware of this, having previously worked in the area of professional sport. Firstly, in the UK I worked for the Bradford Bulls in the English Super League who in the mid-1990s were one of the movers and shakers of rugby league in that part of the world after the game was switched from winter to summer, particularly under the late Peter Deakin. 'Deeks', as we called him, was one of the smartest blokes around when it came to brand protection. In his role as marketing manager he taught me plenty of things while I served the Bulls as media manager before our club qualified for the Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

After returning from the UK and a short time in local league administration in Mackay as executive officer of the Mackay Rugby League, I then had the good fortune of working for another professional rugby league club, this time the member for Gregory's favourite rugby league club—the Canterbury Bulldogs, where the brand needless to say has certainly been tested over the years. Further to that, while I was in Sydney I took the opportunity to study sports marketing—

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: Yes, Terry Lamb is a good friend of mine from Chester Hill in Sydney's western suburbs. I will give him your regards, Minister.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: He did start with the Magpies. The member for Mermaid Beach and Leader of the House is interjecting appropriately. The great 'Baa' was mentioned during a division last night, I recall. The Leader of the House and I might leave that for another time, perhaps after the House rises this evening.

I had the good fortune when working for the Canterbury Bulldogs to commence studies for a diploma in sports marketing. In those days I had the benefit of working alongside some smart people—people like Grant Mayer, who went on to become the CEO of the Manly club, and Todd Greenberg, who nowadays is CEO of the Bulldogs and, as far as I am concerned, is one of the country's foremost sports administrators. It is with this background that I enthusiastically support the bill, which provides the framework for the protection of the branding, materials and goodwill for the Commonwealth Games being held on the Gold Coast in 2018.

A government member: Where?

Mr COSTIGAN: You heard it; the Gold Coast.

Mrs Stuckey: He struggled a bit, didn't he?

Mr COSTIGAN: I struggled a little bit but no doubt I am one of millions of Queenslanders who is looking forward to the Gold Coast hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

Put simply, Commonwealth Games images have to be protected, even more so in today's world which is a far cry from the last time that Queensland hosted the Commonwealth Games way back in 1982. As previous speakers have already alluded to tonight, the Minister for Housing and Public Works perhaps gets the gold medal with his sentimental contribution to this debate. He went back to that wonderful moment when Matilda winked at Her Majesty, winked at the people of Queensland and winked at the people of the world when the world's sporting eyes were on the great city of Brisbane. I fondly recall another 'Deeks', the legendary Robert de Castella, who took gold—

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: The minister is again showing his age. I had to settle for the TV coverage, but of course he took gold in the men's marathon. We saw so many other golden moments involving Australian sporting stars who became legends. For the benefit of younger members in the House like the member for Lytton, let us go down memory lane for a moment. The magnificent Tracey Wickham, under the tutelage of the great Laurie Lawrence, came out of retirement and won not one but two Commonwealth Games medals in her great comeback in the pool at Chandler in 1982. How can we forget the very controversial, at times, taxidriver Rob Parella? Those people across Queensland who love lawn bowls—there are probably a few members in the House tonight, and I am a member of the Parliamentary Bowls Club—will fondly recall the heroics of Rob Parella, not in a taxi but on the green as he won gold in Brisbane, I think at the Moorooka Bowls Club, in 1982. He was worshipped by a lot of people who loved bowls—similar to people who follow rugby league who worship Wally Lewis, so big was Rob Parella. I fondly recall meeting him some years later in Mackay when Rob came to North Queensland to participate in a bowls tournament. Such was my appetite for sport as a youngster, I actually met the man and got his autograph. I still have that autograph to this very day.

It would be remiss of me as a born and bred Mackayite—we have already heard from a previous speaker who holds Mackay dear to his heart due to his upbringing, and that is the member for Ferny Grove—to not mention Sue Howland, who won a gold medal throwing the javelin at the Commonwealth Games here in Brisbane in 1982. There have been a number of swimmers over the years who come to mind as well from the Mackay-Whitsunday region—people like Linda Mackenzie, who not only won Commonwealth Games gold but also Olympic gold, and the man they call 'Skippy' Geoff Huegill. They are just two of many products who have come out of the Pat Wright Swim School. I have no doubt right now while we participate in this debate tonight that there are youngsters in pools in Mackay, maybe at the Tobruk Pool in Townsville or—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: Maybe in heated pools on the Darling Downs or in pools in Ayr this afternoon there are kids with stars in their eyes, some under some very good coaches—people like Pat Wright—who want to be part of this great institution that is the Commonwealth Games, not necessarily in 2018 but everyone starts somewhere. For people like 'Skippy' Huegill, Linda Mackenzie, Justin Lemberg and Nick Frost, who come from my part of the world, there was a time when they had stars in their eyes as well. Professional sport has certainly come a long, long way from the days of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland in 1982. When it comes to sponsorship, sponsors are shelling out megabucks. This money forms a big slice of the games budget, and sponsors need to get a return on that investment. Therefore, their association with the games needs to be respected and protected. This bill covers the intellectual property rights associated with the games on the Gold Coast in five years' time.

We have already heard from the member for Gympie earlier in the debate about ambush marketing. That is nothing new. It has been around for some time, but I believe this bill addresses those areas. The bill is on the money. The minister rightly pointed out that this legislation is based on the legislation in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne as recently as 2006. Protecting our sponsors is vitally important, but so too is protecting the Queensland government's investment in the games which I believe will be a godsend for the Gold Coast and also provide economic opportunities for other parts of Queensland including the north.

We only have to go back to see how the Commonwealth Games has evolved ever since it was born in Hamilton, Ontario in Canada way back in 1930 with I think half a dozen sports, 400 athletes and a pretty small crew back in the days of the British Empire Games. There are probably a couple of members in the House who remember that term very well, those of a different hair colour from mine. Nevertheless, it has evolved. We go to Brisbane in 1982 for the 12th Commonwealth Games and the journey has unfolded beautifully. There is no doubt that will hit home to so many Queenslanders in

five years' time when something like 6½ thousand athletes and officials descend on the Gold Coast across 17 sports to participate. I am sure that the people of Queensland, not just the Gold Coast, will warmly welcome them.

I want to say a few things in relation to the opportunities for regional communities to share in the benefits. It goes without saying that I invite teams from around the world, if they would like to, to consider the Mackay-Whitsunday region as a potential training base. Let us not forget that Mackay's all-time greatest athlete is Cathy Freeman, who famously won Olympic gold in 2000. What a legend she is. We could talk about her CV until the cows come home, but unfortunately time will prevent us from doing that.

This bill is part of an overall package designed to facilitate community ownership of the games and, of course, ensure the integrity of branding in relation to the games companies or sponsors associated with the games. Like Queenslanders from Coolangatta to the cape, I look forward to the games. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.59 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise this evening to speak to the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013. As the member for Mermaid Beach and also a former mayor of the Gold Coast, I say it is a great and proud day that we are going forward in the process to see the effective and efficient running of the Commonwealth Games in 2018. At the outset I congratulate the minister on her role of ensuring that all the pieces of this fabulous jigsaw are put together. It is a mammoth task that she is undertaking to ensure that these games go down in history as the best games ever, or whatever Mr Samaranch used to say. That is the minister's goal. She has been given a very difficult task with very little money to work with from the previous government. We have also not received our Commonwealth commitments at this point. The minister has been working very diligently in putting together this program.

This legislation is one of the many important steps in the process that will come to this House to ensure we do have the best games ever. These arrangements are to protect any unauthorised use and commercial gain from promotional material associated with the Commonwealth Games in 2018. There will be a lot of great commercial gain and they should be paying their way as governments at all levels are. The objective of the bill is to amend the Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. I would certainly like to congratulate the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee on their analysis and recommendation to pass this bill in its entirety. The committee goes further and recommends that brand protection of other major events be adopted. This can be achieved by commencing negotiations with the Commonwealth government and a review of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. Other recommendations of the committee were to include brand protection with regard to ambush marketing, online marketing, social media, guidelines for disposal of seized or forfeited goods and that all games related images and references be included in a schedule to the bill. We do not even know how many changes we will see in the next five years in the IT world or what other brilliant ideas will come forward. So putting in place mechanisms to protect the integrity of the Commonwealth Games is absolutely essential and this bill will go a long way to achieving that goal.

The protection of the Commonwealth Games brand, associated images and promotional material is important for commercial reasons and to protect the sponsors' commercial right to display the logo and related material as part of their commercial contract with the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and I look forward to the release of that logo. In her summing-up the minister might be able to give us an indication of when that—

Mrs Stuckey: April the fourth.

Mr STEVENS: I take the interjection from the minister. I can look forward to 4 April. That is quite exciting. That is the one being launched in the parklands, isn't it?

Mrs Stuckey: You will be invited.

Mr STEVENS: That is wonderful.

The Gold Coast is the sixth largest city in Australia and the perfect place to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games with its fantastic beaches and wonderful scenery. It has more canals than Venice and has accommodation available over all levels from the local tourist caravan park right through to six star hotels. This is the perfect venue for the best Commonwealth Games ever.

The benefits will be great for our city. It is not the panacea for tourism; no-one is getting carried away with that. It will be great for the city in terms of creating jobs, creating opportunities for local business, bringing in tourists to see the Commonwealth Games from around the world. Broadcasting

pictures of the fabulous Gold Coast around the world in itself has to be some of the best advertising on which we can spend our money. The Gold Coast will create a lasting memory in people's mind that will hopefully translate into return business.

That reminds me of the schoolies that arrive on the Gold Coast every year—the 50,000 or 60,000 wild, young tearaway things.

Mr Symes interjected.

Mr STEVENS: The member for Lytton was one of those for sure! Later on they will come back with their wife and kids to visit the wonderful Gold Coast where they spent some wild, tearaway times. So in the same vein, the Commonwealth Games is going to help us promote the Gold Coast, which will be great for its future.

The bill is in place to stop the unauthorised use of certain images and references for commercial or promotional purposes in relation to the Commonwealth Games. Other objectives of the bill will be to act as the administrative regime for not-for-profit community purposes and to provide for a practice of resolving disputes and breaches, and you can guarantee there will be many disputes and breaches as the time nears.

In its most simple form, this bill's objectives are in place to stop businesses taking advantage of the Commonwealth Games publicity by misusing logo and brand material and to ensure that there is goodwill surrounding the event. In other words, we do not want the wrong type of people or commercial businesses utilising the logo when it is not appropriate. That could give the Commonwealth Games a bad name. The bill plans to reach these objectives by providing criminal penalties and civil remedies for the unauthorised use of certain references and images for commercial or promotional purposes and for the false association with the games. This will ensure the games' financial success is assured in relation to sponsors and associated supporters. The bill does this by providing police with the ability to seize goods or advertising material that is using the protected references or images in the critical period leading up to the games and in or around the games' venues. It is hoped these penalties are enough to deter those wishing to take advantage of the event using games related intellectual property and will result in the bill's penalties not being used or using them at a minimal level.

This bill will provide an approach that will also aim to use standard practice to resolve the breaches of the rules in an informal way if possible. Of course, this is the friendly Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in 2018. We certainly do not want to go down a protracted legalistic avenue or create a Big Brother image if we can avoid it. So, where appropriate, proceedings will be the last resort. This allows for lengthy and financial pressure on people who breach the rules to be minimal.

The only way in which this bill's objectives can be met is via a change of legislation which we have before the House tonight. It is believed that this is the fastest and strongest deterrent whilst also providing appropriate safeguards. In regard to costing, it has been clear since the beginning of the games planning that protection legislation would be absolutely necessary, and the budget for the 2018 Commonwealth Games includes funding for monitoring and enforcement. Queensland Police Service resource implications are expected to be negligible as it is estimated that there will only be a small number of prosecutions, if any.

The bill strengthens the existing framework for the protection of intellectual property for this particular event and plans to exist within the framework of the already existing IP laws. The bill provides certainty with IP in direct context of the Commonwealth Games. It will also introduce the exposure to criminal prosecution, which is justified by the significance of the games. The public expects that the government will monitor the games to ensure the goodwill of the games is not exploited.

The provisions of the bill expire on 31 December 2018; there is a sunset clause. Therefore, it will be a bill that allows for the Commonwealth Games in 2018 to be successfully completed and held in an exemplary manner. I can remember back to 1982 when I was a little boy going to the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane! I can remember Allan Wells winning the 100 metres. It was a real highlight for me. Those games were the impetus for Brisbane becoming a world city. It changed completely the face of Brisbane, and that was followed up by Expo. Everyone says that Expo was the coming of age for Brisbane, but it was the Commonwealth Games in 1982 that really saw it kick in terms of being able to handle international visitation. I would like someone to move that I have more time! In 1983 I opened one of my retail stores in Surfers Paradise called the Aussie Shop, displaying

a lot of Australiana. I was living off the Commonwealth Games. It was a very successful business that existed for 20 years. The guy to whom I sold it made an absolute fortune out of it. I was very pleased for him.

The member for Coomera mentioned that the Gold Coast Clay Target Club may be in line to hold an event. I commend that to the minister to keep that sport on the Gold Coast if it is possible.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (6.09 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak to the Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Brand Protection) Amendment Bill 2013 and to follow my colleague the member for Mermaid Beach and of course the minister, the member for Currumbin, who has taken on the job given to her by the Premier of delivering these friendly games in 2018. It has been interesting to hear people's memories about Commonwealth Games that they remember. I have vivid memories of that era as well, because in 1981 the precursor to the Commonwealth Games were the SGIO games. I was an usher at the swimming at Chandler when I was at university and working part time as well. It was a great insight and preparation for the Commonwealth Games that were going to be held in 1982 when I was in fourth year at university. Some great things happened, as I think the honourable member for Whitsunday mentioned in his memories of the 1982 games, and some interesting statistics came out of the 1982 Commonwealth Games, which, as the member for Mermaid Beach mentioned, is when Queensland and Brisbane in particular became more of a world city. The current Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk, uses that as the time for Brisbane becoming a new world city.

Given the SGIO games, it is interesting to note where stadiums and facilities were put. Last weekend many of us went to see Bruce Springsteen at the Entertainment Centre which, as I understand, was used for something at those games. My memory may be mistaken that that is what the Entertainment Centre was used for, but Chandler certainly was developed in the lead-up to the 1982 Commonwealth Games with regard to the velodrome and of course the swimming, as was QEII Stadium. It has now been shown in many places that it is better to put the new facilities closer to the city centre, and that is why we have subsequently developed facilities like the Gabba and Suncorp Stadium. I remember that in 1982 when the Commonwealth Games were held a lot of 21st parties were held at that time for those of us at university. Lawn bowls became a very popular sport because we often had 21sts at lawn bowling clubs and Australia won, as I recall, the gold medal in the men's fours at the Commonwealth Games. I remember going to a couple of 21sts at which people were dressed up as lawn bowlers following the success of the men's fours team. Again, that was following on from the success of Rob Parella who, as I understand it, won the silver medal in the men's singles to a fellow called Willie Wood from Scotland who won the singles at the men's bowls.

It is also interesting to note that sex tests for athletes were introduced for the first time in 1982. As it turned out, we had no idea then of course what the East German swimmers were doing in the early 1980s. The Australian women's bowls team of Eva Wilcher, Rose O'Brien and Pat Smith had no great concerns about the sex tests being carried out on them because they had 10 children and 14 grandchildren between them! I also have some very fond memories of subsequent Commonwealth Games in terms of the Gold Coast. Andrew Baildon is a favoured sporting son of the Gold Coast. At the 1990 Commonwealth Games when I was working as a dentist in my surgery, I had a TV above the chair for patients to watch the games and Andrew Baildon won four gold medals and a bronze at that Commonwealth Games. Of course, he is the son of another former mayor of the Gold Coast whom the member for Mermaid Beach had a couple of electoral battles with, some of which he was successful in and one in which he was not. But that is another story for another day.

In the 2006 Commonwealth Games I remember being at the games when Kerryn McCann won the women's marathon. The lead changed six times over the last two kilometres and Kerryn McCann won it at the age of 38 against an African runner. She subsequently was diagnosed with breast cancer only a year later and died, I think, in 2008. But she said herself that it was the greatest victory she had ever had, the greatest race she had ever run. I was in the stadium that day to see her win the marathon. When she came into the stadium, you could actually see the effect of the crowd on this runner—this Australian runner—who ran her fastest time ever or second fastest time in the marathon. The crowd literally lifted her to the success that she had. Other memories are Andrew Lloyd winning the 5,000 metres in Auckland after coming from last in the last lap. These events all contributed to other great relationships that we as a state and country have with other countries when we look at some of the history of other events with great runners like Kip Keino, Henry Rono and Herb Elliott, the great Australian runner, and Filbert Bayi from Tanzania. They are all memories that those of us who love sport take with us.

Mr Stevens: Ron Clarke.

Mr LANGBROEK: Ron Clarke of course, another mayor of the Gold Coast, who was a great runner in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres.

With regard to the theme of the bill and the objective, we do need to prohibit the unauthorised use of images and references for commercial or promotional purposes. I noted the contribution of the Leader of the House when he mentioned that it is hoped that most or all breaches will be able to be resolved informally without the need for civil action or prosecution, but it is of course prudent for the minister to oversee a regime where there may be the need to have stronger penalties in a world where people will take advantage of inaction by the government. It is important that the minister oversee that and I commend her for that. With those words, I commend the bill to the House and say that of course we are looking forward to it. We supported this in opposition in a bipartisan way. We understand the budget difficulties that we are having and we acknowledge the support of the Treasurer in making sure we live up to our commitment of supporting the games. We want them to be a great games, and I am sure they will be on the Gold Coast in 2018.

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (6.16 pm), in reply: What a debate we have just had from so many honourable members with so many memories! I think that augurs very well for the future of the Commonwealth Games 2018 on the Gold Coast. I thank all honourable members who have contributed to the debate this afternoon. I particularly thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee and its staff and all members. I want to thank my department, in particular Assistant Director-General Nick Elliott, Filly Morgan and Phil Hall. I thank Parliamentary Counsel for drafting our bill. I also thank my ministerial staff and of course—

A government member: And mum and dad and the kids!

Mrs STUCKEY: Mum, dad and the kids as well, because we want them to come along in 2018 to enjoy these games. To summarise again, this bill is one part of an overall package designed to allow for community ownership and celebration of the games while not allowing the use of Commonwealth Games images or references in a way that would dilute the value of the brand to sponsors. Sponsorship revenue forms a sizeable chunk of the budget of the games and it is prudent that we take reasonable steps to protect the government's significant investment in the games. The role of the bill in the overall package is to provide streamlined procedures for the enforcement of intellectual property associated with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. It also prevents people from falsely suggesting that they have a relationship with the games as a sponsor or supplier. Honourable members have acknowledged that it is critical we have these fair but speedy enforcement options to give sponsors the confidence that their investment will be protected.

The other really important main part of the overall package will be a suite of options for not-for-profit community uses, including a blanket authorisation that will allow low-key use subject only to common-sense guidelines. The government will work with the corporation on the development of these options. The Leader of the Opposition communicated the opposition's support for the bill. I thank the opposition for that and for its commitment to work constructively with the government in the years to come as we prepare for the games. The Leader of the Opposition suggested that one of the aims of the bill was to protect the brands of game sponsors, but I can clarify that that is not the case.

The bill protects Commonwealth Games intellectual property, not anyone else's intellectual property. The Leader of the Opposition also reflected on the committee's recommendation that all the protected references and images be included in the bill. For reasons that I have already discussed, that is simply not possible. Many of them have not been developed yet.

The Leader of the Opposition was also keen to hear about arrangements for training for those administering the provisions. The Queensland Police Service will provide training for its officers as appropriate and the corporation will provide training for its officers, who will be out in the field making approaches to anyone breaching the provisions. Obviously, that training will be very detailed in respect of legal aspects and also in respect of the tact and diplomacy that will be required.

The Leader of the Opposition also raised the issue of consulting with the Gold Coast chamber of commerce and the Law Society. I think we have explained very clearly that this bill is not to provide a framework for the commercial use and that it is actually, in fact, to prevent commercial use of games branding without permission or sponsorship. It is very necessary to give the corporation control of the commercial use of images and references in order to achieve the broader objective and that is not to allow the use of images or references in a way that would dilute the value of the brand to the sponsors. I have already cautioned, too, that permission will virtually be given only to sponsors,

official suppliers and the like. Otherwise, there is no point in them becoming sponsors. In relation to the Law Society, I also covered this point earlier. The Leader of the Opposition was concerned that community engagement was not important to the Newman government in our games preparation. I can assure members that nothing could be further from the truth. For example, in the near future a major public consultation exercise will commence to help shape our legacy plan for the games—the lasting benefits to the community that will be the long-term return on our investment in the games.

The Leader of the Opposition also raised the issue of interjurisdictional enforcement, as did many other members. I make the point that this bill takes protection for Commonwealth Games branding as far as this parliament can take it. There is nothing more in this place that we can do. But what I and my department can do is advocate with other jurisdictions for complementary legislation and that is already happening, as discussions have taken place and I have also formally written to the relevant New South Wales and Commonwealth ministers.

I move now to the individual comments from a number of members. I note that the member for Gympie and chair of the committee commented on the fun police issues in London. I really want to thank him for his affirmation of our approach to this issue. As long as there is no realistic concern for legitimate sponsors and no risk that the public might be confused about whether there is an official connection with the games, genuine grassroots celebrations will not just be allowed; they will be encouraged. I thank the honourable member for Gympie for his enthusiasm and his thoughtful consideration of all of the government's responses to the recommendations.

The member for Gympie referred to comments by the CEO of the corporation that the bill would allow the corporation to shut down websites. I regret that there still appears to be some misunderstanding about this issue. Let me state very clearly that this bill will allow the corporation to shut down websites to the greatest reach of this parliament's power. There is nothing more, though, that we will be able to do in this respect. There is, of course, more that I and my department can do in particular to negotiate with the Commonwealth government for Commonwealth legislation to provide further protection. Those negotiations were already occurring before the briefing of the committee.

I move to the contribution of the honourable member for Burleigh, who is a neighbour of mine on the Gold Coast. I might add that he is another very enthusiastic member and one who loves his sport. He was concerned about the potential explosion of domain names and noted a number of new sections relating to the issues. He also referred to the seizure provisions and interjurisdictional powers, or lack thereof. We had a very up-beat presentation from the member for Broadwater. She is very motivated by the games and is another very proud Gold Coast member.

I thank the member for Sandgate for not only her input to the committee's deliberations but also her broad support for the games. I note that the member for Keppel acknowledged that it is critical to protect sponsors' investment and the integrity of the Commonwealth Games, as did many other members. The member for Keppel also gave particular support for the balance in the overall package that we are going to be able to achieve in protecting commercial assets and allowing community celebration. The member for Gaven commented on interjurisdictional issues. He also indicated support for developing infrastructure on the Gold Coast. But he has opposed the development of the village, which will be one of the biggest legacy contributions of the games. He also commented on some Gold Coast City Council fiscal issues. It was very interesting to note that when I was at the sod-turning of our wonderful redevelopment of the aquatic centre on the Gold Coast on 13 March the mayor was on record as saying—

I put the record straight here today. My comments about withdrawing the Commonwealth Games funds, we will stump up the whole \$100 million. It's only fair about it. We will dig deep and find more savings.

So I think we have on record the mayor of the Gold Coast honouring the commitment of the Gold Coast Council.

I am very grateful for the contribution by the member for Pine Rivers. He raised some issues that were raised by other members, but affirmed the common-sense approach to allowing the community to celebrate the spirit of the Commonwealth Games. The member for Albert is another very enthusiastic Gold Coast member. He and I share a great passion for Matilda and her joeys. I note that very fond nostalgic memory. The member is also very passionate about his electorate and is looking forward to the boxing and the table tennis that his electorate will host. The member also expressed his understanding of the need to protect the games' intellectual property while allowing us to get on with enjoying and celebrating the games.

The member for Logan, with his delightful US accent, epitomised the proud Aussie and the even prouder Queenslander that makes us known as such a friendly nation. Who needs a mascot even as cute as Matilda when you have the member for Logan!

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mrs STUCKEY: Hear, hear! The member sees the opportunities that the games provides for people in the hospitality industry and the great pride for the city of the Gold Coast and the people of Queensland. I thank the member for Ferny Grove for talking up the benefits of the Commonwealth Games for Queensland. The member for Coomera, another passionate Gold Coast member, is full of pride, vigour and positive vibes for the games. He talked a lot about the issues that have been discussed and, of course, the nostalgia of our Matilda, who I might say is up at Kybong service station on the Bruce Highway south of Gympie at the moment because our mean old council banned her from the Tugun petrol station a while ago after her stint there.

Mr Stevens: Does she still wink?

Mrs STUCKEY: She does still wink. I take that interjection from the honourable member for Mermaid Beach. The member for Whitsunday is a proud follower of sport. He represents a key tourism area and understands the importance of tourism and what that will bring to the games as well. He is another Matilda fan.

I would also like to acknowledge the member for Mermaid Beach. We have so many incredibly enthusiastic members on the Gold Coast. The member for Mermaid Beach represents an area that is home to many major events. He understands full well just what the games are going to bring to us—not only an economic benefit but also a legacy benefit and a pride benefit. The member for Surfers Paradise represents one of the areas that is always highlighted and is world famous—our Surfers Paradise. He knows too well what these games are going to bring to the Gold Coast. I thank him very much for his contribution and for his reminiscing.

In closing, this bill is another important step in our preparation for the best Commonwealth Games yet. Indeed, it will be a great games, held in a great city, which will deliver great benefits for all. All of the plans are proceeding as we would hope and on time. I again thank everybody for their contribution to the debate.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Before I move to the consideration in detail, I acknowledge in the gallery Mr Terry Gygar, the former Liberal member for Stafford. As a former student of Mr Gygar, I can also attest that he is a very feared tort professor at Bond University.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 18, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (6.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (6.29 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MANDATORY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OUTWORKERS) REPEAL NOTICE

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (7.30 pm): I move—

That the Industrial Relations (Mandatory Code of Practice for Outworkers) Repeal Notice 2012, subordinate legislation No. 193 of 2012, tabled in the House on 13 November 2012 be disallowed.

I am proud to speak tonight to stand up for some of the most vulnerable and at-risk workers in Queensland. On behalf of the Labor opposition I am seeking to disallow the government's regulatory change to abandon the code of practice for outworkers. This government has a shameful record on jobs and workers' rights. We have seen the attacks on the independent umpire, the QIRC; we have seen moves to make it harder for people to join unions, destroying employment security for government workers; massive outsourcing across government services, including health; not to mention the sacking of more than 14,000 hardworking Queenslanders.

Mr Choat: You're still pushing that nonsense.

Mr Bleijie: What's this got to do with this?

Ms PALASZCZUK: But not only are the LNP making life harder for their own employees, they are also attacking the rights and working conditions of workers in the private sector.

Mr Choat: Rubbish!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Deputy Speaker?

Mr Bleijie: But what you're saying's not true.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If you want to speak in the debate you are more than welcome to stand up and speak in the debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! You will address your comments through the chair. I didn't hear where it came from, I'm sorry.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In government Labor worked with the textile union workers' representatives, FairWear Australia coalition and business and industry representatives to deliver an outworkers industry code to protect workers in our community. The code of practice was introduced to help protect some of the most vulnerable workers in Queensland: outworkers in the clothing and textile industry. It covers people who work at home producing textiles, clothing, footwear and related products. Historically there have been many cases of abuse and exploitation in this industry and that has not been highly regulated in the past. The core of the code of conduct is to have transparency in the supply chain so that business and consumers can have confidence that products being sold were not produced through the exploitation of workers. It operated to use market factors by introducing transparency and increasing business and consumer knowledge about the products they are purchasing.

The Labor government started a review of the code whilst in government to ensure it was implemented effectively. Let us make it clear that the purpose was to continue the protection of outworkers and maintain the code with analysis of how it was being implemented. Despite the serious issues this code addressed and the importance of protecting their conditions, this government, without a word of justification, has stripped workers of this protection. There was no word of it prior to the election. In fact, the LNP, and the now Attorney-General I believe, did not even at the time oppose the code when it was introduced in the last parliament. Why is the position of the government so offensive? I believe that attacking the rights and decency of any worker is purely unacceptable. But it is even worse that in this case the government is deliberately targeting some of our most vulnerable workers in Queensland. Low-paid workers out there by themselves, often from migrant communities, almost exclusively women, often do not have the language skills, the education or other support to protect themselves and enforce their own rights.

I would like to add to the debate evidence from representatives of the FairWear Campaign, a community campaign run and supported by a coalition of churches, community groups, unions and women's groups. The reality is that there is exploitation in this industry. Make no mistake of that. The FairWear Campaign submit that—

Outworkers are among the most vulnerable and low-paid workers in Australia. They are almost all women, and mostly migrants. They do skilled work for which the award wage is over \$17 per hour. They are lucky if they receive as much as \$7 per hour.

This is what we are dealing with here tonight. The opposition moved a motion of disallowance to ensure at least some public scrutiny and debate on this important issue. We wanted to wait until the new year to move this disallowance motion within the appropriate parliamentary time frames to undo the hurtful decision of this government. We have worked with workers, their representatives and members of the FairWear coalition to raise this issue and to force a public debate.

On Monday I had the privilege of meeting with a delegation from the FairWear Campaign to Parliament House. We met outside the gates of Parliament House. I heard from real outworkers who told stories of their industry and their day-to-day experiences. I appreciated the language difficulties they had and there was a Vietnamese interpreter on hand so that we could hear about their experiences first hand. I discovered when I was meeting with some of these women that one of them actually comes from my own electorate. She is a Vietnamese person living in my electorate and doing this work. Essentially she sews uniforms at home with some of her other family members. Without this code there is absolutely no protection for these workers. The real danger is that these workers will be open to exploitation. At the meeting out the front of Parliament House one of the workers presented me with a handmade pillow. That handmade pillow said on it 'wake up to justice for outworkers'. That pillow was presented to me to pass on to the office of the Premier for the Premier. We are in the process of making that available to the Premier. It was hand sewn. They just wanted the Premier and the government to be made aware of their plight and the fact that they believe that this code is essential for them into the future. They told me of the lack of power balance in their contract circumstances. They told me of the significant costs in sourcing their production material and covering power bills. They told me of the below-minimum wages they take home at the end of the day. We took the time to speak with these people, but they are just a selection of people. There are thousands of workers in our community that many members here may not even know are operating within their own electorates. Under this government I do not recall, and the Attorney-General may clarify, any public consultation in relation to the removal of this code.

Mr Bleijie: We said we'd get rid of Labor's red tape.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is not red tape. This is the protection of workers. This is the protection of some of the most vulnerable workers in our society. It is not about cutting red tape. This code is about protection of their rights.

Mr Bleijie: Union protection, that's all it's about.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is not about union protection. You have just shown your complete and utter ignorance for the understanding of these issues.

Mr Bleijie: I'll get my 20 minutes in a minute.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I note you have your time at the end, Attorney-General.

Mr Bleijie: I will have my time.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And you can express your wise words in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! Attorney, Leader of the Opposition, will you please address your comments through the chair not across the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Attorney will have his opportunity later on this evening to explain to the House why he is tearing away a code that protects the conditions of some of the most vulnerable workers in our society. I am more than happy to listen to that, because I do not think he can explain this one away tonight.

If the government is suggesting there are legitimate policy issues at stake, it should discuss the matter publicly and involve genuine community input. If this government was serious about this policy area and had legitimate concerns, it would deliver its own code of practice, which would enhance these workers' rights. The Attorney-General needs to place on the record tonight several key points. Who did he speak to before repealing the code? Did he speak to business and industry representatives? Did he speak to workers, unions, church groups or community campaigners? What confidence does he have that exploitation is not occurring in the outwork industry and what, if anything, does he think the government should do about it?

It is clear that the government does not care about the conditions and wages of vulnerable workers. It does not think they deserve a voice in this debate. Tonight, I am determined to make sure that this government cannot silence the voices of those Queenslanders. While the Labor Party stands in this parliament, we will continue to be the voice of those workers. They are working Queenslanders who are just trying to work hard and do the right thing for themselves and their families. They often

come from low-income areas. Often they are working hard to provide the basic necessities for their families, to make sure that there is food on the table, to make sure that the electricity bills are paid and to make sure that their kids get the opportunity to go to decent schools.

Every member of parliament here tonight has a responsibility to stand up for those vulnerable workers. I am sure many backbenchers may not even know that the Attorney-General removed the code of practice through the regulatory practices. Now that this matter is on the floor of the parliament, all members of parliament have the chance to make their voices heard. I call on members to ask themselves whose side they are on. Do they want to side with dodgy dealers in an industry that does the exploitation? Have they considered that those workers are in their own electorates, working from homes in their own suburbs? I ask members to side with workers, community representatives and church leaders to ensure this code is maintained.

I know that members of parliament and their electorate officers have been contacted by a range of representatives from unions, church groups, community groups and women's groups. To ensure their voice is heard, I would like to read into the record a letter from FairWear representative Jane O'Sullivan. She states—

Dear Members,

Without the Code, exploitation of outworkers goes undetected, as industrial officers have no means of knowing where work is done and on what terms.

There is no doubt that exploitation is rife in this industry. Even with the Fair Work Bill and the Code in place, lack of effort to police the industry has limited progress to clean it up. Removing the Code will not correct this failure, it will remove any possibility of correcting it.

The Attorney-General's review of the Code has not consulted outworkers, and has not provided any public evidence that employers have real grievance. Similar codes have been in place in NSW and South Australia for several years without disrupting the industry there. Clearly the repeal is intended to shelter exploitation.

Outworkers are among the most vulnerable and low-paid workers in Australia. They are almost all women, and mostly migrants. They do skilled work for which the award wage is over \$17 per hour. They are lucky if they receive as much as \$7 per hour.

The repeal of the Code was a shameful act by the Newman Government. Tonight there is an opportunity to redress it. Please stand up for outworkers.

Yours sincerely,

Jane O'Sullivan

FairWear Campaign, Queensland.

In conclusion, I reinforce to all members here that this code took many years to come into place. It was warmly received and it is a protection for some of the most vulnerable workers in our community. Like other members here, I was not aware that there were a large number of migrant women working in my community, in my electorate, basically in my own backyard, who would suffer exploitation if this code is removed. Tonight, please think seriously. This is a very serious issue and it will have grave consequences. It will see women and people from migrant backgrounds disadvantaged. Many of those women need the help of interpreters. When the code was produced, I understand it was also produced in other languages to help those workers understand the code in full detail. This is a very serious issue. I urge members to think very seriously before voting. This is about the protection of the most vulnerable workers in our society. I do not want to see them exploited.

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (7.44 pm): There are a number of issues that I need to address. Firstly, I will set the record straight in relation to a couple of things, such as the 14,000 sacked workers. As I understand the position, there were 12,000; 80 per cent accepted redundancies. It is a small point, but as 80 per cent accepted redundancies I do not know that that sounds as harsh as was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. Dodgy dealers? I am sorry, but where is the evidence? Do we need evidence at all? When I read the code, it said this process started in 1998. It states—

During the campaign Queensland industrial inspectors investigated 98 employers in the industry and interviewed 63 of their outworkers in December 1998.

...

Inspectors found much anecdotal and hearsay evidence of wide scale underpayment of award wages ...

I think that is where the answer lies. Effectively, whether or not this code existed, there were industrial inspectors who were quite capable of taking evidence and prosecuting. If you prosecute a person, an organisation or a contractor, they are fined and a penalty is imposed upon them. If they do it again, they get another fine, and generally the fines go up. Effectively, the argument that I am putting before the House tonight is that the mechanisms have been, always were and are now in place to cover vulnerable workers.

However, let us look at the word 'vulnerable'. There are many workers who are vulnerable. Certainly, those of a migrant, non-English speaking background are more vulnerable than others. I fully accept that. However, whether you have the mechanism of the code or industrial inspectors, you still need evidence. That is how you secure prosecutions and that is how you secure rights.

Of course, this process started in December 1998 and the investigation was undertaken. We are dealing with the textile, clothing and footwear industry which relates to contracts with the Queensland government. Effectively, we are dealing with outworkers who are employed, although it might be piecemeal. 'Employed' is a loose word, but for the moment I will choose it as being the relationship between the outworker and the contractor. They supply items to government and, again, government has the mechanism. It has control of the industrial inspectors who are able to go out and interview and collect evidence. What we do with evidence is we prosecute, if we have sufficient evidence.

Does it mean we use interpreters? Perhaps we might have to, but, again, since then Fair Work has been implemented. Fair Work has interpreters. The Commonwealth government, through Centrelink and so forth, has interpreters who are able to secure evidence. Of course, you always need the cooperation of any vulnerable group. They still have to give you the evidence.

I oppose this disallowance motion simply for the reason that there is nothing in the code that indicates to me that, in fact, it should have been made in the first place. Let us go to the code and see what the minister, Paul Braddy, said at the time. He was very helpful, because he outlined the objectives of the code. He said—

The Government's objectives for industry development are aimed at making industry internationally competitive, at achieving the highest standards in all business practices and, in particular, at the creation of employment.

I think that is a bit of a misnomer, but I will take it on face value. I do not know how the implementation of this code really achieves any of those objectives. Certainly, I cannot see the nexus between this code and industry being internationally competitive.

I cannot see how high standards in business practice has anything to do with this code. I cannot see how it creates employment. The reason I say this is this: effectively, what this code does is provide a labyrinth of regulation. For instance, if one goes to part 4 'Implementation and industry consultation' we find at 4.2 'Conditions of tender'. For a contractor to tender with the Queensland government they have to provide: the name of the relevant federal or Queensland award; the registration number of the factory or workshop; ABNs; evidence of compliance in the 12 months prior to the tender being lodged; evidence of workers compensation insurance such as a renewal; evidence of current superannuation fund membership and contributions; location of time book, sheets or records required to be maintained under either the relevant federal or Queensland award or industrial legislation.

The net effect is that we have a system in place that already works. Prior to 1998, prior to 2000 when this implemented and prior to 2010 when the notice was made, the law had not changed. It was still the same law. It worked in the past. It is certainly working now. It will work in the future. There is no basis upon which we need to introduce another layer. If there is evidence that a contractor has abused his position and if he comes within the definition of a dodgy dealer then we can prosecute him. That is the way the law in this country works. It does not differ federally or from state to state. That is the position.

So what are we going to do? Does that mean we now need to transgress our legal system—that is, we start to prosecute people and we do not need evidence? I do not think anybody here today is suggesting that. It would be silly to suggest anything that even resembles that. The position is that our system works well. We have a system of industrial relations which is fairly sophisticated. It needs not be circumvented.

Let us look at the context of what is happening worldwide. Vulnerable workers of course need to be cared for in a country like this, but they need to be able to stand up for themselves. If they need assistance then government ought to provide it through industrial inspectors. I have been dealing with industrial inspectors all through my legal career. They still exist and they still do a fairly effective job.

The position is that this code really does not assist but actually takes that balance away. What the Leader of the Opposition said was right. All these cases are about balance. It is about regulation and the reason we want to change the status quo—the reason the industrial system of industrial inspectors we have today does not work. Unfortunately, the code does not say it does not work. It just says, 'Let's impose another layer without justification for it.' The best the then minister for employment, training and industrial relations, Paul Brady, was able to come up with at the time that he made his report on the justification for the notice—he was brave enough to put it in writing—was that inspectors found anecdotal and hearsay evidence. That is it. Some 98 employers and 63 or so people were interviewed. There was no mention about prosecutions. There was no mention about breaches. I do not know where that went.

On the basis of what was said in that paragraph we have implemented a whole system of regulation on employers who are trying to survive in a very difficult market. Out of all the markets in this country, manufacturing is one of the most competitive internationally. We have the Chinese, the Philippines, the Malaysians—

Mr Cripps: The carbon tax.

Mr BERRY: Leaving aside the carbon tax, it is hard as it is surviving with what we have. To impose another system of regulation when we are basically dealing with the Queensland government is unnecessary. They have the means by which they can get the industrial inspectors to do the work that would ordinarily be done. It is not a difficult matter to resolve.

I would respectfully submit that really what this comes down to is a matter of balance, and the balance is out of kilter. The reality of life is we have imposed a lot of regulation onto industry. It is simply the case that for so many years now people have had to battle these impositions. I thank the minister for the interjection in relation to the carbon tax which is just another imposition. Then we have Fair Work Australia. I oppose the disallowance motion.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (7.54 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise this evening to speak against the disallowance motion that was moved by the opposition leader. Can I start by saying that I think that it is incredibly hypocritical of her to come into this place and pull a political stunt like this. It was only yesterday that she and her cronies sat over there telling us that we were pulling a political stunt when all we wanted to do was ensure that Queenslanders knew that there was transparency in government.

I think it is incredibly hypocritical of the opposition leader to come into this place and do the exact same thing that she spent a long time accusing us of yesterday. She comes into this place and she herself pulls a great stunt. I guess I really should not be surprised by the hypocrisy that we see from the left. We continue to see it on a day-to-day basis in Canberra, in particular.

The member for Ipswich did not wish to refer to the carbon tax, but I have no such issue as it perfectly illustrates the hypocrisy of the left. Media reforms are another illustration of the great hypocrisy of the left that has just been epitomised by the opposition leader when she comes into this place and does the exact same thing that she accuses us of. The greater irony of it is that she is pulling a political stunt whereas we were standing up for the people of Queensland.

I too believe that we need to stand up for workers. But the reality is, as the member for Ipswich has pointed out, that we have a whole range of pieces of legislation and a whole range of fora that allow the workers who feel that they are vulnerable to be protected and supported.

One of the things that we committed to during the election campaign was reducing red tape and the regulatory burden for business. We also said that we were going to reduce the cost of doing business in Queensland. I think it is important to note that the cost of compliance with the code that we are seeking to have removed was approximately \$43,460 a year per business. Let us not forget the 10 hours a week that was spent on paperwork. It is absolutely ridiculous when there are businesses out there that are looking to employ more people, that are looking to grow their business that we impose on them a regulation that adds an extra 520 hours of paperwork a year and that costs them \$43,000 a year in compliance.

It is estimated that the code has cost the Queensland economy \$21 million a year since it was introduced. I think it is quite shameful that there is even a debate on this. The reality is that we have an obligation to reduce red tape and regulatory burden. We have an obligation to make it cheaper for

people to do business in Queensland. The reality is, as so eloquently stated by the member for Ipswich, that there are many fora available to people who feel that they are particularly vulnerable in the workplace.

I appreciate that those for whom English is a second language feel they are particularly vulnerable. But I think it is important to note that the federal award for this area completely covers everything that this code sought to cover and of course there is Fair Work Australia. I think it is slightly disingenuous that the opposition would come into this place and seek to heap shame on the government as we try to help business in this state and say that workers across this state are disadvantaged when the reality is that their own federal colleagues introduced legislation that does exactly the same thing that this code does.

It is of course no great surprise that the Labor Party does not care about reducing red tape and regulation. All they simply care about is how they can increase red tape and regulation, how they can make it more expensive for businesses to continue to run. It strikes me that \$43,460 a year—the average cost of compliance with this particular code—could potentially mean two or three extra part-time workers for a business. So, if we were to approve the opposition leader's disallowance motion, we are not only potentially stopping hardworking Queenslanders who own great businesses and who want to employ more people from employing more people but also stopping them from being able to grow their business.

It is absolutely shameful that there is regulation in this state that would cost our economy \$21 million. I cannot even fathom how it could have continued to have been live in this state when the federal government introduced their own fair work legislation and when we have a federal award which does the exact same thing that this code seeks to do. It is absolutely shameful that we would seek to have a double-up of legislation in this state. It is not the role of state governments or any government to impose excess regulation on society and community. What we should be doing is encouraging business to look at the most efficient ways of running their business and supporting their own workers. I have full confidence that those who are out there in our community who are employing people in this industry want them to continue to thrive. They want them to have good conditions because, at the end of the day, their business cannot continue to grow and they cannot continue to employ more people and put more of their product out there if they have unhappy workers.

The reality is that the opposition does not understand business. The only thing that the opposition understands is the demands of unions. It is a great shame that they would come into this place and seek to impose on the people of Queensland burdensome regulation. I would have thought that they have done enough.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Miss BARTON: Of course the opposition leader interjecting is just another sign of her hypocrisy. She objected to someone interjecting on her, yet she feels it is okay to interject on me. I do not seek your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker, because I am more than happy to highlight the continued hypocrisy of the member for Inala, the Leader of the Opposition. It is not unusual that we would be able to highlight in this place the hypocrisy of the socialists. It is not unusual that we would be able to highlight the hypocrisy of the Labor Party because it strikes me that everything they do in this place is pure hypocrisy. Every time they come into this place—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! The member will take her seat. Attorney-General and Leader of the Opposition, if you would like to take your conversation outside or you can address your comments through the chair.

Miss BARTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was talking about hypocrisy. Unsurprisingly—

Mr Symes: How do you spell it?

Miss BARTON: Member for Lytton, you spell hypocrisy A-L-P. Mr Deputy Speaker, I was on a roll and you threw me for six. I am terribly sorry. It is of course great hypocrisy that the opposition would day in day out believe that they are calling out the Newman government and accusing us of manufacturing political stunts when what the Newman government is seeking to do is get this state back on track. What the Newman government is seeking to do is govern for all of Queensland, whereas it strikes me that the opposition are only seeking to govern for themselves, their mates and the union movement. At the end of the day, that is a great shame.

The opposition leader comes in here and tells us that it is shameful that we are doing something. The great irony of that is that it is shameful that she would come in here and move this disallowance motion. It is shameful that she would not think about the businesses that are employing

these people. It is shameful that the Labor Party did not consider the people of Queensland when it ran our economy into the ground. It is shameful that the Labor Party does not consider the economy. Quite frankly, I would almost go so far as to say that the Labor Party is shameful and hypocritical. I cannot in any way, shape or form imagine how people could possibly support this disallowance motion. It is an absolute disgrace that we are taking valuable time in this House to debate something when the federal government covers this exact same legislation.

There is no way that I will be supporting this disallowance motion. It is absolutely hypocritical and shameful of the opposition to come into this place and move this disallowance motion. They should hang their heads in shame.

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (8.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate this evening. It has been so good to follow my colleagues with their very articulate explanation of what is really going on here.

Mr Bleijie: You can't follow the Labor Party: no-one is speaking on the thing.

Mr CHOAT: Exactly. The Mandatory Code of Practice for Outworkers in the Clothing Industry was implemented on 1 January 2011. And if it was so necessary, why did it take Labor 20 years to come up with it? The code created unnecessary red tape and regulatory burden on business, as required documentation duplicated the established commercial arrangements that would otherwise be in place regulating the relationship between the retailer and the supplier.

The code imposed onerous reporting regimes and obligations upon parties that are not employers. Quite frankly, it was anti locally made product as the same restrictions were not imposed on the importation of similar items from offshore suppliers. Once again we saw the strangling of local businesses and a killing off of local jobs by a Labor government masquerading as a champion for workers' conditions. What rubbish and how typical of a bunch of out-of-touch socialists too busy sipping their chardonnay to be concerned with the viability of businesses supporting Australian workers and their families. I take the Attorney-General's point earlier. There are only two Labor members who could be bothered to get in here to speak on this motion, and that speaks volumes to me.

Mr Minnikin: That's a third of them.

Mr CHOAT: Well, that is right. The Tarago has probably been leased out to a bowling club or something.

Mr Bleijie: They believe in this so much they rattled up two people.

Mr CHOAT: Exactly. There has been a lot of talk about vulnerable workers, but what about the vulnerable workers in North Queensland from Indigenous communities who were sold down the river, excuse the pun, by the wild rivers legislation? What about those vulnerable workers? They deserved a go and they got a slap in the face at every step of the way by these same people. I can remember seeing a current affairs program some time ago wherein a small business owner demonstrated why she was forced to buy imported goods as opposed to Australian made product as she would have to deal with too much costly paperwork and effectively be responsible for the conditions of any workers associated with the making of such goods—clearly impossible.

Let us look at some of the facts about the burden this code represents. As we heard from the honourable member for Broadwater, the average cost of compliance for individual businesses with the code is over \$43,000 a year. You could employ a number of workers for that money. The average time spent meeting regulatory requirements in the code was 522 hours each year, or an average of 10 hours a week. That is nearly two hours a day on this nonsense. For 'suppliers' the time taken to fill out the required form was 30 to 60 minutes depending on the nature of the order or agreement. An average business might undertake this activity for an average of three to four agreements per week. For 'retailers' the time taken to complete the required reports for the department was approximately 10 to 15 hours every six months. I think they could spend their time promoting their business, building it up to employ more people—more workers, more jobs. The total cost to the Queensland economy as a result of the introduction of the code was estimated to be over \$21 million per year. What an absolute disgrace! What a disgrace in a country and a state where we supposedly have been trying to promote innovation and business success. The code really says to employers and business owners that they cannot be trusted and will always do the wrong thing by the community. What a load of garbage!

I say to the House: let's have some common sense, let's support small business and let's demonstrate our confidence in them and recognise their value for their employees and those in the textiles, clothing and footwear industry. There are already award conditions observed, as we have heard from my colleagues, by employers that protect the wellbeing of workers. Australia is not the home of the sweatshop. The irony is that the code is pushing business overseas where suppliers often deal with workers who are exploited through sweatshops. I have confidence in our Queensland employers. I have absolute confidence in them. I know the Attorney-General shares that confidence and I know all members of the government do as well. I would like to think that every member of this House would have confidence in our business and industry in this state.

Mr Minnikin: You've got to understand small business; they don't.

Mr CHOAT: Exactly. I take that interjection, because I speak to small business owners every day in my electorate and they tell me how much they worry about their turnover and their ability to service their customers and provide an income for their workers so they can pay their mortgages, so they can support their families and make their way in the world. To be quite honest, I can tell you that a lot of those employers worry themselves sick about the prospect of their turnover dropping in case they have to terminate workers because they have no choice. They worry about it every day of their lives because they do not just see their own mortgage and expenses as a priority; they worry about that of their workers. This nonsense we are hearing from the Labor Party tonight that employers are a bunch of unscrupulous bullies who want to take advantage of every worker is an absolute disgrace.

I also have absolute confidence that any dodgy and unscrupulous employers will be caught and sanctioned. We heard from the member for Ipswich that there are mechanisms in place to ensure that occurs. I know that reputable businesses simply will not do business with these dodgy people and as the industry is so tight knit—excuse the pun—the shonks will get identified and certainly will not prevail in their businesses.

I congratulate the Attorney-General and his department, and I ask the House to support the government and our local industry on this very important issue. Let us put some confidence back in business. Let us create some employment opportunities. Let us be fair and let us ensure that business in this state has every confidence that there is a government here that believes in them and wants them to achieve.

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (8.11 pm): I rise tonight to speak against this disallowance motion. Our government has achieved a tremendous amount of red-tape reduction in just our first 12 months in office. As outlined earlier today during question time by the Attorney-General, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has been leading the way in reducing the burden on business. These red-tape reductions include the government's keenness to pursue red-tape reduction for the property industry in Queensland through reviewing PAMDA and proposing to split the existing act into industry specific acts.

Also, the red-tape reductions in liquor and gaming introduced yesterday by the Attorney-General under the Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill continues to honour our election commitment to reduce red tape to industry and business by 20 per cent. Our approach to regulation is about common sense. We recognise that regulation is necessary, but business in Queensland has been drowning in red tape and that was a result of a long-term Labor government.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DILLAWAY: I take that interjection. Red tape, fees, levies and charges are now costing the business community \$7 billion a year—a 30 per cent increase in just the past five years. The key point here tonight is that this disallowance motion is an attempt by the opposition to bring back red tape, to continue to burden business in Queensland with costs of \$7 billion a year. The people of Queensland 12 months ago almost to the day made it very clear that red-tape imposts, along with cost-of-living increases, were key voting contributors. Yet the opposition has still not heeded the call. It still does not get it.

I cannot support the disallowance motion put forward by the opposition because, firstly, it would continue to burden small businesses across our state which are already doing it tough—small businesses like the many retailers in the clothing industry which occupy many of the shops along Oxford Street, Side Street and Riding Road in the Bulimba electorate. These same clothing retailers are doing it so tough they have been required to continually have sales advertised on their shop windows to drive patronage through the front doors in these tough economic times, with 70 per cent

off or everything half price or, in some cases, sadly, everything must go, closing down. These are the same small businesses in my electorate which have had to lay off staff over the past few years to cut costs and to stay afloat.

It astounds me to think that, every time I see a small business go to the wall, a family has probably just lost everything including their house. Yet you never hear the Labor Party talking about the thousands of small businesses which have lost everything due to their decisions and the financial burdens and red tape they have imposed over the past five years. These entrepreneurs had a dream to build a future for their families and at no time did they expect that they were signing up to be bogged down in red tape, paperwork, fees, charges and taxes.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland worked closely with a number of small businesses in the textile and clothing industry following the introduction of this code in January 2011. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland used the Australian government's business cost calculator to estimate the impact on those small businesses. It found that the average cost of compliance for individual businesses with the code was \$43,460 per annum. Those regulatory requirements cost a massive 522 hours per annum or, on average, 10 hours per week.

For retailers like those across the Bulimba electorate, the time taken to complete the required forms for the department was 10 to 15 hours every six months. Those forms required the full name and address of supplier, date of the agreement, Australian business number, details on the clothing products to be supplied including articles or materials to be worked on, seam type, fabric type and manner of construction and finish including diagrams. If outworkers were used, further details were required including the name and address of each outworker and that of the employer. Some retailers saw this code as making them responsible for policing work practices far removed from their control. This is time that could have been better spent working on their business and not in it—time better spent selling their wares or doing what they do best, not filling out paperwork that is a duplication of existing protections already available that I will discuss further shortly. Reducing red tape not only reduces the cost for business but also enables them to look at employing more people. Business and, in particular, small business drive our economy.

The second aspect I would like to discuss tonight is that of duplication—firstly, duplication in red tape because the six-monthly reporting requirements that retailers were required to undertake often duplicated established commercial arrangements that would already be in place that regulate the relationship between the retailer and the supplier. The second aspect of duplication is that of the federal protections that come under two considerations. Since 1 January 2010, the modern federal Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Associated Industries Award 2010 has applied to outworkers in Queensland. This federal award provides protection to the code by identifying all the parties in the contracting chain. The federal award requires very similar record-keeping obligations like a work record that includes the name, address, ABN, addresses where work is to be performed, time and date for commencement and completion of the work, a description of the nature of the work required and the garments, articles or material to be worked on, the number of garments, articles or materials of each type, the sewing time for the work required on each garment, article or material, and the price to be paid for each garment, article or material.

These reporting requirements are almost an exact duplication of the reporting requirements in the code that Labor wants to continue here tonight. In addition to the significant protections in the federal awards, in November 2011 the federal government also introduced the Fair Work Amendment (Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry) Bill 2011. The bill, which was passed on 22 March 2012, amended the Fair Work Act 2011 in relation to the textile, clothing and footwear industry to extend the operation of most of the provisions of the Fair Work Act to contract workers; enable outworkers to recover unpaid amounts up the supply chain; enable an outworker's code of practice to be issued; and extend specific right of entry rules to sweatshop premises. These measures mean that the code is a duplication of federal protections available to outworkers. I also note that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has found no evidence to suggest widespread exploitation of outworkers occurring across Queensland. The outcomes simply do not match the cost burden that this code imposed. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland estimated that the total cost to the Queensland economy as a result of the introduction of this code was \$21 million per year. Red tape, duplication and antibusiness are all terms that define the members opposite. I cannot support this disallowance motion.

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (8.19 pm): I rise to add my support to the motion of disallowance to stand up for outworkers in the textile and clothing industry. Time and time again we have seen LNP attacks on some of the most vulnerable members in our community. We have seen

their slash-and-burn approach to workers in community services that is causing pain right across this state. This callous LNP government has axed the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program that helped vulnerable and long-term unemployed people get back on their feet and gain the skills they needed to get a job and support their family. They have slashed funding to neighbourhood and community organisations that served those most in need.

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! What is your point of order?

Mr WATTS: Relevance.

Mrs SCOTT: Pardon me! I am setting the scene.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you do not have the call. I am making a judgement on the point of order. The member will be relevant to the disallowance motion in the time that she has remaining.

Mrs SCOTT: So with this record of attacking and targeting those who can least afford it, is it any wonder that we see the LNP government removing rights and conditions of some of Queensland's most vulnerable workers? It is offensive that the government, in repealing the code of conduct for outworkers, is removing transparency and decency from an industry that has had a history of some rogue traders giving other honest businesses a bad name. Providing transparency for businesses and consumers about the source of products they are purchasing supports not only the rights of workers but also those businesses that are doing the right thing and treating their employees with respect.

One serious issue that has been outlined by the Leader of the Opposition is the absolute lack of any consultation with those who will be most affected. The Leader of the Opposition spoke about the respected FairWear campaign, a coalition of community and church groups, workers, unions and women's groups. It is disappointing that the respected members of that coalition have not been provided with proper input into this important issue.

In an attempt to ensure that at least some of their voices may be heard, I would like to refer to some correspondence that has been sent by members of the FairWear campaign in support of the motion of disallowance tonight. Peter Arndt is from the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of Brisbane. In his letter to the opposition he said—

Dear Ms Palaszczuk

The Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane represents the Catholic Church on issues of justice. The Archdiocese of Brisbane covers much of south-east Queensland including your electorate.

For over a decade we have worked with various organisations including FairWear to promote the interests of a group of vulnerable workers, home-based clothing outworkers.

I write to thank you for the stand you have taken on the repeal of the mandatory code of protection for clothing outworkers.

We strongly promoted the adoption of this code and were very pleased that it came into force in 2011.

It protects some of the most vulnerable workers in Queensland, home-based outworkers making school uniforms and clothing for the fashion industry.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr Choat interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Ipswich West, please do not yell interjections across the chamber.

Mrs SCOTT: It continues—

As you know, similar mandatory codes have operated for some years in NSW and SA for some years without any problems.

We know that some unscrupulous elements in the industry have exploited these vulnerable outworkers in the past and are among those who have lobbied both the previous Government and yours to stop the code from being introduced in the first instance and, then, to abolish it after its introduction.

Women who work as outworkers often work for very long hours at home and can be paid very poorly. They are reluctant to complain for fear that they will lose work. They deserve adequate protection from those contractors who are prepared to exploit them. The many contractors and employers who do the right thing by their outworkers and pay them a fair pay rate also deserve protection from those unscrupulous contractors who gain a competitive advantage by paying their outworkers poorly. Please continue to stand up for the interests of vulnerable women workers and for those businesses that treat them fairly.

Peace

Peter Arndt

Executive Officer

Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of Brisbane

As members of the House can see, there are serious issues on the line in removing this code. I call on all decent members of the House, especially those who proclaim a belief in social justice, to ensure that the code is maintained.

Another group has been totally left out of the discussion by this conservative Attorney-General. As members of the House should be aware, representatives of the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia—TCFUA—have written to members to ask for them to seriously consider the issues at stake tonight. Michele O'Neil wrote as Queensland secretary of the TCFUA—

Dear member,

I write in relation to the repeal of the Queensland Mandatory Code of Practice for Outworkers in the Clothing Industry on 9 November 2012. I am shocked by this decision, which will adversely affect one of the most vulnerable group of workers in the country—outworkers in the textile and clothing industry. The Code has the strong support of unions, church and faith groups and community organisations (including FairWear) with an interest in protecting the rights, wages and conditions of outworkers.

It has been comprehensively and consistently documented over decades that TCF outworkers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Outworkers and those engaged in 'sweatshops' commonly work under very poor and unsafe conditions, do not receive their correct wages and entitlements and have little, if any, bargaining power. Sham contracting has also been endemic. This vulnerability is heightened given the 'invisibility' of much of the industry's home based workforce who are predominantly women from non English speaking backgrounds.

The key feature of the Code is the requirement for transparency throughout clothing supply chains by identifying every person involved in the production of a garment. The clothing industry is characterised by long, complex and multi level supply chains (commonly 3-4 tiers) and is structured around production being undertaken in a combination of a factory and home based environments. Typically at the end of that supply chain are outworkers.

The Code's reporting and record keeping requirements are its critical underpinnings. There is a direct relationship between these obligations and the practical objective that outworkers receive their lawful minimum wages and conditions, and work in safe and healthy environment, an entitlement that the Queensland community rightly takes for granted in respect to the broader workforce.

The decision to repeal the Code is short sighted and ill considered. It will dismantle a critical platform of protections for outworkers in Queensland. As a matter of urgency, the decision needs to be reversed. I understand that you have an opportunity to reverse this decision tonight, and ensure that Queensland's most vulnerable workers are protected from exploitation.

I urge you to vote in support of the disallowance motion.

Yours sincerely

Michele O'Neil

TCFUA National & Victorian/Queensland State Secretary

The messages I have read into the record reveal articulate and informed positions that should have been included in any discussions about the operation of the code. Instead, the Attorney-General has shown disdain for the community and workplace advocates and the vulnerability of workers whom they support. Tonight's motion of disallowance affords—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (8.29 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion moved by the member for Inala on 7 March 2013 to disallow the Industrial Relations (Mandatory Code of Practice for Outworkers) Repeal Notice 2012 which was introduced as subordinate legislation on 13 November 2012. Whilst in opposition as the shadow minister for manufacturing, I saw firsthand the damage the Labor Party did day after day to small businesses and manufacturers as it slowly suffocated them under thousands and thousands of pages of regulations and red tape. I stood in this House and spoke against this code. I stridently supported our small businesses affected by this. For that I was labelled 'Sweatshop Stuckey' and I am sure some members opposite remember hurling those insults at me. So rather than saying that we did not oppose this in opposition, we opposed it on numerous occasions—all because I and the LNP were prepared to stand up for our small businesses. I am saying here tonight that the Newman government will continue to stand up for our small businesses. The mandatory code of practice for outworkers, which commenced on 1 January 2011, was another nail in the coffin of some 5,000 small businesses. Little wonder then that it was received most unfavourably by many stakeholders in the industry—those who knew about it, that is. Most had no idea, as they were not consulted and not advised. Boutiques in suburban Brisbane that proudly supported local machinists and beading workers were caught up in this, as were local manufacturers of sports clothing, and the only way they found out it applied to them was if they had a knock on the door from the departmental enforcers or a union member.

In opposition, the LNP constantly exposed the Labor Party as the small business destroyer that it is and in a private member's statement on 13 October 2011 I described this mandatory code of practice as a 'union-led witch-hunt of local clothing manufacturers and retailers'. I stand by that statement today and I commend the Attorney and the Newman government for repealing this ill-thought-through code. True to form when it comes to the private sector, Labor failed to engage or even attempt to engage with the industry at any stage of the implementation of the code. Industry consultation is historically a weak point for Labor, and this code was a clear example of this. From myriad industry stakeholders the overwhelming sentiment was that Labor failed to consult with them, failed to properly advertise the changes, failed to properly explain the changes and failed to implement them. It really had no idea what the code entailed or what it was doing to our manufacturing sector—and, worse still, Labor did not care. The pressing question that I continually asked of the Labor Party was: what was its reasoning behind targeting 5,000 small businesses like that?

Mr Bleijie: Preselection by the unions.

Mrs STUCKEY: I take that interjection from the Attorney. The Australian government business cost calculators produced some interesting figures in the textile industry compliance with the mandatory code for outworkers report. It calculated the annual cost to business to be 522 hours and \$43,360 per year. The total cost to the Queensland economy was to be \$21.6 million annually. So if you are going to impose such a hefty fee on business, you want some justification for it—and the Labor Party had none. In audits conducted by industrial relations inspectors since 2003 right up to 2011, 140 employers had been audited and about \$29,500 worth of wages in arrears were repaid to workers. That equates to about 50c per underpaid worker. So with the backing of 140 audits in eight years—less than 20 audits a year—the industrial relations minister at the time, Cameron Dick, decided he had enough evidence to support his claim that the industry was notorious for sweatshops. I say to members: that is 140 audits in eight years and \$29,500 collected in arrears that should have been paid to workers. But we have a 'notorious for sweatshops' insult hurled at us.

So again I ask: what was the real reason behind the code, apart from making the lives of small businesses more difficult? As the shadow minister I undertook an extensive consultation process with many in the industry who were directly affected by the code. It was widely believed by many that the code was nothing more than legalised extortion by the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia—the TCFUA. It was blatantly obvious to all who were affected that this code had nothing to do with protecting local jobs and conditions but had plenty to do with sourcing union members. It was a cover for rampant union fundraising activity—activity that went very close to demanding compulsory union membership.

Let me explain to honourable members how it worked. They are all ears, Attorney. Australian manufacturers are only exempt from following their state manufacturing codes if—if—they are accredited to the Ethical Clothing Australia code and the ECA is basically no more than a union front. So clause 10 stipulated that fees paid to the ECA—that is, Ethical Clothing Australia—were primarily to go to the TCF and the TCF had the responsibility for enforcing the compliance. Now, how cosy is that? Another grubby little Labor lurk! Further, clause 7 states that the accredited manufacturer, who must of course be with Ethical Clothing Australia, who arranges for outworkers to manufacture products must satisfy that the outworker is receiving the standard letter on union membership in accordance with schedule 7. The standard letter in schedule 7 includes phrases such as, 'As your employer, I support the TCFUA and you joining that union and you will not be discriminated against if you do so.'

Mr Bleijie: No, you're discriminated against if you don't join the union.

Mrs STUCKEY: Absolutely, Attorney. Then there was the fact that names and addresses of all workers and contractors had to be given to the union—how's that, all names and addresses of workers and contractors had to be given to the union—to comply with this code and it carried with it a very strong indication that this was pretty close to demanding compulsory union membership from all outworkers. These were very heavy-handed tactics and it is no wonder they were met with such strong criticism from the industry. Schedule 8 discusses licensing fees where a business owner affected provided an example where \$400 must be paid annually for up to four employees working in-house to manufacture clothes. So basically—

Mr Choat: They're quiet about it now. They're quiet now!

Mrs STUCKEY: Exactly. So even if you are operating according to the law and paying your staff the current federal Fair Work awards, you need to pay a fee on top of that to be recognised to be doing the right thing. Pay a fee that goes straight to the union coffers! Business owners were left

asking: what purpose did this code serve other than to create a culture where businesses bribe union officials to make them cease these unreasonable time-consuming demands on them and, further, asking only Queensland garments to go through vigorous and onerous reporting when 93 per cent of garments in Australia are made offshore?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Minister. Just a word for those in the gallery: whilst we very much appreciate your being here to view democracy in action, I would ask that you do not lean across the balcony. If you could please take your seats, I would really appreciate it. It is for your safety as well as ours.

Mrs STUCKEY: When 93 per cent of garments in Australia are made offshore, this was viewed by the industry as unreasonable and discriminatory. In addition, asking a supplier to declare all their manufacturing costs to retailers leaves them exposed. But Jack Morrell, a TCF union official and also a representative of Fair Work, revealed designers names to the media without any contact with them for interview for their authorisation, and he did that to famous clothing company KooGa on the *7.30 Report*. As the shadow minister I took the opportunity to visit KooGa, a local manufacturer that was heavily targeted by the code to the extent that it was almost forced offshore. So whilst the Labor Party was shutting down our manufacturing business here at home, former Treasurer Andrew Fraser was very busy buying T-shirts made in Bangladesh following the 2011 floods. While punishing our local businesses, they were happy to endorse and buy cheap imports. So if you want to see a sweatshop, do not look in our backyard; go to Bangladesh, which the then Treasurer happily supported over Queenslanders.

In summary, there was no known consultation with the industry, no contact with industry partners to inform them of the change, there was the breach of the Privacy Act, the code was anticompetitive, the code created unnecessary bureaucracy and the code failed to do the very thing it said it would and that was to protect workers. We on this side will never condone the poor treatment of workers. That is simply not ever our ethics or our philosophy. We also accept the need to protect vulnerable staff, but this code did not do that. This code was an assault on our small businesses and nothing more than union thuggery.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—Ind) (8.40 pm): There are many ways to get to the majority of points in life. There are some that are better than others. I find it difficult to rationalise the arguments put forward by government speakers that somehow group the most vulnerable workers as a group who are worthy of support by virtue of their inability—and I do not know whether I have it exactly right in a summary of the speakers from the government—to have access to a basic guaranteed income. I have certainly heard from some members who may never have understood what that was like and they have debated this matter tonight.

The opposition is proposing to support the code that interlinks with the federal overarching laws. Over many years there have been consistent attempts to maintain at least a basic minimum wage for these outworkers by the majority of people. There is a small group of people, although it has been stated that numerically there may be 5,000 of them—but they are a small group—who need to have a basic income and they need to support their families. They have very little practical ability to organise themselves.

I, too, have been contacted by Peter Arndt of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of Brisbane. I have never heard from him before. I do not know this group. He sent me a very detailed letter. His was not the only one, but his argument was very persuasive and I heard it read out here tonight. His argument highlighted that such mandatory codes operate in New South Wales and Victoria. The commission promotes the code. The code came into force here in 2011. It primarily covers those who make school uniforms and clothing in the fashion industry.

I know a little bit about this industry. My family was involved in the retailing industry here in Queensland for over a century. In the past there has been a large use of outworkers and that continues to this day. The types of arguments that have been presented here tonight are no different from the types of arguments that have been presented for many years. In fact, the same things that were said led to the great bulk of our production capacity moving offshore and into the exact sweatshops that were talked about by some of the speakers tonight. So the very argument that members use to try to drive people out of producing garments and textiles, mainly ladies clothing, and out of the industry here, in fact, actually drives it overseas. To some extent, we have to try to maintain an onshore manufacturing capacity and we also have to make sure that for each garment that is produced the people who manufacture the garment can get a guaranteed return on it.

I have listened to many of the government speakers. I think there was a consistent pattern of conspiratorial beliefs about what the workers were doing, what had been done and what the Labor Party was doing. I was disappointed to hear one of the statements—but it was very interesting—from the member for Bulimba that the cost of this was \$21 million. If that is the case, then that is a problem and something needs to be done about it. If it is primarily the code, we need to check to see what has led to that. It may be that the code leads to those kinds of costs. In fact, there were some arguments that were put forward and demonstrated that that is what it leads to.

Unfortunately, you have to make sure that you guarantee a base rate of income for these people in this area. They are people who are not always primarily English speakers, but some of them are. A lot of our industries developed from migrants who have come here, but not all of them. Unfortunately, a lot of people regress back to these industries because it suits their circumstances because they are living out of home, they are caring for others, or they are caring for family members and they cannot afford to provide other services but they have to provide income for themselves.

We have to make sure that we also do not run out of services for ourselves. We largely live in an urban metropolitan based economy. We cannot always be looking towards importing absolutely everything. In some cases, if we are going to have the immediacy of the provision of clothing and sometimes even footwear we need to make sure that it is provided within an environment that is locally based and is produced by people who we know.

I would always say to members, on the basis of having grown up in this environment myself, that whatever you do, do not leave all your eggs in one basket. When you are absolutely at the mercy of the overseas suppliers, the problem you have is that the currency will occasionally go against you. It is the provision of things such as transport, oil shocks—these sorts of things. They come on and if you do not have locally based industries to give you a bulwark of support, what tends to happen is that you are beaten by all sorts of things, including the seasons. For example, we are going into probably a wet winter. We may go into a hot summer. We have a multiplicity of uniforms and those sorts of things that have to be provided. It is difficult when you are running small runs in these orders to make them cost-effective. When you are making huge numbers of bundles—in the thousands—it is much easier. But when you are making short runs, it is not cost-effective.

By and large you have to make sure that these local types of industries survive. People may not realise it but in areas just immediately around us industries grew up. In fact, a lot of those businesses became very formative as the years went on. Although those people may not have remained in those industries, in the second and third generations that followed they have produced these types of things.

It would seem that in some ways the code is an attempt to protect these people. They are vulnerable people. Every time you have major groups like the Catholic Church coming out and saying, 'We need to do something' it behoves us all to have a really good listen to what they are saying. It is not appropriate to damn them and say they are wrong, that they are interlinked with unions. It may be that they certainly do have associations with unions, but these sorts of people, obviously, have to act collectively to try to get some kind of basic income for themselves. I would ask all government members to actively consider that these are people who are vulnerable and we need to protect their interests.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (8.47 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution against this disallowance motion. Tonight, we have heard a lot about vulnerable, low-paid workers, migrants and people who have difficulties with the English language. I am concerned that the members of the state Labor Party do not have any confidence in their federal colleagues. Their federal colleagues passed legislation a year before this code was introduced. The modern Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Associated Industries Award 2010 applies to all outworkers in Queensland. In general, the federal award provides protection to the code with respect to identifying all the parties in the contracting chain. In addition, the federal award contains very similar record-keeping obligations, for instance, a work record, including name, address, ABN or ACN and/or registered business name and address where the work is to be performed; the time and date for commencement and completion of work; a description of the nature of the work required and the garments, articles or materials to be worked on; the number of garments, articles and materials of each type; the sewing time for the work required on each garment, article or material; and the price paid for each garment, article or material.

I put it to members that if the federal government Fair Work Act cannot protect these vulnerable workers, then what is this code going to do? The federal government has resourced the act. It has the Fair Work Ombudsman out there. The act exists to enforce exactly these types of conditions on any employer who would take advantage of a vulnerable and poor language skilled migrant worker as suggested.

If the state Labor Party have absolutely no confidence in the federal Labor Party, if they do not think that their federal Labor colleagues can do it, then I would ask that they bring back some of the legislative capability to this House so that we can protect the workers. This code that has been objected to here today does nothing more than duplicate what the federal government already has in place. It is very, very simple. This code applies down the supply chain. If you are running a business in Queensland you have two levels of compliance. Even if something has been manufactured interstate it still applies. All this record keeping has to be kept here in Queensland. These poor vulnerable workers will be out of work because the business will not be able to compete with the two levels of compliance. The compliance at a federal level is the same compliance at a state level. If the state Labor Party do not think their federal colleagues have done the job properly then I urge them to lobby the Fair Work Act. If they do not think these workers are being protected by the Fair Work Ombudsman then I suggest they contact the Fair Work Ombudsman and ask him why he is not doing his job properly. The simple fact is that this is duplication, it is nanny state, it is overcompliance and it will drive manufacturing away from Queensland and these vulnerable workers, the workers that we purport to protect here in this House, that the Labor Party are standing up and saying are going to be so harmed and damaged by this duplication of regulation, will find themselves unemployed and manufacturing will be going on interstate and overseas. Why should somebody have to comply with two levels doing exactly the same thing? First we need to get rid of that furphy. It is simply not true that these workers are vulnerable and not protected. They are protected by the federal act. If those opposite do not think they are protected by the federal act then that is something that should be taken up very seriously with their colleagues at their next conference.

I turn now to the compliance in Queensland and why we are removing it. It was introduced on 1 January 2011. I note that that is a year after the federal government had already protected the workers. So obviously the Labor Party here in Queensland got the idea from a very similar place to the federal government and then implemented it. There are a couple of things that the code applies to. I will just talk about the detail that is required from this code. I will go over it because I think it is very important that people understand that a business simply trying to get on with manufacturing, trying to get things made here in Queensland, is being forced to report the full name and address of the supplier, the date of agreement, including the agreement reference number, Australian Business Number, retailers and suppliers—members might think this is a repeat of what I said earlier, but that is not true. What I said earlier was from the federal act that applies to manufacturers here in Queensland and what I am now reading is the code. I know it sounds very, very similar. That is because it is. Details of the clothing products to be supplied must be reported, including articles or materials to be worked on, or seam type, fabric type, manner of construction and finish, including diagrams. If outworkers were used in the manufacturing of garments further details were required with respect to the name and address of each outworker and employer. What we find is a business that is trying to be competitive with other businesses both in Australia and overseas is struggling under the weight of red tape, totally strangled by red tape that the Labor Party would introduce.

We are a party that believes in individual rights. We are a party that believes in small business. We are a party that believes in not interfering with people's lives. We are certainly a party that does not believe in interfering in the lives of people who have already been protected by federal Labor policy. It is completely unnecessary for the Queensland government to have this. I am against the disallowance motion. I am against the nanny state that our Labor colleagues in this chamber would have us implement on the people of Queensland.

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (8.54 pm): I am sorry to disappointment those of you who thought the Attorney-General was up next. You still have one of us to go. I rise to speak in support of the Leader of the Opposition's motion to disallow the repealing of the clothing outworker code of practice. Let us take time to remind ourselves why this code was introduced. The previous Labor government introduced this code to help expose the complex contracting arrangements that have enabled bosses involved in the clothing industry to avoid their obligations to staff. The code was designed to make the industry more transparent by introducing important reporting obligations on everyone involved in the production chain. This means that everyone involved in the production of clothing, such as employers, suppliers, retailers and outworkers, can be formally identified. By improving transparency in this issue

dodgy employers who do the wrong thing will be more easily identified. Furthermore, the code also protects those employers who do the right thing because it exposes the poor practices of their competitors.

I would now like to make comment about some of the remarks that have been made during tonight's debate. Firstly I will address some of the statements from those opposite including the member for Ipswich. In his contribution the member referred to the code as, if I recall correctly, a labyrinth of regulation. He went on to call this code another layer of regulation. Clearly the member does not understand the heart of the issue involving the exploitation of clothing outworkers. It is the lack of regulation in this industry that allows dodgy bosses to continue to exploit workers. This code was implemented to allow industrial inspectors to follow the paper trail to the dodgy operators. Without this code these operators will continue to be able to avoid detection and therefore avoid prosecution.

It is also worthwhile noting that dozens of industrial inspectors were among the 14,000 government workers who were sacked by the LNP last year. Further, the LNP should acknowledge that this code is already followed by many good operators. The presence of this code actually protects the good operators and exposes those who are prepared to cut corners and exploit workers.

I want to move now to the comments made by the member for Broadwater. There was a suggestion that this motion was some kind of stunt. The next member we will hear from, the Attorney-General, knows all about stunts. It is only a day since the Attorney-General, the minister responsible for this code, came into this chamber and wasted more than 30 minutes of this parliament's time on a puerile motion that was nothing more than a diversion. Now, when you suspend standing orders as a distraction from the bad government story of the day, that is called a stunt. The same cannot be said when you move a disallowance motion within the standing orders. Such a thing is not a stunt but, of course, that is what the LNP suggests that it is. It was such a stunt though that we gave those opposite two weeks notice that we were doing it.

The member for Ipswich West referred to the code as unnecessary red tape. This is where the views of the LNP and Labor will always diverge. It is something I have mentioned previously in this chamber. The LNP considers the protection of workers as simply red tape. That is not Labor's way. We are proud of that. Labor will stick up for workers, particularly some of the most vulnerable workers who are often subject to exploitation. Labor also acknowledges that many bosses do the right thing by their workers even in the clothing industry, but surely the member and the LNP are not so naïve as to think that there are no problems in the clothing industry. If they do, they really do need to get out more.

This code is not red tape. It is an important protection for some of the most vulnerable workers in our society. I listened to the LNP contributions tonight and not once did I hear anyone express any empathy for the plight of clothing outworkers. I ask the members for electorates like Logan, Waterford, Algester, Springwood and Albert, the members for Stretton and Sunnybank and all the members of the LNP in this place whether they have actually considered that the Attorney-General's position is harming people in their electorates? These members will have been elected in the Newman wave, but guess what? The tide will go out just as quickly for those members if they do not stand up for workers in their local area. People do not forget things like this. It is clear that there was no consultation with anyone involved in clothing outworkers—not the workers themselves, not churches helping those workers or the FairWear Campaign. Surely if there was there would have been a little bit more concern for these workers. Instead the LNP was more interested in tossing around figures about red tape and regulation.

I can reassure all members that the women working for \$7 an hour or less are not concerned about red tape. They are more concerned about getting a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Maybe if the Attorney-General did a fair day's work he might understand what that is about. That is what Labor is concerned about. Labor is prepared to stand up against the LNP's ongoing attacks on the rights of workers in Queensland and fight for the rights of clothing outworkers. I support this disallowance motion, just as I support the working people of Queensland.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (8.59 pm): So passionate is the member for Mulgrave that he cannot stand on his feet and talk with passion without reading, word for word. They are the most over resourced opposition. Someone out the back wrote his speech. As members know, he was not on the list to speak tonight. What happened is that, tonight at the start of the debate on this disallowance motion, I questioned why, with all their passion about

this subject, they had only two members speaking in the debate. So the Leader of the Opposition ran out the back and got the whip—whoever their whip is—to get at least one other speaker. The member spoke so passionately on this subject, but he could not talk about it without his speaking notes.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order!

Mr BLEIJIE: I was about to call order to my members. I had prepared a great speech that I was going to deliver tonight, but I am going to suspend the speech and talk passionately about why we are doing this. We believe in business in this state. We believe in red-tape reduction in this state. We believe in cutting Labor Party green tape. We do not believe, as the Labor Party does, in strangling business to the core. If there is one thing that this government can do for business and employees in this state, it is to actually make sure there is a thriving business so that there are jobs. What the Labor Party has continually done, year in year out, is strangle businesses so much that they fold.

Mr Costigan: More road blocks than main roads.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member. They strangle business in this state, which means that the business folds, the business collapses, the business owner is worse off and the employee does not have a job.

Let us cut straight to the chase: why is this code of practice in there in the first place? It is because the thugs in the union movement told the Labor Party to do it. That is exactly right. The member for Woodridge is sitting over there. She is probably the patron of the textile union—someone give me the acronym, please. That thuggish union has suddenly written to the opposition leader with such concern that the member for Woodridge is also concerned now. This came in in 2011, as we discussed in this place today. It was all about their government's Queensland tomorrow agenda, the Q2 agenda. It was all about making sure those in the unions were protected. The mob opposite is living in the twentieth century. If anything mentions an employee or an employer, they put out the WorkChoice fear factor and claim it is an attack on the rights of workers in Queensland.

The best thing a worker can have is a business that makes money so that they can keep their job and stay employed. We will ensure that workers in the textile manufacturing and footwear industry are protected. How will we do that? By supporting the federal legislation that was introduced by none other than Bill Shorten. In Queensland we have this mandatory code that has put 31 pages of regulation and red tape on industry. I refer honourable members to the 22 March speech by Mr Bill Shorten when introducing legislation to—guess what? Protect the rights of those in this industry at the federal level. In that speech, under the heading 'Existing protections', he states—

The government's Fair Work Act already contains a number of important protections for TCF outworkers—including scope for awards to include targeted 'outworker' terms, and enhanced right of entry arrangements.

Members should remember that this is a federal bill introduced by a federal minister. He goes on—

Key features of this bill

Although most jurisdictions have recognised that special measures for outworkers are required, there is no single uniform approach to regulation across our nation. That means that outworkers have inconsistent levels of protection across Australia.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, members will be interested in this. I am quoting their union thug mate, Bill Shorten. He goes on—

That is why our Gillard government is committed to developing—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will table the speech for them, so they can all have a bit of bedtime reading tonight. He goes on—

That is why our Gillard government is committed to developing arrangements to ensure all TCF outworkers are engaged under secure, safe and fair systems of work.

The government's intention is to achieve this by implementing nationally consistent rights to legal redress and protection.

The bill implements that commitment by—

And he goes on. In this debate we are saying that the former Labor Party government introduced this mandatory code—it is a mandatory code, not a mandatory code—and we are repealing it because there are the requisite levels of protection at a federal level that now are not necessary at a state level.

An honourable member: You support the Fair Work Act; that is wonderful.

Mr BLEIJIE: Whether I support what the Bolsheviks do in Canberra is a matter of debate.

Mr Pitt: You just said you supported it.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, I did not. I said I was quoting the Bolshevik from Canberra. I thought if I was using the words of Solomon, their good mate Bill Shorten in Canberra, they would have been listening intently to the debate.

Mr Stevens: He won't take over the leadership.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable Leader of the House.

Mr Stevens: He's got no ticker.

Mr BLEIJIE: Shorten has no ticker to take over the leadership, although members will be interested to know that today I did hear through the grapevine of Channel 9 that Simon Crean might be the dark horse. Simon Crean might be coming up through the middle. We know the Labor Party do not want Gillard. We know they do not want Rudd. We know that mob over there do not want Rudd. They are going to bring up Simon Crean from the middle. Members opposite can rest assured that his office has dismissed that entirely. They have no fear of Simon Crean coming back as leader. One thing is for sure: Julia Gillard will not last much longer.

Ms Palaszczuk: We are talking about the code. That's what the topic is.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable opposition leader about the code. I am pretty sure for the first few minutes of her contribution she said nothing about the code, but used the opportunity to get whatever she could in there.

Ms Palaszczuk: You're talking about federal politics.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I am talking about federal politics. The reason I am talking about federal politics is because their federal Labor counterparts introduced the legislation that I am relying on to protect the outworkers, therefore, we can repeal the code and help Queensland businesses. We can help businesses. We are a government that is unapologetic about getting Queensland back on track. The way we do that is by getting out of the way of business. I say this: the Labor Party's idea of economics in this state was about control. There is a level of economics. There is a low level of economics and, as someone once said, everyone rises to their own level.

Mr Stevens: Labornomics.

Mr BLEIJIE: There is Labornomics. There is the famous quote that everyone rises to their own level of incompetence and certainly the Labor Party reached that some years ago. On a serious note, the answer to reform in Queensland by the socialists opposite was taxation.

Mr Stevens: Selling assets.

Mr BLEIJIE: It was selling assets without telling people. Their answer was also to tell businesses how to run their own businesses in this state. They increased taxes. Everything the Labor Party did—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take all their interjections because they want to talk about anything but the code tonight. We had more members speaking on this disallowance motion than the people moving the disallowance motion. It shows one of two things. Either they are not interested in what they are doing or what they are talking about or they are too lazy to get seven members talking on this most important matter that three of them talked so passionately about.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the opposition leader—why do we have limited speakers as well? It is not our disallowance motion. The point is this: when the Labor Party reform business in Queensland it always leads to further taxation on businesses, more red tape for businesses and more regulation for businesses and therefore businesses close down in Queensland. This is about ways that we as a government can get out of the way of business in Queensland.

We recognise duplication. We recognise inefficiencies. We recognise when there is absolute duplication. All the protections afforded by this code are afforded at a federal level. The federal law is currently there. Whether or not I support the current federal Fair Work Act, as the Manager of Opposition Business refers to, is not the point of the debate. The point of the debate is that the federal law is there and as such that is why we can repeal this mandatory code.

The opposition is completely entitled to move this disallowance motion. They have a couple on the agenda. They are totally entitled to have this debate. We are enjoying the opportunity to participate in this debate tonight because it does allow us the opportunity to explain why the government is going down the route it is going down.

As I said, it is all about reducing red tape for business in Queensland. It is about untangling the regulation and the green tape around business. We should look at what this government has done in the last 12 months. My honourable colleague the environment minister has, in the last few weeks, introduced legislation to reduce green tape. We heard the Premier has doorknocked the businesses in Ashgrove and talked to motor dealers about how they are saving thousands and thousands of dollars with respect to licence application fees. We have heard from the honourable Premier how he engaged in that debate in his electorate of Ashgrove last Friday. I am not anticipating debate, but the liquor licence laws that I have introduced will save community groups across this state hundreds of thousands of dollars.

When we say we are serious about reducing regulation, red tape, green tape, we mean it. We are not the Labor Party. We are not anything like the Labor Party. When we say we are going to do something, we will do it. We will not say that we are looking at it. We will not say we will attend to it. We say we are going to do it and we get on with the job and do it. We do not backflip on these things.

We had a clear commitment that we were going to reduce regulation and red tape in this state by at least 20 per cent. I am glad to see that all honourable ministers are on their way to achieving that target. In my own portfolio I have 20,000 pages of legislation.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The environment minister has a few pages hanging around—green tape. There is an immense capacity not only in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General but other departments to really look at this issue. We can look at the PAMDA legislation—the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act. We have released draft bills. Not only have we released draft bills, but we actually rely on what those in industry tell us—the people on the ground, the people who actually work in the industry, the people who know the industry, the people on the ground making a quid from their businesses and running their businesses and employing local Queenslanders. We in government do not stand up in this place and say we know it all.

What they tell us is that they cannot handle any more regulation in this state. We say to those in the industry affected by PAMDA, the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act, 'Here is the draft bill. Before we introduce it to parliament you come back to us and tell us how we can further reduce the regulation and red tape in the property industry in Queensland.' We are empowering local industry to participate in this reform agenda. This is a once in a lifetime, once in a generation opportunity to reform all regulation in this state and reduce regulation in this state.

To show how much the Labor Party believed in this mandatory code, they introduced this code in January 2011 and by November they were reviewing the code. They introduced it in January and then they announced an internal review in November. Not a year went by where the government that introduced the code was not reviewing it. I will tell members why they reviewed it. It was not because the TCF union came to them and told them to review it. It was because of what business and the employees of those businesses said about the red tape—the nightmare, the additional costs that this had created and the strangulation of business with filling out these unnecessary forms. That is why they reviewed it.

Typical of the Labor Party, they could not review it and get rid of the red tape. They said that they would conduct a review of the administrative arrangements of the code, not the actual guts of the red tape. So when we say to business in Queensland that we are going to reduce red tape and regulation by 20 per cent, get rid of duplication and inefficiency not only in our departments but also out in industry world, we mean it.

I am very glad to see that we have had support, particularly from the chamber of commerce in Queensland, with respect to the repeal of this mandatory code. We know that by getting rid of this code in Queensland protection will still be there for the employees in this particular industry but also businesses can save some \$43,000, as has been quoted by the honourable Minister for Tourism who spoke so passionately about this.

The opposition leader raised the issue of consultation. These codes are put in place and the regulations are put in place. Just as disallowance motions are allowed to be debated in this place, so are governments allowed to repeal unnecessary red tape. So it is okay for the opposition to come in

here and say that we are using parliament and they can disallow this motion. That is fine. It is also fine for governments to put forward the repeal of these codes. Then the opposition can have their chance. They have had their chance tonight and they have contributed to this debate.

The great thing about this debate is that all honourable members will be able to go back to their electorates on Friday, including the seven members opposite, and go to their businesses in the TCF industry and say that the parliament has not allowed the disallowance motion and reinforce that this place is about regulation and red-tape reduction. No longer will we stand for the Labor Party strangling business. The member will be able to go back up to Mulgrave and tell all the people up there in the business industry that the shackles have been taken off them, just like Joe Cocker's song *Unchain My Heart*. The chains have been released.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House with a great rendition of the song. You look a bit like Joe Cocker, by the way.

Mr Stevens: 'Unchain my heart.'

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): What is your point of order?

Mr RUTHENBERG: I find that singing offensive and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was not a personal comment. I call the Attorney.

Mr BLEIJIE: It reminded me of a young person who once sang in this place in 2009—a bit of Shannon Noll, *What about me*. I thought that would be the last time I would hear anyone sing in this place, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Manager of Government Business because I think that was a great rendition. I look forward to watching that on the clips tomorrow.

In conclusion—I cannot beat the conclusion from the honourable Leader of the House—I thank all honourable members for their contribution to this debate tonight. I reinforce that the government will not be supporting the disallowance motion, if it has come as any surprise to all honourable members. We will not be supporting the disallowance motion. We support business in this state, and the employees in this state, who are vitally protected under federal legislation, do not need this code.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 14—Byrne, Cunningham, Douglas, Hopper, Judge, Katter, Knuth, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad, Wellington. Tellers: Miller, Scott

NOES, 63—Barton, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dillaway, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Ruthenberg, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Menkens, Sorensen

Resolved in the negative.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (9.31 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Neilsen, Mrs D

 **Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.31 pm): I rise to speak about my nomination from the Mackay electorate for the inaugural Queensland Inspiring Women Speaker's Award. I was honoured to nominate Mrs Daphne Neilsen for the award, which coincided with International Women's Day on 8 March this year. Mrs Neilsen is a quiet achiever who I believe is a worthy recipient of this recognition.

She is a founding member of the Mackay Alpha Rho branch of Education, Services to the Community and Association and Friends, or ESA International as it is known. This year ESA will celebrate 50 years of service in Australia and the Alpha Rho branch is one of six ESA branches in Queensland. One of its original goals was to prepare its members to meet the challenges of an

ever-changing world. More than 80 years later, ESA continues to meet this original goal through educational, leadership and service programs that were born from the organisation's commitment to making a positive difference for its members and the causes they support.

Mrs Neilsen has at different times acted in all executive positions in the Alpha Rho branch since it was chartered 18 years ago on 11 December 1993. In 2012 she was state president of the ESA. She also works tirelessly to fundraise for many worthy causes in Mackay. Last year the Alpha Rho branch volunteered 5,768 hours to fundraising \$75,000 which was distributed to various Mackay and Sarina organisations such as chaplaincy services, SES, Meals on Wheels and RACQ Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service, to name a few. One of the biggest local fundraising efforts she is involved with is the Christmas wrapping at Canelands Central, where many volunteer hours are spent wrapping gifts with a smile and a chat for a gold coin donation. You will always find Mrs Neilsen happily selling merchandise in support of the Queensland Cancer Council Daffodil Day, welcoming guests to a Biggest Morning Tea function or selling pink ribbons on Pink Ribbon Day and lavender merchandise for the Leukaemia Foundation's Lavender for Leukaemia, which is all supported by ESA state-wide.

In the near future Mrs Neilsen will also do a pole sit at the Mackay showgrounds to raise money for cancer research. Mrs Neilsen is also the President of the Cancer Council Queensland, Mackay branch, and is very active in supporting Mackay's Relay for Life and the annual Daffodil Ball, which is one of the highlights of Mackay's social calendar.

Mrs Neilsen also ensures the safety of children in her role as a lollipop lady at the Fitzgerald State School, a role she has cheerfully fulfilled for a number of years. Mrs Neilsen leads by example and will never ask of someone what she is not willing to contribute herself or work towards achieving on behalf of a good cause. Many people in Mackay are influenced by her energy and leadership, and she has been a positive influence in encouraging people to support their community.

(Time expired)

Father Barry Grayson

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (9.35 pm): I rise this evening to pay tribute to Father Barry Grayson, the parish priest of Holy Family Catholic Church at Runaway Bay in the electorate of Broadwater. Father Barry, like the Bishop Emeritus of Rome, has decided that the time has come for him to take a step back and for him to retire. I want to take a moment to pay tribute to him.

We had a fantastic celebration at the St Francis Xavier school hall on Sunday, 10 March, which I think rather appropriately was Laetare Sunday. Those who are good Catholics in the House will remember that the fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, is also traditionally known as 'Rejoicing Sunday'. I thought it was very appropriate that we met on that day to rejoice in the blessings that we as a parish had experienced over the 16 years that Father Barry had served Holy Family.

Father Barry has over the years celebrated many baptisms, many marriages and, unfortunately, many funerals. He has been an integral part of the local community, particularly the local Catholic community in my electorate of Runaway Bay. He will be sorely missed. He is someone who has invigorated the parish. He is someone who has made mass interesting again. He engages people in mass. As a young Catholic, I was able to share with him that I was very inspired by the homilies that he delivered on Sunday mornings and that I was very inspired by his teachings. He made me think about the person that I could be. I think that is something that the entire parish agreed with. He has indeed been a very inspiring priest for us at Holy Family.

He has over those 16 years experienced many things. He celebrated his silver jubilee and his 50th and 60th birthdays. We have celebrated those events with him. Given that he is a member of our family, we have mourned with him as he mourned the loss of his mother and his father. They were very much a part of our community and our big family. Like all Catholics, it is a big family but we joined with him in mourning.

He will be a very big loss to our parish and to our community. I was saying to His Grace the Most Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane the other day that there are very big shoes to fill in the Holy Family parish. I know that I will miss him on Sunday mornings. His last service will be Easter Sunday, and I have no doubt that it will be a very packed service as we all take a moment to pay tribute not only to his time at Runaway Bay but also to his service of God. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement and may God bless him.

Northgate State School

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (9.38 pm): Firstly, I would like to talk about Northgate State School in my electorate. It was a pleasure to attend their school leaders induction ceremony earlier this month and present the school leaders with their badges. This was just a day after I was able to catch up with them here at Parliament House during their parliament tour. May I mention that the class was so well behaved during the tour that one of the attendants noted to them that it was one of the best school groups they had ever had in. How wonderful that was to hear.

I promised them that I would read out each and every one of their names and try to pronounce all 21 names correctly. Proudly taught by Mrs Newlands, we have school captains Oscar Watson and Carly Francis-Crawley; Cameron Ashwood Susi; Shakeem Byrne; Meisha Collins; Zane Daley; Rocco Filipa; Wella Gilligan; Kyzel Hataraka—I hope I pronounced that name correctly—Thyson Holdem; Chantelle Moimoi; Teara Musrau; Sarah Oost; Dylan Poole; Hla Hla Sibia; Piper Sutton; Adam Townshend; Janet Tunufai; Misty Turczyn; Tempeste Watson; and Jasmine Wolfenden.

Mr Ruthenberg: Good job!

Mr WOODFORTH: Thank you kindly. Students, you are all shining examples of kind, caring and beautiful children and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

I would also like to acknowledge Jo-Anne Stuck from Boondall in my electorate for her selfless efforts in helping the people of Bundaberg. Jo-Anne helped out a family with donations of household items and furniture that filled an entire two-tonne truck that was kindly driven up to Bundaberg by her father, Trevor. Adam Dickie from Dickies Real Estate chipped in with the cost of the Budget rent-a-truck. With donations still coming in, she has put together a second trip leaving this week. This time I say a big thankyou to Budget Boondall for donating the truck hire and to Kerry and the team at Geebung RSL for donating the fuel money. That is a great team effort from many to help those Queenslanders in need. I say: well done and thank you for your efforts, Jo-Anne.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge one of my local residents, Marion Keane, of Zillmere. When I was at the gym last week I found out that Marion would be competing in her first power lifting competition this year. I was quite impressed when I heard this not because Marion is female, not because Marion has been going to the gym for over 15 years, but because Marion is 72. That is right, 72. With falls being one of the leading causes of death in the over 65s, the only thing I think Marion would be doing is catching others to break their fall. Marion is going to attempt to bench 45 kilograms, squat 50 kilograms and dead lift 55 kilograms. To put this into perspective, this is a 72-year-old female who is going to grab two 25-kilogram bags of cement—they only put them in 20-kilogram bags these days because apparently we are all lightweights. She is going to bend down and pick up these two 25-kilogram bags at 72 years of age. That is impressive. I say: good luck, Marion. I think she has earned the right to strike a pose!

Bundaberg, Floods

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—KAP) (9.41 pm): Recently my wife and I travelled to Bundaberg to meet with the mud army after the floods and to see the actual devastation. The aftermath of the floods is something that I wish to bring to the attention of the House tonight.

There are 200 people still living in sheds. It costs approximately \$40,000 to raise a house to such a height that it will be flood proof. There are many, many families waiting on insurance who are emotionally distressed—and mental illness is going to play a big part in Bundaberg in months to come—and about 1,000 homes have been devastated.

Despite this, not one single council leader has spoken to the leader of the mud army to assist—not one. I now call on the Bundaberg council to do something. I call on the Minister for Police, Jack Dempsey, to get mobile in his own electorate and start looking after these people. Twenty families moved to the old showgrounds because they had been living in a caravan park but their caravans were washed away. They had nowhere to go. So they were living in the showgrounds until the council locked the toilets and kicked them out. The reason the council locked them out, I hear, is that there is a tender on the old showgrounds. They should hang their head in shame.

I asked the Premier a question in this House about this only yesterday and all he could do was deride me. He would not even address the situation. If I were him, I would address the situation right now. Nissan has donated two vehicles to the mud army. If I lived in Bundaberg and wanted to buy a vehicle, I would buy one from Nissan because they are putting their hands in their pockets.

It is all right for the Premier to go to Bundaberg during the time of flood and spruik and squawk, but he should go to Bundaberg now and fix the situation. The Minister for Police should get out of his office and do more for those people. These people are still suffering and suffering immensely. They have nowhere to go. A mother rang us just the other day. She is sleeping on the floor. She just got her dog back. She is living in one room and she is lucky to go in the house. There is another person who owns a house but is not allowed to go back into it because the council engineer has deemed that an engineer is needed to put proper stabling under the veranda—and it is only the veranda that is affected. So he is renting a house even though he has paid for his home. His wife also has leukaemia. We need direct, ongoing and immediate assistance. I call on the Bundaberg council to get mobile.

(Time expired)

Cairns, Youth Crime

 **Mr KING** (Cairns—LNP) (9.44 pm): I rise tonight on a very serious and disturbing issue, particularly in my electorate of Cairns but it also affects North Queensland. It is an issue that has built up over a long period and it has been caused by long-term neglect by the former Labor government. I am looking now at the Cairns police weekend media release which details the arrest of four males aged between 12 and 17 years of age. This would disturb anyone in this House and in the broader community. Those four youths aged from 12 to 17 were charged with 54 offences—a spate of burglary and vehicle theft across the Cairns area.

I will start with the 12-year-old. A 12-year-old boy was charged with seven counts of unlawful use of a motor vehicle, eight counts of entering premises and committing an indictable offence, three counts of burglary and one count of unlicensed driving. He will be dealt with under the provisions of the Youth Justice Act. While we must be careful when we talk about the judiciary in respect of their independence, I would hope that the magistrate in this case meets community expectations.

Mr JUDGE: I rise to a point of order. If this is a matter before the courts, is this appropriate?

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, are you referring to a matter that is sub judice—before the courts?

Mr KING: Not at all. This issue has been building for some time, particularly in Cairns. I just want to speak very quickly on our government's review of the Youth Justice Act. This is an issue that is building and it is causing huge concern in my electorate of Cairns. Hardworking people cannot sleep at night. Hardworking people in Cairns are afraid to go to sleep because they do not know what will happen next.

We are reviewing the Youth Justice Act. We need to make changes to the Youth Justice Act because what was happening under the Labor government for years and years is clearly not working. When 12-year-old kids are charged with so many offences I think it is frightening. It is an absolute condemnation of what happened in the past. Thankfully, the Attorney-General has spoken about making breach of bail a criminal offence. Incredibly, police are at their wits' end. They arrest these kids one week, they are out on the streets a week later and they are then arrested for a similar offence yet again because breach of bail is currently not a criminal offence.

I fully support the Attorney-General's moves in this regard. I urge the community of Cairns to get involved in this review of the Youth Justice Act.

Logan Electorate

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (9.47 pm): I am proud to speak tonight on the state of my electorate, Logan. As we have heard from several honourable members in the chamber this week, our LNP Newman government is about to mark our one-year anniversary since the people of Queensland, from Cairns to Currumbin and from Lytton to Logan, voted for change.

Over 12 months my electorate of Logan has changed. As a community, we are in a better place than we were under the former government. Shedding barriers such as regulatory burden and easing the cost of living, our community is now in a position to grow in prosperity. In recognition of that growth and on track with our government's election promise, over 40 additional police officers have been assigned to the Logan district since 24 March 2012. Support for my electorate also came to our rich and diverse education sector with all state schools throughout Logan receiving up to \$160,000 to address the school maintenance backlog that had long gone unaddressed by the former government.

Combining both community safety and education also saw yet another positive change with the assignment of a school based police officer to Flagstone State Community College. From lowering the cost of living and reducing red tape for small business, our government is vigorously supporting

the economic development of our state. These are just a few of the accomplishments our government has achieved for my electorate and others across our great state. Like a rough ashlar, there is always work to be done.

Our LNP government is rebuilding Queensland. I will continue working hard in a positive direction towards a future that is focused on the community and our next generation. Our Logan slogan is 'Together we can make it happen'. That happens by our government, local stakeholders and residents coming together to get the best results for our community. Through my regular meetings with school principals, police OICs, local councillors, the mayor and executive officers of Logan City Council, community organisations and, most of all, my constituents, that passion to continue the work we have initiated is ever present. But actions speak louder than words—as said by the king of rock and roll, Elvis Presley, 'A little less talk and a little more action'—that is what this government is about. That is what we have done and that is what I will continue to do.

The year ahead in Logan looks bright. We will continue to build our community and foster the pride and spirit that embodies us all. Through regular ministerial meetings, mobile offices, barbecues, door knocking and community stalls, attending functions, supporting sporting clubs and other organisations, I will continue to interact one on one with my community. Being amongst them, being active and a part of our community, we will make great changes for our future. We will make it happen. I close today as I did when I delivered my maiden speech: I am them, they are me and I remain semper fidelis.

Cleveland Youth Detention Centre

 **Mr COX** (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.50 pm): I want to share my experiences of touring the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre last Tuesday. My thanks go to the Attorney-General, the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to his staff and to Peter Owens, the director of the centre. The invitation to tour the centre came during a community round table I held last month, which the Attorney-General was good enough to attend, to address concerns about youth justice and juvenile offenders in the Townsville region. The round table was also attended by the QPS, youth workers and concerned locals, some of whom are outspoken advocates for victims of crime. Too many times we have heard the claim that facilities like Cleveland are 'holiday camps', but this comes from those who have not seen the true picture. I believe that claim was addressed once and for all by one of the visitors who is responsible for a Facebook page tracking crime in Townsville. This lady told the press after the visit—

It is no holiday camp and I don't know why they would want to keep going back in there.

Detainees at the centre range from 10 to 19 years of age inside the detention centre and are there for three main reasons: punishment and accountability; rehabilitation; and safety of both the public and the offenders. Behaviour management is paramount and is controlled by very strict rules. Good behaviour is rewarded with benefits which are reviewed regularly. Imagine my surprise, though, to read this week in the local paper that this same vocal victims advocate was suggesting these juveniles need to be taught housework and etiquette while in detention. It was pointed out very clearly during our visit that the detainees' time is set out in a strict routine which involves chores such as cleaning and preparing meals, together with a very strong focus on behaviour. We must remember that many of the youth entering detention have experienced emotional and physical trauma in their lives and need support to overcome this, along with continued education and, in some cases, help to build cultural connections. Three days later I accompanied a journalist from the *Townsville Bulletin* through the detention centre. This enabled the media to report its view of the conditions and facilities these young offenders experience when they enter detention. I hope the public and media now have a clearer picture of life behind bars in a youth detention centre.

Those who lose their freedom and are punished by their detention are also given opportunities for rehabilitation and access to services to deal with the traumas they may be experiencing. There never has been, and nor will there be, a quick solution to fix juvenile crime. I will continue to lobby the Attorney-General for things like a diversionary program such as a boot camp. I will work with the Minister for Police, Jack Dempsey, to get more police on the beat and, if I can, to set up a task force to tackle the spate of car thefts by juveniles in the city. I will call on Minister Tracy Davis and Minister John-Paul Langbroek to implement future programs that intervene before it is too late. Society has failed these children in the past and we are now seeing the consequences of that failure, but we can work together to rebuild our society so that young boys and girls are given every opportunity to grow up happy and secure, be educated, be disciplined and have a future so that they can not only make better life choices but also contribute to the local community and this great state.

Equality

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—Ind) (9.53 pm): In 2008 the since removed Prime Minister issued an apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples. In his speech, Mr Kevin Rudd said—

We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were stolen generations—this blemished chapter in our nation's history.

He added—

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.

In June 2012 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice introduced the Civil Partnerships and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 in this parliament. That bill, as passed, was fundamentally designed and driven to remove the rights of same-sex couples by excluding them from state sanctioned civil ceremonies on the basis that it mimics marriage. Today as an Independent member of parliament, I declare that I do not support such laws and agree with the growing global view that we should be moving towards marriage equality. I believe that as politicians we must avoid discrimination on the basis of people's sexuality, irrespective of people being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex—LGBTI. His Honour Michael Kirby, a former High Court judge, law reformer and now human rights campaigner, has spoken against such discrimination, and medical evidence confirms that this type of discrimination is contributing towards a culture of oppression that inflicts serious health and social harm on people.

Sadly, a recent research project undertaken by Dr Tiffany Jones, a University of New England School of Education lecturer, found that Queensland has the most homophobic schools in the country, with more than 80 per cent of gay and lesbian students reporting bullying—something that the responsible minister and the rest of us as politicians should be committed to addressing. It is our role to lead the way in order to right such social wrongs and address any harm being caused to people simply because of their sexuality. I do not believe being part of the LGBTI community is synonymous with being lesser or unworthy of equality in society. Accordingly, I pledge from this day forward to prevent LGBTI rights from being stolen, including if or when a discriminatory surrogacy bill is introduced, as proposed last year, by the Attorney-General for the Newman government.

Fassifern Valley, Floods

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (9.56 pm): The electorate of Beaudesert was severely affected by the floods which hit South-East Queensland on the Australia Day weekend this year. The Fassifern Valley in the west around the Cunningham Highway area and through to the centres around Beaudesert and up on Tambourine Mountain towards the coast were all affected. In the west out in the Fassifern Valley a lot of farms were washed away and a lot of livelihoods were washed away.

Tonight I want to talk about the recovery which is beginning to occur in this region. It has dried out. People have been able to pick up some of the mud and silt which had formed on their farms after being washed there. They have got to work on cleaning out their creeks and drains and with levelling their fields and are looking forward to planting crops again. I am glad to report that one of the major growers in the Fassifern has informed us all that it will be able to plant carrots this year and in six months time it will be producing carrots out of the Fassifern once again. It is important that we keep track of the primary producers who have been very much affected by the flood this year and we should not forget the terrible hardship that that has inflicted on them. We need to stay in touch with the farmers and the families who have been affected and lost so much money to keep an eye on them from a psychological and emotional point of view to ensure that they are standing up to the tough task of recovery.

As we look out for them and we look for the green shoots of recovery, we need to also think about the financial assistance which the government can give. I am glad that category C and category D funding between the Commonwealth and the state has been approved for the Scenic Rim, but that only goes part of the way. Unfortunately, the debt and deficit left to us by the former government makes it ever so much harder for this government to be able to dig deep to support our primary producers. We will dig as deep as we can, but the black hole we are in makes it a lot harder. Those opposite never saved for a rainy day. We also have to look at long-term structural changes in the recovery—look at how we can free up our economy from regulation, free up our primary producers and our small businesses, look at the regimes relating to water and electricity.

I am glad to see that this government has made moves on vegetation management legislation. I am glad to see that we are looking at the electricity industry. We are also going to be looking at water regulation. We can only pray that the Gillard government will be defeated in a very short time so we can get rid of that carbon tax as well, which is adding more of a cost to all of our primary producers every day and dragging profitability down even further. We need to look at reform now—not just financial assistance but structural reform to our economy to support our producers and small businesses into the future.

(Time expired)

Umbrella Network

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (9.59 pm): I wish to inform the House of a unique organisation known as the Umbrella Network. The Umbrella Network is a not-for-profit group whose aim is to support families with special needs children to help them navigate the numerous disability services with which they will have ongoing dealings. Those families with special needs children will understand the difficulty involved in accessing services and finding support. Sometimes simply completing day-to-day activities can be a challenge. This remarkable service does all the research—the hard yards—for those families, networking with many like-minded organisations, support groups, service providers, government departments and education facilities in order to assist families with understanding all the information. The Umbrella Network relays it in a way that makes it less daunting for parents when faced with the task of accessing services for their child, empowering them with knowledge so that they can confidently make the best decisions. The extraordinary staff and volunteers at the Umbrella Network offer education, friendship and support for families at a time that is always difficult emotionally as well as financially.

Historically, the Umbrella Network started in Townsville in 1990 and was formerly known as the Townsville Regional Information Parent Support Group. It was started by a group of families who saw the need for a combined effort in order to get vital services for their children. Together they lobbied, fundraised and brought awareness to the community. They were the core for equipment for families in need as well as emotional support, whether that be over the phone or in person. What many of us now take for granted was initiated by these wonderful families.

In 2008 a new group of mums met at the Vincent Early Childhood Development Unit playgroup and together learned to take strength from each other and pass around information that helped. Together they took over the reins and renamed the group the Umbrella Network, which was chosen because they cover all children. Last year on 13 March we were lucky enough to have the network open a branch in Rockhampton and offer families in Central Queensland their much desired services. Since opening their doors they have secured 12 volunteers, supported many families and now have a client base of 95 families. They have already outgrown two premises and are currently looking for larger premises as they continue to grow. They are about to begin the Parent Connect initiative through the state government for four years and with longer opening hours and better facilities to accommodate the new families they will be supporting.

I have been fortunate enough to see firsthand what wonderful work the Umbrella Network can offer families when they need it most. This service empowers and inspires our community and I am very pleased to have had the chance to speak about them before the House today.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.01 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C. Davis, T. Davis, Dempsey, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gully, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young