

NOTE: There could be differences between this document and the official printed Hansard, Vol. 314

THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 1990

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

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH

Mr SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to issue a Commission under the public seal of the State empowering me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such members as might hereafter present themselves to be sworn. I now ask the Clerk to read the Commission to the House.

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL

Judge for 1990

Mr SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Honourable the Chief Justice notifying that the Honourable Mr Justice Desmond Keith Derrington will be the Judge to preside at sittings of the Elections Tribunal for 1990.

PAPERS PRINTED DURING RECESS

Mr SPEAKER: I have to report that the following papers were received in accordance with section 46J of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977-1988. I now lay upon the table of the House the following reports—

Annual Report of Suncorp 1989

Annual Report of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation 1989

Annual Report of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation—Government Schemes Division 1989

Annual Report of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation—Government Schemes Division Venture Capital Fund 1989

Annual Report of the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation 1988-89

Annual Report of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Research and Development Foundation 1988-89.

Whereupon the documents were laid on the table.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN

Mr SPEAKER: Notwithstanding the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I nominate the following members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen for the present Parliament—

Dr Lesley Ann Clark, member for the electoral district of Barron River;

Mrs Margaret Rosemary Woodgate, member for the electoral district of Pine Rivers;

Raymond Keith Hollis, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Redcliffe;

Trevor John Perrett, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Barambah;

Vaughan Gregory Johnson, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Gregory;

John Nelson Goss, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Aspley.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
Appointment of Ministry

Hon. W. K. GOSS (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that on 7 December 1989 His Excellency the Governor—

(a) Accepted the resignations of—

the Honourable Theo Russell Cooper,
the Honourable William Angus Manson Gunn,
the Honourable Ivan James Gibbs,
the Honourable Vincent Patrick Lester,
the Honourable Neville John Harper,
the Honourable Robert Carl Katter,
the Honourable Donald McConnell Neal,
the Honourable Paul John Clauson, Barrister-at-Law

the Honourable Robert Edward Borbidge,

the Honourable James Henry Randell,

the Honourable Brian George Littleproud,

the Honourable Andrew Anthony FitzGerald,

the Honourable Huan Donald John Fraser,

the Honourable Yvonne Ann Chapman,

the Honourable Mark David Stoneman,

the Honourable Gilbert Alison, FCA, ACIS,

the Honourable Ian Thomas Henderson, BA, BEd., MLitt., MEd.St., ATh., DRE, FRGS, FRMet.S, MACE,

the Honourable Beryce Ann Nelson, DR, MIR, PRIA

as members of the Executive Council and as Ministers of the Crown;

(b) Appointed—

Wayne Keith Goss, LLB,

Thomas James Burns,

Terence Michael Mackenroth,

Keith Ernest De Lacy, BA, QDA,

Robert James Gibbs,

David John Hamill, MA(Oxon), BA(Hons.)(Qld),

Neville George Warburton,

Kenneth Hamilton Vaughan,

Edmund Denis Casey,

Kenneth Victor McElligott,

Paul Joseph Braddy, LLB,

Patrick Comben, BA,

Dean MacMillan Wells, MA, LLB.

Anne Marie Warner,

Glen Richard Milliner,

Ronald Thomas McLean,

Geoffrey Norman Smith,

Andrew George Eaton.

to be members of the Executive Council of Queensland;

(c) Appointed—

the Honourable Wayne Keith Goss, LLB, to be Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts of Queensland;

the Honourable Thomas James Burns, to be Deputy Premier, Minister for Housing and Local Government of Queensland;

the Honourable Terence Michael Mackenroth, to be Minister for Police and Emergency Services of Queensland;

the Honourable Keith Ernest De Lacy, BA, QDA, to be Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development of Queensland;

the Honourable Robert James Gibbs, to be Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing of Queensland;

the Honourable David John Hamill, MA(Oxon), BA(Hons.)(Qld), to be Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development of Queensland;

the Honourable Neville George Warburton, to be Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations of Queensland;

the Honourable Kenneth Hamilton Vaughan, to be Minister for Resource Industries of Queensland;

the Honourable Edmund Denis Casey, to be Minister for Primary Industries of Queensland;

the Honourable Kenneth Victor McElligott, to be Minister for Health of Queensland;

the Honourable Paul Joseph Braddy, LLB, to be Minister for Education of Queensland;

the Honourable Patrick Comben, BA, to be Minister for Environment and Heritage of Queensland;

the Honourable Dean MacMillan Wells, MA, LLB, to be Attorney-General of Queensland;

the Honourable Anne Marie Warner, to be Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs of Queensland;

the Honourable Glen Richard Milliner, to be Minister for Justice and Corrective Services of Queensland;

the Honourable Ronald Thomas McLean, to be Minister for Administrative Services of Queensland;

the Honourable Geoffrey Norman Smith, to be Minister for Manufacturing and Commerce of Queensland;

the Honourable Andrew George Eaton, to be Minister for Land Management of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the *Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary* of 7 December 1989 containing the relevant notifications.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Hon. W. K. GOSS (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (10.08 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that arrangements have been made, and the Honourable the Speaker notified accordingly, for the Honourable Terence Michael Mackenroth, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to be Leader of the House.

GOVERNMENT WHIP AND GOVERNMENT DEPUTY WHIP

Hon. W. K. GOSS (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 a.m.): I also desire to inform the House that Mr William George Prest, member for Port Curtis, has been appointed Government Whip, and Mr Heinrich Palaszczuk, member for Archerfield, has been appointed Government Deputy Whip.

OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS

Mr COOPER (Roma—Leader of the Opposition) (10.10 a.m.): I desire to inform the House of the following Opposition appointments—

Leader of the Opposition—Theo Russell Cooper, MLA, member for Roma;
Deputy Leader of the Opposition—Robert Edward Borbidge, MLA, member for Surfers Paradise;
Opposition Whip—Donald McConnell Neal, MLA, member for Balonne;
Opposition Deputy Whip—Trevor John Perrett, MLA, member for Barambah;
Opposition Secretary—Diane Elizabeth McCauley, MLA, member for Callide;
Leader of Opposition Business in the House—Kevin Rowson Lingard, MLA, member for Fassifern.

LIBERAL PARTY APPOINTMENTS

Mr INNES (Sherwood—Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.11 a.m.): I desire to inform the House of the following Liberal Party appointments—

Leader of the Liberal Party—John Angus Mackenzie Innes, MLA, member for Sherwood;
Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party—Denver Edward Beanland, MLA, member for Toowong;
Liberal Party Whip—Santo Santoro, MLA, member for Merthyr;
Liberal Party Secretary—Dr David John Hopetoun Watson, MLA, member for Moggill.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed—

NOTE: Details of Papers may be obtained by contacting the Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, on (07) 340 67111.

(See page 31 of Book 1, 1990)

(See page 32 of Book 1, 1990)

(See page 33 of Book 1, 1990)

(See page 34 of Book 1, 1990)

(See page 35 of Book 1, 1990)

SITTING DAYS
Sessional Order

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.23 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

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

(1) The House shall sit on Tuesday at 10 o'clock a.m., Wednesday at 2.30 o'clock p.m., and Thursday at 10 o'clock a.m., and Government business shall

take precedence of all other business except for that period set aside for a discussion of Matters of Public Interest on Tuesday.

(2) A discussion of Matters of Public Interest shall take place on each sitting Tuesday between 11 o'clock a.m. and 12 noon.

(3) On days allotted for Address in Reply, a 'single day' shall comprise that period from one hour after the commencement of the sitting day or, if on a Tuesday after a discussion on Matters of Public Interest and until (a) not more than 4 hours of debate have elapsed; at the discretion of the Leader of the House 'double days' may apply to the debate, in which case each 'double day' shall comprise (b) not more than 8 hours debate. A 'double day' shall begin one hour after the commencement of the sitting day or if on a Tuesday, after a discussion on Matters of Public Interest. Each period in (a) shall be accounted an allotted day and each period in (b) shall be accounted as two allotted days under the provisions of Standing Order No.17.

(4) All other provisions of the Standing Orders shall mutatis mutandis continue to apply."

Motion agreed to.

TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES

Sessional Order

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.26 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That for this session, unless otherwise ordered, the following amendments to the times for certain speeches shall apply—

Under Standing Order No. 109

(1) Paragraph one—substitute 'thirty minutes' for 'forty minutes' in line one and omit all words following the word 'House' in line two to the end of the paragraph and insert the following words 'except for debate on the Address in Reply where a member may speak for no more than forty minutes'.

(2) Paragraph three—omit the word 'thirty' and substitute the word 'fifteen'.

(3) Paragraph seven—omit the words 'one hour' in the third line and substitute the words 'thirty minutes'."

Motion agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

Appointment of Members

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.27 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 300, a committee be appointed for the present Parliament to assist Mr Speaker in all matters which relate to the printing to be executed by order of the House, and for the purpose of selecting and arranging for printing returns and papers presented in pursuance of motions made by members, and that such committee consist of the following members—

Mr Speaker, Mr Dollin, Mr Nunn, Mr Szczerbanik, Mr Springborg, Mr Rowell, Mr Connor."

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**Wolffdene Dam; South-east Queensland Water Supply**

Hon. E. D. CASEY (Mackay—Minister for Primary Industries) (10.29 a.m.), by leave: In accordance with section 46 of the Public Works Committee Act, this morning I tabled my report on the action taken by the Goss Labor Government with respect to the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee of Public Works on the proposed Wolffdene dam.

In accordance with this Government's commitments before the election and in line with the Government's policy decision in this matter, I have issued instructions that all work on the project cease and that the site be abandoned for a future water supply dam. Abandonment of the site means that the people of the Albert valley will no longer have to expend their energy and resources on fighting a Government totally unsympathetic to their pleas. They will be allowed to remain in the valley and to enjoy the life-style which they had sought.

I have further instructed the Water Resources Commission to instigate new studies into the water needs of south-eastern Queensland and to review all potential alternative sources including storages, ground water, waste water reuse, demand management and desalination.

Mr FitzGerald interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Lockyer will cease interjecting.

Mr CASEY: This review will be comprehensive and wide ranging. It will require further work to be done on investigation of some potential storage sites in south-east Queensland. This work could include surveys, geological investigations and foundation drilling as well as office and other engineering investigations. Environmental and social impact studies of the various options will be closely examined.

The Water Resources Commission of my department is already carrying out a study of appropriate options for the future trunk main water distribution system in south-east Queensland. This study will assist local authorities in planning their future major reticulation in the full knowledge of the area's overall trunk main reticulation requirements.

The review of future sources of supply will be integrated with the trunk main study to ensure that a proper water supply strategy is developed for south-east Queensland. I expect this review to be completed during the latter half of this year. This work will enable the Government to make appropriate decisions on future water needs and on the best sources of supply to meet those needs.

The Brisbane and Area Water Board will then be instructed to proceed with detailed planning and development of that adopted option. On present indications, an additional source of supply is unlikely to be required before the year 2010. However, it is recognised that the actual timing will depend very much on future population growth in the south-east urban corridors.

Adequate time is available to properly plan to meet those water needs. The people of Brisbane and surrounding urban areas can be assured that the Goss Government has such planning well in hand.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**Psychiatric Unit, Townsville General Hospital**

Hon. K. V. McELLIGOTT (Thuringowa—Minister for Health) (10.30 a.m.), by leave: The matter of the inappropriate and unprofessional clinical practices that existed in the psychiatric unit of the Townsville General Hospital have been the topic of public debate in Townsville and elsewhere for some time. I intend in this statement to the

House to shed some light on the situation that existed in the unit. Also I will later table in the House the unabridged report of the investigation conducted by the chairman of the Health Complaints Unit in my department. It will be recalled that the previous Government was prepared to release only an abridged report for public consumption.

Upon appointment as Minister for Health, I called for a copy of the chairman's unabridged report to acquaint myself with the full facts of the matter. Previously, I had been closely involved with the situation as the member for Townsville, as I then was, and I was determined as the responsible Minister to rectify that matter. The content of the report confirmed my own previous conclusions that the clinical practices that existed in the unit were far from consistent with modern medical treatment of the mentally disturbed.

I would like to briefly outline some critical elements of the chairman's report.

The problems associated with the treatment of patients at the psychiatric unit seemed to arise soon after the appointment of Dr John Lindsay as Director of Psychiatry at the Townsville Hospital in March 1975. Dr Lindsay was a highly qualified psychiatrist and specialised in social psychiatry. In early 1978 he was joined by Dr Bevan Cant, a fourth year registrar in psychiatry, and over time, treatment practices became centred around what is known as the therapeutic community method of treatment of mental disorders.

In his report the chairman of the Health Complaints Unit states—

". . . as a layman unversed in the intricacies of the practice of psychiatry, I have formed the strongest feeling that there is no place in modern medicine for the therapeutic community method of treatment for mental disorders.

From the information relayed to me personally and from written reports and records, it is an undeniable fact that the procedures adopted at Townsville General Hospital were degrading of both patients and relatives, in many respects presented more than a danger to patients and, to my mind did nothing to benefit either patient or relative in any but the most minimal way; and perhaps by chance rather than design."

This is indeed a sad indictment upon the leadership, professional practices and ethics of Dr Lindsay, Dr Cant and other devotees of this type of treatment, including unfortunately some nursing and paramedical staff of the hospital who are named in the report.

The chairman's report cites examples of treatment methods that were employed under the Lindsay-Cant regime including group therapy sessions attended by staff, patients and relatives where intimate family matters were openly discussed, Conformity to the system was enforced by threats of withdrawal of leave privileges, transfer to the psychiatric hospital at Charters Towers or the likelihood of more medication of an anaesthetising nature. Further, admissions to the unit were in many cases decided by vote of a group consisting of patients and staff. I think that honourable members would agree that these practices have no place in modern medicine for treatment of the sick.

As the member for Townsville, I first raised the matter of the unit's operations publicly in mid-1986 and again in early 1987 I raised it with the then Minister for Health, Mike Ahern. In 1987, Dr Schioldann-Nielsen was appointed as Director of Psychiatry at the hospital and immediately began to replace the therapeutic community model of treatment with the much more appropriate medical model. However, the entrenched nature of the management and treatment systems in the unit, together with the attitude of a number of senior staff, made Dr Schioldann-Nielsen's attempts to rectify the situation so difficult that in January 1988 he resigned.

A Department of Health medical-nursing team was dispatched to assist the Townsville Hospitals Board and presented a report for the consideration of the board later in 1988. However, adverse public statements about the unit's operation continued and the then Minister established a special clinical task force consisting of senior Health Department professionals to reorganise treatment, training, management, and staffing practices

at the unit. As a result, many of the senior medical, paramedical and nursing staff were removed from the unit.

The unit continued to operate after its reorganisation with assistance from the Division of Psychiatric Services of the department in Brisbane and staff of the community day care facility at Townsville. In mid-1989, a new Director of Psychiatric Services for the Townsville General Hospital was appointed and the unit is now operating, I am pleased to say, in accordance with accepted medical standards for the treatment of the psychiatrically ill.

Following continued community pressure for an independent inquiry into the situation that existed in the unit, the previous Minister for Health authorised an investigation by the chairman of the Health Complaints Unit. His report was presented at the end of October 1989. However, as I stated earlier, the previous Government was prepared to release publicly only an abridged version of that report.

In his report the chairman has made a number of recommendations for general improvements in his report which I intend to have implemented. The Medical Board of Queensland is also pursuing its investigations into the professional behaviour of a number of the personnel involved.

There are, however, several critical matters raised in the chairman's report which I would like to draw to the attention of the House. Firstly, the chairman has concluded that despite many allegations of misconduct, there is not the degree of corroboration of any specific instances of assault or mistreatment which could substantiate charges against any person. I would remind honourable members that the chairman of the Health Complaints Unit is a retired magistrate and is therefore well-qualified to offer an opinion on such matters. To place this matter beyond all doubt, however, I have requested my ministerial colleague the Honourable the Attorney-General to assess all the available material and advise whether criminal action should be taken against any particular individuals.

Secondly, the chairman elected to conduct his investigations as a private inquiry rather than one which was open to the public where relatives would have been subjected to examination by counsel representing doctors, nurses, paramedics, the hospital board and probably others. Given the thoroughness of his investigations, I now cannot see the benefit of or justify the cost to the community of a public inquiry into these matters.

Thirdly, it is clear under the Hospitals Act that the ultimate responsibility for the operations of hospitals rests with the governing board. The chairman of the Health Complaints Unit, at pages 63 and 64 of the report, commented —

' . . . were Mr Davies to resign and were the Townsville Hospitals Board to be reconstituted at some time in the near future, I feel that this would be a valuable contribution to the future acceptance of the Psychiatric Unit of the Hospital in particular.'

This Government was elected to govern on a clear platform to reform Government administration and reinforce the concept and practice of responsibility and accountability. Accordingly, on my recommendation and with the concurrence of Cabinet the Townsville Hospitals Board was removed by Governor in Council on 25 January this year. Mr Davies did in fact resign from the position of chairman from 24 November 1989.

In conclusion, I believe that the unabridged report of the investigation conducted by the chairman of the Health Complaints Unit will provide the full facts of the matter. Accordingly, I lay upon the table of the House the report of the chairman of the Health Complaints Unit in relation to the Townsville General Hospital psychiatric unit.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Offices of Crown Solicitor, Director of Prosecutions and Public Defender

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—Attorney-General) (10.37 a.m.), by leave: I believe it is essential that I bring to the attention of the House the state of neglect in which the offices of the Crown Solicitor, the Director of Prosecutions and the Public Defender were left by the former National Party Government of this State. Notwithstanding that concerns about these offices have been raised from time to time and notwithstanding a comprehensive management review being undertaken of the office of the Director of Prosecutions in late 1988, nothing substantial had occurred prior to the end of November 1989.

I am indebted to Mr Justice Connolly of the Supreme Court who, on 21 February this year, at the conclusion of a criminal sittings of the Supreme Court, brought to the attention of the community the difficulties faced by the criminal justice system if adequate resources are not made available to both the Public Defender and the Director of Prosecutions. On that occasion, His Honour said—

"The two principal agencies of the Crown which are concerned with the working of the criminal justice system are the Director of Prosecutions on the one hand and the office of the Public Defender on the other. It is perfectly plain that both those offices are short of staff, both numerically and in terms of experience, and this in turn is, at least in part, a result of competition between Crown agencies for the services of experienced counsel; that competition is being conducted in many cases by differing levels of emolument being offered and that has resulted in the depletion of the staffs of both offices to which I have referred to a level at which proper professional judgment cannot be satisfactorily exercised at the time when this should occur."

His Honour Mr Justice Connolly also identified a number of results which are likely to flow from the sad state of circumstances which were brought about by the lack of commitment to law and order of this former National Party Government. These results are totally unacceptable to me as Attorney-General and to the Government of Queensland.

His Honour points out that last-minute decisions to drop charges are unacceptable, as the judiciary is not properly engaged, offenders spend considerable time on remand or on bail and are not dealt with expeditiously, and those who are ultimately acquitted or against whom an indictment with a lesser count is ultimately presented have, hanging over their heads, very serious charges for inordinate lengths of time. As I said, I am most grateful to His Honour for indicating his view of the process of the criminal law insofar as the court is concerned.

In fact, these issues have been concerns with which I have often identified in Opposition and which I am now addressing as Attorney-General. Since taking office, I have ensured that a preparation section is commenced in the Office of the Director of Prosecutions. That is now functioning, and the results of this improved administration will be seen within the next month or so in the Supreme Court and in the District Court. A detailed analysis of the requirements for the office is presently taking place as it is necessary that the implementation of the preparation section occur in an efficient manner.

Future requirements of the Office of the Director of Prosecutions will be addressed in the forthcoming Budget and already I have made arrangements for additional funding—\$250,000 in fact—to be available to the Office of the Director of Prosecutions to meet the demands which are placed on it during the next few months. This money will come from economies that I have effected elsewhere in my department.

We had inherited a Legal Aid Commission that had actually been allowed to lapse by the previous Government. Worse still, instead of signing the Commonwealth/State Legal Aid Agreement, those people on the opposite of the House had been engaged

in 18 months of futile and expensive wrangling with the Commonwealth Government. However, Queensland has now entered into a legal aid agreement with the Commonwealth Government.

It is part of this Government's policy that there be an amalgamation between the Legal Aid Office and the Public Defender's Office and this program is presently being addressed by my officers with the full assistance of the Legal Aid Commission. This process will ensure the continued efficiency of the Public Defender's Office.

I am acutely aware of the demands on the legal services of the Crown which have been imposed on this State, not by a Labor Government but by the corruption of the past. If it were not for this corruption, there would be no need for the establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor, and the most significant burden which those on the opposite side have imposed on the courts and the prosecution process in seeing that justice takes its course.

I am, however, acutely aware of the need for there to be developed a career path for lawyers in the Attorney-General's Department which, under the previous administration, never existed. There has to be capacity for movement between the of the Public Defender's Office, the Legal Aid Office, the Crown Solicitor's Office, the Solicitor-General's Office, the Department of the Attorney-General and the Director of Prosecutions Office. There is currently no career path for them at all. Put simply, it was never a priority of the previous Government. This is one of the most telling signs that one could ever see of the administrative incompetence of the former National Party Government.

I am addressing this issue at present and have established a working party which is reporting directly to the Director-General of my department and thence to me. Liaison is taking place with other jurisdictions and management programs are now being instituted to ensure the continued efficiency in these vital parts of my department. I hasten to add, however, that such is the parlous state of these parts of my department, which we inherited from the previous Government, and such is the lack of experienced lawyers who are prepared to sacrifice potential significant earnings to be employed in State service that these issues will not be resolved overnight.

I assure the House that I, and all my department officers, are acutely aware of the role that the Attorney-General's Department must play in eliminating the corruption of the past and we will continue to clean up the mess that was left for us by the former National Party Government.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr INNES (Sherwood—Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.44 a.m.): I seek leave to move a motion without notice which I have already circulated.

Question—That leave be granted—put; and the House divided—

In division—

Honourable members interjecting—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! If honourable members continue to make undue noise, I will deal with them after the division.

DIVISION

Resolved in the negative.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR**Hon. P.R. Staples, MHR**

Mr SPEAKER: I inform the House that the Honourable Peter Staples, the Commonwealth Minister for Housing and Aged Care, is in the Speaker's gallery.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**Appointment of Mr C.B. Campbell**

Hon. W. K. GOSS (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (11.06 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That Clement Bernard Campbell be appointed Chairman of Committees of the Whole House."

The significance of the position of Chairman of Committees is not commonly known or appreciated. However, it is of paramount importance and is crucial to the orderly running of Parliament. It requires ability and experience. Mr Campbell is a candidate who is well equipped for the job.

Mr Lingard interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Fassifern will cease interjecting.

Mr W. K. GOSS: Since entering Parliament in 1983, Clem Campbell has shown himself to be a hard-working and capable parliamentarian. Perhaps his best-known contribution has been his central role in the establishment of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

Government members interjected.

Mr W. K. GOSS: I have got all day.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One Opposition member interjecting may be acceptable, but 10 members interjecting at the same time is totally unacceptable.

Mr W. K. GOSS: In common with you, Mr Speaker, Mr Campbell is a scientist with a degree in agricultural science from the University of Queensland, and he is well on the way to becoming a qualified economist. Parallels do not stop there. He is a former employee of the Department of Primary Industries. He worked for six years as a research economist.

In terms of his parliamentary service—for three years he has served on the panel of Temporary Chairmen of Committees. He has been a member of the Parliamentary Printing Committee and a member of the Refreshment Rooms Committee.

Mr Campbell has an impressive record in community service, with his contribution to the Bundaberg Jaycees being recognised two years ago by a life membership award. He is either an active member or a patron of a wide range of community groups in his own electorate. He brings a wide knowledge of regional affairs to this Parliament, as he will to the position of Chairman of Committees.

I commend Mr Campbell's nomination to the House.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Federal Government's Monetary Policy

Mr COOPER: I draw the attention of the Premier to a statement that he made on 7 November 1989 in Mount Isa, wherein he admitted that the Federal Government's tight money policy and consequent high interest rates were hurting Queensland, and I ask: does he support the high interest rate policies of the Hawke/Keating Government, which have interest rates running as high as 24 per cent, which have been responsible for causing financial devastation to farmers, small-businessmen and home-owners?

Mr W. K. GOSS: The stand that I took repeatedly over the last two years in respect of the problems caused to home-owners and other members of the community in respect of high interest rates was that both levels of Government—Federal and State—had a responsibility to do what they could to alleviate those problems.

As the Leader of the Opposition knows—or at least should know—interest rates are primarily under the control of the Federal Government. As to the role of the State Government—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members should listen to the answer by the Honourable the Premier.

Mr Lingard interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Fassifern under Standing Order 123A.

Mr W. K. GOSS: The attitude of the previous Government was plain. What did the members of that Government do? They knocked and knocked and knocked in respect of this issue and did nothing that was positive. They were only prepared to score the sort of cheap points that the Leader of the Opposition is endeavouring to score today.

This Government urged the Federal Government to do something positive, and within three months of coming to the Treasury benches, my Government has acted. The Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing has implemented a family housing package. Applications for assistance are coming in, and people are being assisted by this Government instead of being left high and dry, as they were by the previous Government.

The other aspect of the question related to the high interest rate policy of the Federal Government. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, or should know, that policy was implemented to try to bring under control the excessive demand in the economy. What is the response of the parties opposite? A lot of vague waffle about productivity! This crew are the last people in Australia who should hold themselves up as an example of productivity.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will state again quite clearly to members of the Opposition that it is quite proper for sensible interjections to be made. We do not want a lame-duck Parliament or a sterile Parliament. However, five members interjecting and screaming at once does nothing for the decorum of this House. If it continues, I will be forced to take action.

Mr W. K. GOSS: In case members of the Opposition do not realise it, I point out that the position in relation to productivity is that it is supposed to produce better results. The approach to productivity of the now Opposition over the last two years is a shining example of how to reduce results.

The attitude of my Government to high interest rates is the same as that of the Federal Government—

An Opposition member interjected.

Mr W. K. GOSS: That is right; we stand together.

My Government says that the high interest rates have been imposed reluctantly by the Federal Government to bring under control the excessive demand. Members on both sides of the House and all respected economists in this country underestimated the strength of the demand in the economy, and that is why it has taken longer than expected for the policies of the Federal Government to take hold. However, those policies are now taking hold, and we are seeing the results in the marketplace, where at last the pressure is coming off interest rates.

Introduction of Poker Machines; Political Donations from Poker Machine Lobby

Mr COOPER: In directing a further question to the Premier, I refer to the Government's intention to introduce poker machines into Queensland at some future time, and I ask: has any serving member of his Cabinet ever accepted a political donation from any section of the poker machine lobby and, if so, will he name the Minister, the amount of the donation and tell the House whether the donation was deposited in a secret bank account and not in the official ALP account for election funds?

Mr W. K. GOSS: I am not aware of any secret donation being given to any member of my Ministry. If the Leader of the Opposition is referring to a donation that was made some years ago, before I came to this place, I can tell him that, as I understand it, that matter has been well canvassed and is on the public record.

Government Policy on Fraser Island

Mr PREST: In directing a question to the Premier, I refer to claims by Mr John Sinclair of the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation about the Queensland Government's move to establish an independent inquiry for the long-term conservation and management of Fraser Island.

Given the wide media coverage that Mr Sinclair's claims have received during the past 48 hours, I ask the Premier to inform the House of the details of Labor's pre-election commitment in relation to Fraser Island so that the truth of Mr Sinclair's assertions can be gauged.

Mr W. K. GOSS: At the Labor Party's 1988 policy conference a policy was adopted for the expansion of national park into Crown land. In keeping with all conference policy, the parliamentary party decides the party's platform during an election campaign.

Throughout 1989 the Labor Party's election promise in relation to Fraser Island was clear. It was a threefold pledge: firstly, to expand the national park, which was done in January by the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Mr Pat Comben; secondly, to protect the scientific areas, which was delivered on by the Minister in January of this year; and thirdly, I gave a promise to conduct an inquiry into the best strategy for the long-term conservation and management of Fraser Island, which was also delivered in January.

The Government is pleased that, since then, Mr Tony Fitzgerald, QC, accepted my request to be an honest broker and to supervise and conduct that inquiry. Because the debate on this issue and on so many other issues has become bogged down in unhelpful and unnecessary conflict and argument, that particular inquiry needs an honest broker. My Government wants the inquiry to be an honest process that will provide an honest result that people will respect.

Mr Sinclair feels passionately about Fraser Island, and my Government respects him for that. Mr Sinclair is well aware of the three-point pledge that the Labor Party took to the people of Queensland, particularly the people of the Wide Bay region. My Government intends to honour that pledge.

I am optimistic that most responsible conservation groups will participate in the inquiry and will help Mr Fitzgerald to achieve the best possible result by making available to him all information that they have at their disposal. If Mr Sinclair and his colleague Mr West really care about Fraser Island, I appeal to them to do the same.

Sunshine Coast Motorway

Mr PREST: I ask the Minister for Transport: what is the Government's position on Stage 2 of the Sunshine Coast motorway and what steps is he taking to ensure that appropriate community consultation takes place in relation to the motorway?

Mr HAMILL: The Government's position on Stage 2 of the motorway can be starkly contrasted with that of the former National Party Government which preceded this administration.

For the information of all honourable members I point out that, in relation to Stage 2 of the motorway project on the Sunshine Coast, this Government is not hiding behind any closed doors—which is an example of the stark contrast between our style of administration and that of the Government which preceded us.

Stage 2 of the motorway project has been estimated to cost \$74m, which is a very substantial sum. In keeping with this Government's commitment to consultation, I have been in touch with shire councillors of the Maroochy and Noosa Shires. I am pleased to advise the House that, during the next couple of weeks, those councillors will be meeting with me to discuss the project.

In January, when I took the necessary action for the funding of Stage 1 of the motorway, I made it quite clear to community groups on the Sunshine Coast that there would be full consultation as to whether or not Stage 2 would proceed. In keeping with that commitment, I am in close consultation with a range of community groups on the Sunshine Coast, from whom I have invited submissions. I have made it quite clear that the Government will not proceed with Stage 2 of the motorway unless the Sunshine Coast community supports such an initiative. I have made it clear also that Stage 2 of the motorway will be built only as a tollway because, unlike its predecessors, this Government is not prepared to sacrifice the road construction budget of this State for the next 20 years to fulfil political pork-barrelling promises in the seats of some former members from the Sunshine Coast who held high office in this State.

The decision of the former National Party Government to approve the Sunshine Coast motorway was made by a Cabinet budget committee and not the full Cabinet. That decision was not made in consultation with the local community or after discussion with the local authority. Even more importantly, the funding for Stage 1 of the motorway was never cleared through Treasury. Consequently, this Government had to face the invidious position of no funds having been allocated for a road project that was approved for the political advantage of members such as the member for Landsborough and the former and not-so-missed member for Nicklin.

This Government is quite proud of what it has done for the people of Queensland and guarantees that its road-funding budget will not be sacrificed. The people of the Sunshine Coast can rest assured that this Government will consult with them. However, if the project is to proceed, it will proceed as it was originally intended, namely, as a tollway.

Mr Lingard interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have already warned the member for Fassifern. This is my final warning. I do not know whether he wants to set a record for being the first member thrown out of this Parliament, but his interjections will no longer be tolerated during question-time.

State Bank

Mr INNES: I ask the Premier: what is the status of the centrepiece of his pre-election economic policy, which proposed the establishment of a State Bank and a promise of lower mortgage rates being made available by that bank for the benefit of all Queensland house-buyers, or have recent catastrophes in Victoria dampened his enthusiasm?

Mr W. K. GOSS: It is fair to say that, after further consideration of the matter by the Treasurer and me, the Government has taken a step back from consideration of the State bank proposal. I suppose that one of the reasons for that was that we were shocked and disappointed at the nature of the work that had been done by the previous Government, which, as far as we are concerned, did not address a vital consideration, that is, whether such an institution had a proper role to play.

The matter is still under consideration and is not ruled out. However, in the current climate I would have thought that even the member for Sherwood would have realised that at present it is not very smart to be in the business of lending money; people do not pay it back.

How-to-vote Cards, Hinchinbrook Electoral District

Mr INNES: I refer the Minister for Justice to an order that was made by Mr Justice Moynihan of the Supreme Court of Queensland on election day, 2 December 1989, that Mr Wayne Swan and ALP booth workers in the electoral district of Hinchinbrook were not to continue to distribute a blue and white how-to-vote card, authorised by Mr Wayne Swan but with no ALP identification, directed to Liberal Party voters which recommended that they give their second preference to the ALP. I ask: as it is an offence under the Elections Act to distribute a card intended or likely to mislead or to interfere with any elector in casting his vote, will the Minister urgently investigate the matter to establish whether a prosecution should be launched and inform this House of the results of that investigation?

Mr MILLINER: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am not aware of the circumstances as outlined by him, but I undertake to have a look at the matter.

Daylight-saving

Mr PALASZCZUK: As the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is no doubt aware of the many differing opinions being expressed about daylight-saving, I ask: will he advise this House of the steps being taken to ensure that Queenslanders have every opportunity to express their opinions?

Mr WARBURTON: I thank the honourable member for his question on this very important matter. Honourable members will recall that the daylight-saving trial resulted from much indecision by the previous Government. In fact, at the time that the decision was made to implement daylight-saving, a certain ex-Premier of this State was regarded as being very indecisive not only on this matter but also on other matters.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WARBURTON: I have plenty of time; I am a bit like the Premier.

The clear position is that, on taking over ministerial responsibility, I made a commitment to keep the promises of the previous Government except one, namely, that I was not about to send a 13-person committee to all parts of the State because I regarded that as being somewhat expensive.

Subcommittees have in fact visited the western and northern regions. They are reporting back to the 13-person task force that was put together by the previous Government. During the month of April, that task force will work on the various submissions that will be made as a result of the calling of submissions when the trial period of daylight-saving ceases on 4 March. Those submissions will close at the end of March. The people of Queensland will have ample opportunity during the month of March to make further submissions. I believe that 4 000 or 5 000 submissions have already been made to my department. Those submissions have been taken on board, and the task force will examine them. The department has not told people that they should not make submissions now because it is not the official time to do so.

Initially, a substantial budget was allocated for the trial of daylight-saving. I was very disturbed to find that much of the money that had been allocated had been spent. Needless to say, I was terribly concerned when I found that, during the period from 11 September to 15 September, when my predecessor travelled the State with the previous undersecretary of my department, he decided that the prize for making a submission was a free dinner or a free lunch. As a matter of fact, it was more surprising and somewhat disturbing for me to find out that in Charleville all the people who were invited to make a submission were treated to a free dinner at a cost of almost \$2,000; in Cairns, at a cost of almost \$2,600; in Townsville, at a cost of almost \$1,800; and in Maryborough, at a cost of a little over \$1,000.

I make that point because, when members of the previous Government stand in this place and speak about wastage and matters of that kind, I would like them to remember what I have just said. I regard it as not only disturbing but also as typical of the way in which the previous Government acted.

As I have indicated, the people of Queensland will fortunately be given every opportunity to respond to the trial period of daylight-saving. As the relevant Minister, I hope to have recommendations before me at some time in late April or May. The Government will receive recommendations and options from me by the middle of 1990. The people of Queensland should be in a position to know this Government's attitude to daylight-saving at some time in July 1990, or even earlier.

Logging on Fraser Island

Mr PALASZCZUK: I refer the Minister for Primary Industries to repeated claims of panic logging on Fraser Island. I ask him to explain to this House the system of logging as it applies on Fraser Island and whether he is aware of any practices or evidence to support the repeated claims by some of panic logging.

Mr CASEY: I thank the honourable member for Archerfield for the question. There is a little concern in the community that on Fraser Island people with chainsaws may be cutting down every tree on a front. That is quite specifically not the case. During the term of the inquiry that has been set up by this Government, which is fully supported by the Queensland forest service and by all other interested Government departments, logging is continuing on the same basis as has always been the case.

In all State forest areas of Queensland in which logging is approved, it is done on an allocation basis. In the case of Fraser Island, two companies have a total allocation of 23 500 square metres of logs that they can remove each year. The allocation is on a yearly basis from 1 October to 30 September.

Located on Fraser Island are rangers of the Queensland Forest Service who mark every tree that may be logged on a sustainable basis. The marking is done on a selective basis to ensure that there is no over-logging in any area of the island, as is the case in all other State forest areas of Queensland. Having formerly looked after this particular portfolio, though for only a short period, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise would recognise that fact. The fellow who held the portfolio for a longer period prior to the member for Surfers Paradise did not make it back to the Parliament; Mr Drummond is dealing suitably with him.

As is always the case in the sandy regions of Queensland, whether it be Fraser Island where logs are being taken for sawmilling, or the area of the honourable member for Roma, who would well know that in some of the cyprus pine areas there are some quite sandy regions, when the weather is very dry it is extremely difficult for vehicles to operate. Because there has been rain on Fraser Island, loggers take advantage of the rain-hardened tracks. That causes less damage to root systems and other vegetation on the island. In a sandy region it is environmentally far better to carry out logging after rain than during dry weather.

Most members of the National Party travel over Fraser Island in their tax-subsidised four-wheel-drive vehicles from time to time, and would know full well that when I say it is much easier to drive on Fraser Island after there has been rain, I am correct.

The Government has the greatest confidence that Mr Fitzgerald QC, will properly assess and examine the whole situation in his inquiry.

Location of China Steel Project

Mr BORBIDGE: I ask the Minister for Manufacturing and Commerce: did he or his advisers, acting alone or under instructions from the "A Team" in the Premier's office, refer a confidential or secret departmental report or bid proposal on the China Steel project to the Federal Government for vetting at a time when the Prime Minister is actively lobbying for the plant to be located at Newcastle in preference to Gladstone?

Hon. G. N. SMITH: The honourable member should realise that a number of States are looking at the China Steel project. China Steel is not likely to make a decision on that project for some 12 months at least. At the present time the Government believes that Queensland is the preferred site. We remain in very close contact with the China Steel organisation and we remain confident that, if that project comes to Australia, Queensland will be the winner. To answer the honourable member's question, I am not aware of any confidential document being referred to the Federal Government.

Education Department Ford Fairlane 748-AHB

Mr BORBIDGE: I ask the Minister for Education: can he advise the House if a white Ford Fairlane, registration 748-AHB, is owned by the Department of Education and is attached to the Minister's office, and if it is the case that the vehicle is owned by the department, who is authorised to drive and use this vehicle for private and official purposes?

Mr BRADDY: I am not aware of the registration number of my electorate car. I do have a white Fairlane electorate car but I cannot say if that is its registration number. It is my understanding that the electorate car is available to me for my private use and for the use of my wife and my family.

A Government member: Your family?

Mr BRADDY: My immediate family, for occasional use. The only person who has driven my electorate car, apart from my driver, myself and my wife, is perhaps my eldest daughter on one occasion. I do not know of any other person who has driven it on any other occasion.

Harbourtown Rezoning

Mr D'ARCY: I ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Housing and Local Government: are claims that the Government has reneged on its promises made in Opposition to block the Harbourtown development true, remembering that this was a ministerial rezoning of the National Party Government?

Mr BURNS: I thank the honourable member for the question. It was a massive ministerial rezoning and one that has caused considerable heartburn on the Gold Coast.

Immediately on taking over the Department of Local Government, I asked the departmental officers to obtain legal advice about a ministerial downzoning or rezoning of what Russ Hinze and the Government had done previously. One lengthy piece of legal advice has been received. Further advice on the matter was requested. That advice has now been received by my department. It has been referred to departmental officers for consideration. I will be taking a memorandum on the subject to Cabinet in the very near future, probably next week.

I make the point that many scurrilous rumours have been spread on the Gold Coast in relation to the Government's attitude on this matter. The Government has acted as quickly as it can, remembering that this is a most important principle. The whole question of ministerial rezonings was one that featured heavily in the Fitzgerald inquiry's report. In fact a number of people from the Department of Local Government will spend a considerable amount of time in court giving evidence in cases against previous members of the Government on issues such as this. The Government is not going to be rushed into doing anything about it. It will do it as advice becomes available and that advice is now ready to go to Cabinet.

Gold Coast Drug Problem

Mr D'ARCY: I direct a further question to the Minister for Health: as the Minister will be aware of the worsening drug problem on the Gold Coast, and the associated risk of the spread of AIDS, etc, what is he doing to respond to this problem?

Mr McELLIGOTT: As the honourable member indicated, I am sure all members of the House are aware of the increasing drug problems on the Gold Coast and as a result of that the potential risk for the spread of the AIDS virus in that area. This is a situation which myself and my department regard as very serious indeed. It has been a long-standing wish of the department to establish on the Gold Coast an AIDS clinic which would incorporate, amongst other things, a methadone program, a needles exchange program, and an AIDS advisory and support service.

It has been proposed that the clinic operate under the auspices of the Gold Coast Hospitals Board and should have ongoing links with various Outreach programs for people in that risk group. It was very difficult to find an appropriate location for the clinic. Certain requirements are necessary to make such a clinic suitable and workable. One is that it needs to be close to public transport. In addition, it needs to be available at a reasonable price and must afford a degree of confidentiality for staff, clients and so on. It was difficult to find such a site. Finally, we found one at Burleigh that was available

and apparently suitable. When the announcement was made of our intention to establish that clinic, there was considerable public outcry from residents in the area who were opposed to the use of that particular building.

The honourable member for South Coast contacted me and asked me whether he could discuss the matter with me. I said that I would do better than that and would visit the site and have consultations with those who were leading the opposition to it. As a result of my undertaking, I visited the site and spoke to what the press described as 80 people who turned up to address me on the matter. I gave an undertaking to that group that day that, having heard their concern and having inspected the premises for myself, I would go away and reconsider the whole matter.

The honourable member for South Coast followed me to the car and asked me whether I would continue to consult with him prior to making a final decision. I gave him that undertaking. I had no sooner left Burleigh than the honourable member was on the telephone drumming up support for some sort of public rally to give the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr Innes) a forum at which to belt me and my department over the head. I am quite dismayed about the way in which the honourable member for South Coast reacted to this particular matter and am very concerned that the Leader of the Liberal Party would go to the Gold Coast, address a public rally and say, "I do not know what you should do about the question of AIDS but, whatever it is, don't do it here." That was the extent of his advice on this very serious problem.

As a result of all of this, I have honoured my commitment. I formed the impression that day, after the discussions, that the site chosen was not appropriate and I have indicated to the department that we should not proceed in Burleigh. I do not enjoy the luxury enjoyed by the Leader of the Liberal Party. Because it is my responsibility, I cannot say that I do not know what to do about AIDS.

The people living at the Gold Coast and the people of Queensland generally have to understand that AIDS is a very serious problem in this society, that intravenous drug users are a very high risk group and that we will have clinics of this type throughout the State. I make the plea to the people of Queensland to accept that that will happen. I have undertaken to find an alternative location and that will be done to protect the young people living at the Gold Coast from this very serious problem. I conclude by warning my Cabinet colleagues to be careful how they deal with the honourable member for South Coast.

Use of Government Car by Minister for Education

Mr LITTLEPROUD: My first question is directed to the Minister for Education. In view of his answer to the question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in which he advised the House that a departmental Falcon is in fact used by members of his family, can he assure the House that he has not breached the 10-point ministerial code of conduct?

Mr BRADDY: I believe that ministerial cars are allowed to be used for private use. To the best of my knowledge and understanding, I have not breached the ministerial code of conduct in relation to the private use of a vehicle. It is not the official ministerial car; it is the car provided for private use and I believe that the ministerial code of conduct has been adhered to.

Provision of Additional Teachers

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I remind the Minister for Education that, at the end of 1989, he announced that the Education Department would employ an additional 200 teachers and indicated that they would be funded out of the existing Education Department budget. Would the Minister inform the House which other education areas suffered cuts to make this possible?

Mr BRADDY: The Goss Labor Government is very proud of its record of improvements in education in this State during the short period that we have been in office. The previous Government failed to supply sufficient teachers to cope with the education system in this State. Although it was clear to the previous Government that at least 900 additional teachers were required for 1990, only 700 were to be provided.

When this Government took office, I consulted the officers of my department and immediately set about discovering what was really needed for the better education of pupils in this State, particularly those attending secondary schools. It was clear from the recommendations of my officers that additional secondary teachers were required, and this Government immediately enabled the employment of 200 teachers over and above those scheduled to be employed by the previous administration.

The department has indicated to me that there is a fair degree of probability that the cost of employing those additional teachers can be met out of the savings that can be made in other areas, and that has been done. It will only be at the end of the financial year that we will know precisely whether that can be done, but it has been set in train. At this stage no funds allocated by the previous Government in its budget have been cut.

Redevelopment of Roma Street Railway Yards

Mr BEATTIE: I ask the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development: what is the Government's present position on the redevelopment of the Roma Street railway yards? Does that redevelopment include a convention centre and casino? What opportunity will there be for public input on matters such as road access, traffic and housing? Will the future of SWARA—the Sunshine Welfare and Remedial Association—be guaranteed and protected in any redevelopment?

Mr HAMILL: I will address the last part of the honourable member's question first. I am aware of the work that has been done by SWARA at its headquarters in the Roma Street precinct. This group works with intellectually handicapped persons and I have a particular interest in welfare matters of that nature. I give SWARA a commitment that this Government will not jeopardise the viability of its operation.

Regarding the Roma Street goods yard redevelopment in general, honourable members would be aware that the previous Government sought a range of concepts for the redevelopment of the Roma Street goods yard which involved a convention centre and a casino.

Mr Borbidge: Will you set up an inquiry?

Mr HAMILL: We might have an inquiry into the honourable member.

It was also suggested that the Roma Street site might recoup some \$50m if it were sold for redevelopment. The incorporation of a casino into that concept plan may well increase the value of the site to \$150m. Those figures were made public. At the time I commented that, given the outlay made by the previous Government on the World Expo Fun Park, those figures seemed to be rather paltry for a site that is as big as the whole of the Expo site on the south bank. Nevertheless, this Government recognises that the redevelopment of the Roma Street site will be absolutely critical to this Government's capacity to deliver one of its important commitments to the people of Queensland, and in particular to the people of south-east Queensland, that is, the expansion and development of the suburban rail system, including the rail link to the Gold Coast.

This Government will be looking carefully at Roma Street in order to maximise the return to the people of Queensland resulting from the redevelopment of that site, and I welcome any input from the community through the member for Brisbane Central as to how that objective can best be achieved.

Expo Site Redevelopment; Heritage Legislation

Mr BEATTIE: My second question is directed to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

Mr Gunn: Bring on the feral cat.

Mr BEATTIE: There are a few prime targets opposite for methadone e clinic treatment.

My question concerns the redevelopment of the Expo site, and I ask: will the State Government ensure the retention of the historic Allgas building, the Plough Inn and Collins Place in the redevelopment of the Expo site, and give special consideration to the development of a heritage conservation strategy to protect the South Brisbane Library, South Brisbane Town Hall, Maritime Museum, RSL Memorial Park, Sommerville House and dry dock areas in any heritage legislation that is to be introduced this year?

Mr COMBEN: The honourable member's interest in South Brisbane and historical matters is well known. The question of the South Brisbane precinct will certainly be addressed as part of the State heritage list when State heritage legislation is introduced into this House later this year. This magnificent area must be preserved. It is our only connection with the great 1870s when Stanley came to this State and Stanley Street and the wharves were established. That historic precinct will be one of the first items to be listed on the State heritage list.

Earlier this year, I visited the three buildings on the Expo site with the honourable member and saw the tragic way in which those buildings had been gutted by the former Government. The nice facades remain, but the insides of the buildings have been totally gutted. There is nothing inside the buildings that is of an historic or heritage nature. However, the South Bank Corporation has stated that those three buildings should be a part of the south bank redevelopment. A historic marker for the old Stanley Street roadway has gone forever. This Government will support everything that the South Bank Corporation does to maintain those buildings and will preserve them under its heritage legislation.

Cooke Inquiry into Trade Unions; Naming of Mr R.J. Gibbs

Mr VEIVERS: My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism, Racing and Sport. On 11 December 1989, in the Cooke inquiry into union corruption it was disclosed that a Mr Gibbs, who was described as a politician, had applied to the Liquor Trades Union seeking financial assistance. At that time the union was controlled by corrupt union officials in the persons of the State secretary, Brian Elton and assistant State secretary, Colin Hardie, both of whom have since been convicted in the courts for fraud involving union elections. Evidence given before the inquiry showed that the request by the politician, Mr Gibbs, was considered at a committee meeting of the union on 20 May 1986, when the following motion was moved by assistant secretary, Mr Colin Hardie—

"That in consideration of Bob Gibbs' correspondence requesting financial assistance,"—
and the next bit is underlined—

"this branch endorses an amount of such sum as may be recommended by the acting State secretary and that every member of the State committee of management, should they so desire, be given the opportunity of expressing their views to the acting State secretary as to the actual amount donated."

That motion was carried.

I ask: will Mr Gibbs, the Minister for Tourism, Racing and Sport, admit to the House that he was indeed the Bob Gibbs, politician, who was named in evidence before the Cooke inquiry, and will he tell the House how much money he received by way of donation, which was clearly an illegal donation under section 57(A) of the Industrial

Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1983, because the union did not have a political objects fund?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Southport will resume his seat. Questions without notice must be much briefer than that just asked by the honourable member for Southport. Honourable members are not allowed to debate the issue when asking a question. In future, I ask the honourable member for Southport to be much briefer when he puts a question without notice and not make a speech.

Mr VEIVERS: I was giving the House and you, Mr Speaker, the background so that the Minister can give this House a very in-depth answer to the question.

Mr GIBBS: This is further evidence of the very limited ability of the honourable member for Southport. The department of intellect was left far behind him on the football field at Manly. I am extremely proud of my association with the trade union movement in Queensland and am proud to embrace it as being a group that is very supportive of me and my long involvement in politics.

Mr FitzGerald: How much did you get?

Mr GIBBS: I will tell the honourable member how much I got. If he sits back and is patient, all will be revealed.

I am quite happy to acknowledge that, as I understand it, I am the person who was referred to at the Cook inquiry as having received a donation from the Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union. I make it very clear and have no compunction about stating that, for every election since I came into this Parliament in 1977, at campaign-time I have always written to those unions that have been good supporters of me over the years and asked for a donation. I might add that it was not very often that they were forthcoming.

However, in 1986 I wrote to the liquor trades union. As I understand it, a decision was made in a totally open and democratic way within the union to make a donation to my campaign funds. I stress the point to the House that at no time, since my entry into this Parliament in 1977, have I ever at any time accepted a personal donation. I am always extremely strict on that matter because I believe that donations made to political parties or to politicians have to be up front and out in the open for everyone to see.

In anticipation of this question, I obtained details showing that the donation was made on 16 July 1986. It was sent to the Wolston electoral executive committee, which is my central campaign organisation in the State electorate of Wolston. The cheque was for the amount of \$1,000 and was banked on the same day as it was received. I will shortly lay upon the table of the House for the information of the honourable member a photostat copy of an extract from my campaign books. He may also notice and like to get his teeth into the fact that, in the same year, \$80 was obtained from the proceeds of a beer raffle.

May I say that my activities provide a stark contrast to the activities of members of the National Party. No-one on the Government side of the House has ever experienced the brown paper bag syndrome that former Premier Bjelke-Petersen openly indulged in; nor will any Minister of this Government ever be involved in incidents such as the Cintra Corporation's being required by the National Party to make a handsome donation in order to receive an electrification contract from Queensland Railways. Nowhere in this Labor Government will there be found the rorts and financial corruption that took place in relation to ministerial rezonings that were so openly indulged in by members of the National Party.

I might add that all Ministers in this Labor Government are required—at the instigation of the Premier of Queensland and welcomed by all Ministers—to list complete information about private financial affairs, the financial affairs of family members and any political campaign donations made at any time. That information is kept in a

confidential register held by the Premier. He knows about the activities of his Ministers. I have every confidence that he will ensure that those activities are honest and implemented in the correct fashion.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the document referred to.

Racing Industry

Mr VEIVERS: In directing my second question to the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing, I refer to a public statement made by him in his capacity as the former Opposition spokesman on Racing, shortly after the formation of the Ahern Government more than two years ago. The statement reads—

"The first priority of the Ahern Government should be a racing commission."

I ask: how high is the priority given to a racing commission by the Goss Government? When will appropriate amendments to the Racing and Betting Act be introduced to establish a racing commission? Does the Minister still hold the view that he expressed when he was a member of the Opposition, that the principal club system for the administration of galloping is a colonial relic, totally unsuited to efficient racing industry management and promotion?

Mr GIBBS: I will begin by answering the last part of the question. I most certainly and openly reiterate that the principal club system is a colonial relic and an archaic method of administering racing in this State. The more that one looks at it, the more obvious it becomes that it was established for no other reason than to act as a National Party outpost network in country areas to bolster flagging electoral support, particularly by disgraceful and dishonest pork-barrelling that was indulged in by using the Racing Development Fund.

I have instructed officers of my department, in relation to the establishment of a racing commission, to look at the whole system of racing in this State. Recently, I instigated moves in my department to have letters written to the principal clubs of all codes asking them, for the first time in 32 years, to exercise their responsibilities as administrators of racing. The intention was to find out the financial state and viability of an incredibly large number of racing clubs—167, to be exact— scattered throughout the State of Queensland compared with 47 in New South Wales. Establishment of the commission will depend on the outcome of the inquiries that I have made.

I have given certain instructions to officers of my department but I am certainly not prepared to discuss those with the honourable member today. In the fullness of time, he will be made aware of my intentions. He may rest assured that there will be a constructive reconstruction of the Queensland racing industry.

Car-parking Space, Rockhampton Court House

Mr HAYWARD: I ask the Treasurer: is he aware of any anomalies associated with car-parking space provided to public servants at the court house in Rockhampton?

Mr De LACY: My attention has been drawn to some anomalies in respect of the public service parking area at the courthouse in Rockhampton. I understand that the previous Minister for Industrial Affairs, Mr Lester, requested a car-parking space for his daughter.

Mr LESTER: I rise to a point of order. I find this most offensive. It is utter tripe and it is not true. I am not aware of my daughter using the car-parking space, although she may have. It was there in case I needed it at any time. There is nothing wrong with that. I was the Minister in the area. When the Government adopts this type of gutter tactics, I wonder what is going on. I ask that that offensive comment be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Peak Downs finds the Treasurer's words offensive and asks that they be withdrawn.

Mr De LACY: Did the honourable member actually ask that they be withdrawn?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Yes.

Mr De LACY: I withdraw.

In conclusion, I point out that, because we have taken action to discontinue the arrangement, Mr Lester's daughter will no longer be using that car-parking space.

I would also point out that she probably was not doing the wrong thing, because the former Minister believed that his family was part of his operations.

Willows Harness Racing Club

Mr HAYWARD: In directing a question to the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing, I refer to his recent action of appointing an administrator to supervise the affairs of the Willows Harness Racing Club and dismissing the former trustees. I ask: will he outline the circumstances behind his decision?

Mr GIBBS: This is a classic example of the way in which the former Government used and abused the Racing Development Fund in Queensland.

In relation to the affairs of the trustees of the Willows

Paceway—in the light of the Auditor-General's report which revealed alarming aspects of the administration of the Willows Paceway, I had no choice but to dismiss the trustees. For example, in the last financial year, the Willows Paceway had liabilities of \$2,097,000. The trustees were continuing to operate at a loss of approximately a quarter of a million dollars a year. Undertakings were given to a previous Minister that the club would not go into further debt by way of overdraft. That commitment was openly broken. Two years ago, the Racing Development Fund granted to the trustees a loan of \$100,000, repayable over 10 years at \$10,000 a year. No repayment has been received. That matter and other aspects of the Auditor-General's report left no doubt in my mind that there had been—I shall be kind to the former trustees—illicit dealings in the transfer of moneys between the Willows Harness Racing Club and the Willows trustees' operations. As well, discrepancies were revealed in the operation of the canteen or restaurant, and employees' wages and award conditions were being abused. I had no option but to dismiss the trustees.

In relation to the paceway itself—my first undertaking was to eliminate the conflict of interest of a certain group that had taken control of the harness-racing industry in this State. I make this point clearly to all honourable members: I am firmly convinced that certain people in top areas of the administration in this State were actively involved in what can be called program-fixing of races, that is, ensuring that the classes of horses were not competing on an equal footing. One only has to witness the way in which prize money has been distributed in the last five years in this State to verify that point.

The paceway had ongoing operating debts of a quarter of a million dollars a year. It is a diabolical political disgrace that moneys were given from the Racing Development Fund to continually prop up the paceway. Because the National Party held a seat in Townsville and its previous Ministers for Racing were not prepared to bite the bullet, the former Government provided that money. Contrary to instruction or advice given to them by people in racing services, previous Ministers refused to act.

I have acted. By appointing Mr John Hicks as the administrator of the Willows Paceway, I have adopted what I believe to be the correct approach.

Because of the incredible debt that has been incurred, I have grave doubts about the future of harness racing in Townsville. Because of the inability of the previous Government to address problems, a loss of confidence has occurred in the harness racing industry in north Queensland. The Government is addressing the problem.

The most encouraging aspect of the action taken by the Government to date is that on the last two Saturday nights in Townsville the fields for harness racing have increased

by in excess of 50 per cent over those in past months. In other words, owners and trainers from as far as Cairns and Mackay are bringing their horses to Townsville to race, because they realise that now at least they have a fair chance, the competition is open and they have an ability to share in the prize money.

I will continue to reconstruct the harness racing industry along those lines.

Allegations of Corruption against Mr K. Goodhew

Mr BEANLAND: I ask the Premier: before the State election last year, was he aware, either directly or indirectly, that the then ALP vice-president, Mr Ken Goodhew, would be the subject of corruption allegations before the Cooke inquiry? Was he aware, either directly or indirectly, that legal action would be taken in the Federal Court by the relevant union or union officials either to stop Mr Cooke inquiring into those particular allegations or, alternatively, to stop any allegations made in the Cooke inquiry from being published before the State election? If he was aware of those matters, when did that occur and in what context?

Mr W. K. GOSS: In relation to whether or not I was aware that Mr Goodhew and the FEDFA would be involved in the Cooke inquiry and that there would be embarrassing disclosures—I was. I came to that knowledge by virtue of the fact that I was sitting in this Chamber when that information was sprayed all over the public arena by the previous Government in an unethical and disgraceful misuse of public money and in an endeavour to try to distract attention from the corruption problems that were besetting that Government.

Let it be clearly understood that in the lead-up to the last election all of these matters were canvassed in this place and publicised in the media. They were also canvassed in the Federal Court. It is true that indirectly a number of requests came to me from people associated with both sides of the relevant union who wanted to see me to discuss the sorts of issues that the Leader of the Opposition is talking about. I declined to meet any of the people in that union involved in either side of the particular conflict, and I did not meet them.

Mr Borbidge: Did Kevin Rudd meet them?

Mr W. K. GOSS: Mr Rudd did not meet them, either.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Port of Brisbane Authority; Continuance of Policies of Waterfront Reform

Mr SPEAKER: I have received a letter from the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 137. The letter reads as follows—

"Dear Mr Speaker,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 137 I wish to propose that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely:-

The importance to the Queensland economy of the policies of waterfront reform being implemented by the Port of Brisbane Authority being continued in view of the purge of the Port of Brisbane Authority and the removal of its Chairman by the Goss Labor Government.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL COOPER."

I presume that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has the necessary support for this?
Not fewer than five members having risen in their places to indicate approval—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (12.10 p.m.): I move—

"That the House do pass to the next business."

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question is—

"That the House do pass to the next business."

Mr LINGARD: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, the Government is obviously going against your ruling. Under Standing Order 137 you have determined that this Matter of Public Importance is in order and you have ruled that it be discussed. Now the Government has gone against your ruling. I ask you to rule that the Leader of the Opposition at least be heard on a Matter of Public Importance.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, Standing Order 137 states quite clearly that at any time the motion "That the House do pass to the next business." may be moved. That motion having been moved, under the Standing Orders I had to put the question to the House. There is no point of order.

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has not had the opportunity to utter even one sentence. There is an onus on the Chair to at least allow the matter to be canvassed.

Mr Burns: You did it to us for 32 years. You can't stand it for 32 seconds.

Mr BORBIDGE: Members of the Government never used this Standing Order when they were in Opposition. They were too lazy to use it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. I have just ruled that under the Standing Orders it was quite proper for the Leader of the House to move, "That the House do pass to the next business."

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will now put the question. The question is— "That the House do pass to the next business."

Question put; and the House divided—

DIVISION

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, I had no authority to comment during the division, but I state quite clearly that I found offensive the remarks about my taking riding instructions from any member of this House. Those remarks are totally untrue. I am the voice of the Parliament, but I am also the servant of the Parliament. Standing Orders quite clearly state that that motion can be moved at any time. I remind honourable members that in future I will take extreme action against members who impugn my impartiality.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

Mr SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Governor, on 28 February 1990, delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume that honourable members will take the Speech as read?

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: I now call the honourable member for Mount Isa. I remind the House that this will be the member's maiden speech and that the usual courtesies should be shown to him.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr McGRADY (Mount Isa) (12.21 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said: I move—

"That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the first session of the Forty-sixth Parliament of Queensland—

'May it please Your Excellency—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State.' "

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people of my electorate I offer you our sincere congratulations on your election as Speaker of this Parliament. I believe that it is most appropriate that you, having been born in Greece, the cradle of democracy, should hold this high office at a time when democracy is being restored to our State. I offer to you and your family my personal congratulations. I know that you will strive to conduct the affairs of this House in a dignified way.

I feel a great sense of pride in having this opportunity to respond to the Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Walter Campbell. In making this address before this Parliament today, my mind goes back to those great people who preceded me in this Parliament and who represented our area with great distinction, conviction, compassion and dedication. I refer to men such as the late Norm Smith, who was one of the great pioneers of north-west Queensland, and Alex Inch, who represented Mount Isa and the people of the gulf country for 15 years. I am pleased to say that Alex is still in good health and is living in Bowen. My mind also goes back to those great pioneers—those men and women who left the relative comfort of coastal living and risked everything they possessed to go west and develop outback Queensland.

The opening sentence of His Excellency's address outlined the very basis of what Government is about. He stated—

"You have been called together to give your attention to, and to make decisions upon, matters pertaining to the welfare of this State."

For too long, decisions have been made for the benefit of the few, decisions which had little relevance to the welfare of the people of Queensland unless, of course, one belonged to that group of privileged people who had the ear of the leadership of the previous Government. Decisions were taken to assist friends in high places and had little to do with what part of the State required Government assistance.

In 1923 ore was discovered at Mount Isa by John Campbell Miles and, of course, the story of that development is now part of the great Australian legend. This is a story of the pioneering spirit, a spirit which is synonymous with the development of north Queensland. Not only does the Mount Isa mineral field affect the city of Mount Isa, but also it has a large impact on the economies of the towns from Mount Isa across to Townsville, via the railway line, as well as on the employment prospects for those people employed at the port of Townsville and at the copper refinery in Townsville, not forgetting Brisbane and many other cities around the world. So, Mr Deputy Speaker, when I refer to the wealth generated from the Mount Isa mineral field, you will understand, and this Parliament will understand, that I am talking about the economic well-being of the whole of the north Queensland and indeed the State of Queensland itself.

Again going back into history, there is no doubt that the people of Queensland were glad to see the end of the Labor Government of the fifties. That Government was torn asunder by faction fighting. It had lost touch with the men and women of Queensland and, having grown complacent with power, it suffered the fate it deserved by being thrown out of office.

Queenslanders, of course, gave little thought to what the replacement Government's record might become. The people of Mount Isa certainly found out. As recently as 1977 the National Party candidate and member for Mount Isa at that time invited the former Premier, the then Mr Bjelke-Petersen, to come to Mount Isa. The former Premier threatened the people of my city. He stated that, unless they returned the National Party member to this Parliament, the city would not receive any finance for its water supply.

The people of Mount Isa returned a National Party member but still received precious little from Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen or his Government. I believe that was an unforgivable act, an act which went against all the traditions of our Westminster system and against all the principles of parliamentary democracy, but it was typical of the way in which the Government of this State functioned during those years.

I wish to take some time today in highlighting some of the problems, concerns and successes which I see emanating from my city. My first concern relates to Crown rentals. For those people who are not familiar with the situation of mining-fields, I point out that each residential property-owner pays an annual fee to the State Government for the privilege of living on a block of land. This figure is based on 3 per cent of the Valuer-General's valuation.

Some years ago officers of the Valuer-General's Department came to my city and revalued residential property by upwards of 300 per cent. That meant that where a family was paying a fee of approximately \$90 a year to consolidated revenue, that figure shot up to almost \$300 per year; in fact, many of my constituents are now paying in excess of \$360 per year. This money goes directly into consolidated revenue. I believe it to be unjust and simply another form of taxation.

If this money was to be paid to the local council or if we had guarantees that it would be spent in the local community, there would not be too much opposition to it. However, when one sees this money being taken away from our community and simply going into consolidated revenue, it makes our people annoyed, to say the least.

Already the Mount Isa mineral-field is contributing so much to the economy of this State by way of mineral royalties, rail freights and other charges. Nine months ago I made a commitment to our people that, unless the Government introduced a more equitable and fairer system in the area of Crown rentals by September 1990, my council and I would lead the people of Mount Isa in a campaign designed to bring the problems to a head. I still stand firm by that commitment. However, I do believe that the Goss Labor Government has a far greater understanding and concern and I am hopeful that we can resolve this problem.

I also take this opportunity to make a request to the Government to allow these blocks of residential property to be freeholded at a nominal price. I am talking now strictly about the blocks of land on which people are building their residential homes. I am not talking about those people who are using the land for mining purposes or for other major industrial purposes. I certainly hope to commence discussions with the relevant Ministers in the very near future.

Mount Isa is a thriving industrial city of some 25 000 people. If some of the projects which are in the pipeline come to fruition, the population numbers will certainly increase. Although the present staff at the Mount Isa Base Hospital are working to the best of their ability, the plain facts of life are that there is still a major shortage of numbers of qualified staff. Not only does the hospital service the city of Mount Isa but also it is the base hospital for the large area surrounding our city. Late last year we had the dangerous situation in which there was no surgeon in the city and no surgeon at the hospital. Private aeroplanes, Royal Flying Doctor Service planes and other aircraft were being used to ferry patients from Mount Isa to Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane to secure treatment. What a traumatic experience for the patients and their families and loved ones! This must never be allowed to happen again.

In this day and age, this is simply not good enough. I have had discussions with the Minister for Health, and I would certainly hope that the comments I have made will be taken on board by his department and that, in the very near future, some real action is taken to rectify this matter. I know that there is a problem securing qualified people to work in remote parts of this State. Whilst money is important, I believe that other incentives could be offered to those people to encourage them to come and live and work in far-flung places of Queensland. Maybe the Government could consider being more liberal with the employment provisions and allow doctors and other qualified staff to receive benefits and rewards for working out west. Surely in this day and age there must be some sort of a system whereby incentives can be offered to those people, such as travel or more educational leave. Again, I would be happy to discuss that with the Minister.

Our other major health concern is that when visiting specialists come to Mount Isa as private surgeons there is a massive difference between the fee charged by them and the scheduled fee. Only recently I received a number of complaints and was given examples of them. One lady produced to me evidence showing that a visiting specialist charged her \$850, whereas the refund from Medicare was \$215. That is wrong and once again highlights the problems of living so far away from the capital city.

I was pleased to hear His Excellency state that the Government was committed to the provision of easily accessible health facilities of the highest standard for all Queenslanders. I trust that those people living in the regional centres of Queensland, such as Mount Isa, will be included in that program.

I refer constantly to the disadvantages of living in the remote parts of Queensland, and no problem is more obvious than the fact that our sportsmen and sportswomen, and in particular our young sports people, have to travel to the coast and to Brisbane to meet good, healthy competition. This competition is vital but is a massive expense for them and their families. Our sportspeople are forever dipping into their pockets or trying to raise the money to go away to train or to compete. These are the people who will represent our State; these are the people who will represent our nation, yet we have to go around with a begging bowl raising money to cover the costs of transport and

accommodation, not forgetting the costs involved in loss of pay for seniors in order for them to compete. I will direct my comments to the Minister for Sport and hope that there will be some policy incentives whereby young men and women with a potential to excel in their particular sport are given encouragement and financial support to continue with the sport and to assist them in representing our State and our nation. Queensland does not start and finish in Brisbane or along the coastal strip.

While in recent times there have been announcements of improvements in the education system, there are still many problems facing our students and teachers. I welcome the Government's statement that extra teachers will be employed this year and that some 1 500 extra places will be provided for tertiary education. It was pleasing that such emphasis was placed on education in His Excellency's speech, and the previous announcement that the TE score will be abolished will bring so much joy to our young people.

Mount Isa has a shortage of teachers and a shortage of teacher accommodation. For young teachers, nothing is worse than leaving home for the first time and being transferred to some remote area only to find upon arrival that there is absolutely no accommodation for them.

I believe that the State Government has a duty to provide decent, air-conditioned accommodation for the teachers of our State who are transferred to isolated areas. As a parent with two teenagers attending school in Mount Isa, I am more than interested in ensuring that we have teachers who stay for long periods of time and do not consider their term in Mount Isa or other remote areas as being a sentence. I support totally and fully the moves by the Queensland Teachers Union to introduce a transfer incentive scheme and I will do everything in my power to assist that union in gaining those conditions for its members.

I move now into the area of university education. Whilst I realise that this is not really a matter for the State Government, a situation has developed in which the young men and women from Mount Isa who have been selected to attend the James Cook University at Townsville or the University of Queensland and other places of tertiary education are having major difficulties in securing accommodation on the campus. I believe that campus accommodation should be allocated primarily to those students who come from outside the metropolitan area.

I have been told that the accommodation is offered to students based on their TE score. I find that quite ludicrous. My office has been inundated with calls and visits from young people, and their parents, who have been unable to secure accommodation on the campus or in private homes and we have been working extremely hard trying to secure accommodation in Townsville and in Brisbane for those students.

I believe that, when the accommodation officers at the university are allocating accommodation, preference should be given to those people from outside the metropolitan area—people who have to travel long distances and who do not have family and friends in the major cities—and I would certainly hope that such a problem does not arise again next year.

One of the main reasons for the Australian Labor Party's success in the recent State election, particularly in remote areas, was its detailed policy on regional development, and much of what is contained in that policy statement is so relevant to the needs of our people today. I welcome any policy that plays a role in bringing work and job creation programs to the remote parts of Queensland.

I welcome the moves by the new Goss Labor Government to consider setting up an office of regional development in Mount Isa and I am looking forward to the day when that office opens. For the past two years Mount Isa Mines Limited has been negotiating with the State Government in an effort to secure assistance in developing and constructing a gas pipeline into our city. Since the advent of the Goss Labor Government, negotiations have certainly moved in the right direction and I am naturally hopeful that in the not-too-distant future the Premier will announce that there is broad

agreement between his Government and Mount Isa Mines Limited. If that is to eventuate, it would mean an injection of some three-quarters of a billion dollars into Queensland and, in particular, into north-west Queensland.

Whilst I would welcome that with open arms, one has to be concerned with forward planning for our city, which brings me to the subject of housing. Mount Isa has an excellent working relationship between the three sectors, namely, the Queensland Housing Commission, private developers and, of course, Mount Isa Mines, and that policy has served our community well over many years. However, if this gas pipeline project goes ahead, it could mean in excess of five hundred jobs being created. Of course, the massive expenditure required on that project would generate further jobs in the region. In his speech yesterday, His Excellency drew attention to the need to export Queensland products around the world, particularly to the growing east-Asian market. He stated that Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong would be specifically targeted as trading partners. That certainly should be applauded, but I remind this House that already the cattle industry and, more particularly, the mining industry have been building up large markets and friendships with those countries for some time and in recent years the dialogue between China and MIM has certainly been transferred into actual sales. I feel certain that officers of that company could provide any assistance that this Government would require in setting up new relationships.

A few moments ago I mentioned the possibility of extra jobs coming to Mount Isa. If that occurs, there have to be urgent negotiations with the Queensland Housing Commission and other bodies to plan for the day when these people move into our district. Already Mount Isa is facing a severe housing shortage and I am happy to report the excellent co-operation that I have received from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing and Local Government, the Honourable Tom Burns.

When one discusses housing, one cannot help discussing the problems of the rental system that the Queensland Housing Commission has operated for so long. That Government department refuses to accept that there is a need for air-conditioning in the houses that it erects in the northern parts of this State. It also refuses to accept that there is a need for fly-screening and the other essentials that I do not consider to be luxuries.

In the dying days of the previous Government, some of the Housing Commission tenants in my city were most distressed to hear that their rents were to be increased by up to \$100 a week. The reason given by the former Housing Minister was that they received allowances from Mount Isa Mines Limited which had not been taken into account when their rents were being assessed. To me, that is immoral and unjust because many of those allowances are given to compensate employees for living in remote parts of the State and to compensate them for the high costs associated with the Mount Isa district, together with the disadvantages of their particular job. I again appreciate the announcement by the Minister for Housing, the Honourable Tom Burns, that he will visit Mount Isa in the very near future to discuss this real problem with the tenants concerned.

One cannot talk about regional development without making mention of zone allowances. Whilst I realise that this is a Federal Government matter, I believe that it is the responsibility of State Governments to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Federal Government. Zone allowances were introduced by the Chifley Labor Government back in the early 1940s and the ideas and objectives of that policy were to encourage people to move away from the capital cities and develop the inland. The zone allowance was designed to encourage people to live in remote areas of this nation and to compensate them for the high costs associated with living in those areas.

As inflation has increased, we find that those zone allowances no longer compensate people for living away from the major cities, and they still have to bear all the extra burdens and costs associated with that area. I appeal to the Premier and the Government to make representations to the recently established inquiry and to push for an increase in zone allowances. I welcome the move by the Federal Government to

institute this inquiry and I certainly hope and pray that sensible decisions that will assist our people will be made in the very near future.

I have been a member of the Mount Isa City Council for 17 years. I have been Mayor of Mount Isa since 1985. I have been a member of the executive of the Local Government Association, the executive of the Cities and Towns Association and the executive of the North Queensland Local Government Association. Therefore I can claim with some justification that I do have a knowledge of the local government industry in this State.

I believe that there is an urgent need to review the internal and external boundaries of local government, and again I welcome the energy that the Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing and Local Government, the Honourable Tom Burns, has put into the review of the Local Government Act. I request all honourable members to have close liaison with their local councils to ensure that their views are passed on to the Minister's committee and indeed to this Parliament. This review is long overdue and will be welcomed by all those genuine supporters of the local government industry. The conservatives in this State will want to cling to the status quo, but the Minister and the Government will have to be strong and correct the anomalies and injustices that have been built up over many years.

I wonder whether those early pioneers would ever have imagined that the great north west would become a destination for so many tourists, for that is certainly the case today. That area contains many man-made attractions together with numerous areas of natural beauty, a kind of beauty that could never be found in the larger, more populated areas. I mention but one, namely, the Riversleigh fossil field. This fossil field is attracting worldwide interest and attention and will become one of the great wonders of the world. I have been most impressed by the interest shown by the Premier and the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and, in particular, their assurance of support to develop further that natural wonder. I know that negotiations have commenced with a number of people. I invite the Minister to come to Mount Isa and once again meet with the people concerned prior to making his decision.

I have been the vice-president of the Mount Isa Irish Association for the past 12 years and, during that period of time, it has grown and is now the largest club in Queensland. The manager, Mr Ben Gillic, and the president, Mr John Hetheron, are shining examples of what can be achieved for the club movement in our State and its members.

I am concerned about some of the provisions of the Licensing Act which discriminate totally against the club movement in Queensland. I welcome the initiatives of the new Minister, the Honourable Bob Gibbs, to review the Licensing Act with a view to ridding it of so many of its anomalies. I also welcome the decision of the Government to introduce poker machines into the clubs of this State. People should not believe that the introduction of poker machines will be the saviour of all of the clubs in this State. They will not be. What they will do is assist those clubs to get out of the financial difficulties they are in at present and assist them to offer better services and facilities to their members.

I make no apologies to anybody for saying that I am a great supporter of the club movement in Queensland. The clubs in my own city are a credit to those managers and committee members who dedicate so much of their time to providing social activities for their members. I condemn the way in which the previous Government appeared to have an anti-club mentality. I certainly hope that, under this Goss Labor Government, things will improve for the club industry so that it can continue to give benefits to its members and generate finance in the local community by helping sporting, cultural, charitable and other bodies.

Mr Speaker, at long last the Governor's Opening Speech contained a statement about industrial relations. Gone are the threats of legal actions and penalties. Instead His Excellency stated that legislation will be introduced that will be acceptable to employer and employee groups alike. That certainly is a welcome change.

Mount Isa is unique in many ways and she can teach the world much in the area of industrial relations. Honourable members of this Parliament will recall back to 1964 when there was a major industrial dispute in my city. Since those dark days industrial relations in Mount Isa have been second to none in the world. The city is almost strike free. This has not been achieved through weakness on either side—on the part of the trade union movement or the employer—these excellent industrial relations have been achieved through a determination on both sides of industry to sit down and discuss their problems. Mount Isa has responsible trade union leaders who have been able to keep in contact with their members and, when decisions have been made at a higher level, they have been in a position to communicate down the line to the rank and file. I commend Mount Isa's industrial relations to all honourable members and issue a warm invitation to any person who is involved in industrial relations and to all members in this House to visit Mount Isa and see for themselves how this excellent record has been achieved.

Today I place on record my appreciation to those trade union leaders who have made a special contribution over many years. Also I place on record my deep and personal gratitude to the late Alex Pavusa, who did much to stabilise and pick up the threads of industrial relations following the disastrous dispute of 1964. Alex taught me much about industrial relations and I was proud to call him my friend.

No greater example can be given of the relationship between the trade union movement, the major employer in Mount Isa and the general community than the building and administration of the Laura Johnson Home for aged persons. This home was built back in 1974 through the combined financial support of the unions, community and the company. Today it is functioning extremely well and provides a home and decent social environment for the pioneers of Mount Isa. This is one of the roles in which the trade union movement should become involved. The trade union movement is in an excellent position to do the same throughout Queensland.

It would be morally wrong of me if I did not include in my maiden speech to this Parliament some comments about daylight-saving. Whilst I can understand that there is a large body of support for daylight-saving in the southern parts of the State, I must report to this Parliament that in Mount Isa and the rest of my electorate there is widespread opposition to it. I appeal to the Minister, the Honourable Nev Warburton, to take on board the views expressed to his task force on its recent visit to Mount Isa and not dismiss those comments as being simply the views of the vocal minority. That is not the case. I would be happy to enter into negotiations with the Minister to see if we can come up with a system that does not discriminate against the people living in the northern and north-western parts of this State. I might add that when the Minister came to Mount Isa we sat down to a sandwich lunch and not a three-course meal. I understand that daylight-saving is a very emotional issue, but I have a duty and responsibility to my electors to ensure that their point of view is taken on board by the Government before any decision is made.

Much has been said about the road network of Australia and, in particular, Queensland. In recent years I do not believe that the allocation of funds has been made on a fair and equitable basis, nor do I believe that the policy of blatant politicking by the RACQ has served the motoring public well. Much of the moneys that were earmarked for roads around the Mount Isa area have been transferred across to the Bruce Highway and other sections of the Queensland road network. Prior to the last election I had discussions with the Premier, who gave me a firm commitment that the road from Mount Isa to Camooweal will be a top priority. I am looking forward to the day in the very near future when work starts on that road. I do not believe that people who live in cities realise just how important the road network is to the people who live in isolated parts of Queensland. During my stay in this Parliament I will be doing all in my power to bring home to honourable members the problems we face.

The services which the Mount Isa community receives from the two major airlines is disappointing to say the least. Not too long ago there were two flights per day from

Mount Isa to Brisbane and vice versa. Now the major airlines provide only four flights per week. Some airline executives are saying that things are back to normal, but they certainly are not. It is quite impossible for a person to choose the day when he or she wishes to fly in and out of Mount Isa. There is still a major shortage of flights to the city and, when deregulation comes into being, the people in the outback and other remote areas will be the ones to suffer the most because the profits are not to be made on these routes. The profits can be made on the Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide routes, certainly not on the outback routes. Governments have a responsibility to ensure that these services to remote regions are retained and I give this House due notice that I will be pushing and fighting for an improvement in these services whilst I have breath in my body.

During my 17 years in public life nothing has given me more satisfaction than the establishment of the successful group apprenticeship scheme in my city. A little over 12 months ago the Mount Isa Group Apprenticeship and Traineeship Scheme was set up under my chairmanship and we budgeted to appoint seven apprentices within 12 months. Today I am happy to announce that, after just over 12 months of the scheme's operation, Mount Isa has 107 apprentices and traineeships. These young men and women would have been unemployed, but today they are learning trades; they have something to live for and goal in life. They are making a contribution to our community. This scheme was made possible through the financial assistance of both the State and Federal Governments, together with the ACTU Lend Lease Corporation. I commend this scheme to honourable members and suggest that if honourable members do not already have a scheme operating in their electorates, they should take immediate action to set one up.

While the City of Mount Isa is renown throughout the world for its mining industry, it is also surrounded by a progressive and efficient cattle industry. Men and women are working and living on these outback properties and providing the wealth of this State. There are many problems that these people face—problems which over the next three years I will be bringing to the attention of this Parliament. They are problems that have been ignored by the previous National Party Government.

I could go on speaking for much longer, highlighting some of the concerns I have for the people of my city and my district; however, during the next three years I will not be backward in coming forward with suggestions and ideas as to how conditions can be improved for this very important sector of this State. As I said before, Mount Isa and the surrounding district is the wealth generator of this State. Every tonne of ore that is extracted from the earth and every kilo of beef that is produced on cattle properties is new wealth—new wealth to be generated for the benefit of the people of this State.

The previous Government totally neglected the Mount Isa area over a period of 32 years. While the old Country Party was regarded as a friend of country people, in recent times the National Party abandoned those people and has paid dearly at the ballot-box for doing so. I believe that the policies of the Goss Labor Government will do a great deal to improve the living standards and the environment of country people. Today, Queensland enters a new era—an era in which honesty replaces deceit, ability replaces cronyism, firmness replaces discrimination and, finally, in which the word "integrity" regains its full meaning.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am a fortunate person for a number of reasons. Firstly, I have a city council which has been a great source of encouragement and support to me. In particular, I mention my colleague the Deputy Mayor of Mount Isa, Alderman Bob Moore, who over a long period of time has been in the background, helping and assisting me in my role in public life. Secondly, I have had the support of the people of the Mount Isa electorate—people from many lands, many creeds and many races; people from Europe, the Philippines, Africa and native-born Aborigines, such as Delma Barton, who has so much pride in her culture and who is a gifted poet. We have all joined together over a long period of time to do our best to improve conditions in our city. I

believe we have succeeded. There are people, too numerous to mention, for whom I have a high regard and whom I consider to be my personal friends.

Thirdly, I have been very fortunate in having a wife, Sandra, who has been totally supportive of me and a constant source of encouragement. Her advice is always spot-on. I give thanks to Sandra—without whom I could not have achieved anything—for her dedication over 24 years of married life. To my daughter, Susan, and son, Paul, I record my appreciation. I also mention a very old friend of mine, a man who has given years of his life to the public of Australia, a man who has excelled in everything he has done, a man who has made investments in Mount Isa and other parts of the State and who has been responsible for the organisation of so many events in Australia—in particular, the visits to Australia of His Holiness the Pope and Her Majesty the Queen. I place on record my thanks and appreciation to the Hon. Sir Asher Joel, who has been a constant source of encouragement and an adviser to me over many, many years. More importantly, he is my friend.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I could not conclude my maiden speech to this Parliament without referring to men and women, young and old, in the Australian Labor Party—in particular, the Mount Isa branch of the party—men and women who have waited 32 long years for the election of a Labor Government, men and women who never gave up hope and who were always ready to battle for our party even in its darkest hours. It makes me feel so humble and so inadequate when I consider the contribution they have made to our movement, to our State and to our nation.

I place on record my thanks to, and appreciation of, Mr Wayne Swan of the Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party and my campaign director at Mount Isa, Mr Roy Harris, together with my branch secretary, Mr John Kirkpatrick, and that group of men and women who worked so hard to ensure my election to this place. I thank my electorate secretary, Mrs Diane Sorrell, for her loyalty and dedication during the last five years as my mayoral secretary, and now in her new role as my electorate secretary.

I place on record my thanks to the ladies who worked so hard in the days leading up to my election and who raised many thousands of dollars for my election campaign; to my friends in the Mount Isa media who have reported my political career in a fair and professional manner—I can still call them personal friends of mine; to Alderman Rob Hulls, who was a great help to me during my campaign and who is now campaigning for the ALP as its candidate for Kennedy; to Alderman Ron McCullough, who I believe will take over as Mayor of Mount Isa on 1 April; to the old-timers, such as Vic Nielsen, who waited so long and who prayed for a Labor Government in Queensland; to all of those people of Mount Isa who helped me physically and financially; to personal friends, such as Ben and Chris Gillic, John and Ann Hetheron, Sammy and Grace Kokkinos, and Eddie and Linda Simpson. Where does one stop? How does one say, "Thank you."?

Queenslanders are at the dawn of a new beginning. We are led by a Premier who is honest, sincere, compassionate and above all, a man of ability. I believe that when historians write about this period in the history of Queensland, in particular the events leading up to 2 December 1989 and the landslide victory to the Goss Labor Government, they will all agree that that, surely, was Queensland's finest hour.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 to 2.30 p.m.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the honourable member for Barron River, I point out that this her maiden speech. I expect the House to show her the usual courtesies.

Dr CLARK (Barron River) (2.30 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the honourable member for Mount Isa, Mr Tony McGrady.

I express my personal loyalty to the Throne in the person of our Sovereign, Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and I include the people of the Barron River electorate in this expression of loyalty.

I extend to the Premier and to the Government my deepest appreciation for their having honoured me and my constituents in the electorate of Barron River in choosing me to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency.

My congratulations must also go to the Premier on his historic victory, a victory that saw the Labor Party returned to Government after 32 long years in Opposition. But the Premier's victory also returned something else that has been sorely missed in Queensland, that is, open and honest government.

Once again, the people of Queensland can have confidence in the parliamentary system to prevent corruption and to deliver democracy in the best Westminster tradition. Democracy is the most basic right of all Queenslanders, but one which has been denied to them for so long under the National Party.

The desire of Queenslanders to put an end to corruption was evident throughout the entire State. My presence here today is testament to that desire on the part of the people in my electorate of Barron River. For that, I thank them most sincerely. I thank also the large number of friends, supporters and Labor Party branch members who welded themselves so successfully into the team that delivered victory in Barron River.

I wish in particular to recognise party members such as Doug O'Donoghue of Mossman who have selflessly dedicated their lives to the cause of the Labor Party and for whom the outcome of the election on 2 December was a fitting and timely reward. Finally, I would like to say that without the support and encouragement of my husband, Ross, and children, David and Jennifer, who are in the gallery, I would certainly not be in this Chamber today.

I am acutely aware of the trust that has been placed in me by the people of Barron River. I assure them that at all times I will represent their interests to the best of my ability, regardless of their political persuasion. I will strive to realise the commitments that I and the Government have made and so ensure that their trust in me has not been misplaced.

I am deeply committed to a personal style, and indeed to a style of Government, founded on consultation, mutual respect and open dialogue. It is a relationship based on such premises that I offer to my constituents in Barron River and to my parliamentary colleagues. After witnessing the behaviour of my colleagues on the Opposition benches this morning, I realise that my commitment will be sorely tested.

I also bring to the people of Barron River knowledge and skills developed over five years as a member of the Mulgrave Shire Council under the able chairmanship of Councillor Tom Pyne, senior vice-president of the executive of the Queensland Local Government Association. I am sure that my colleagues who have also served on a local authority will agree that it is an excellent preparation for the demanding tasks that confront members of State Parliament.

I will now describe in some detail the nature of my electorate of Barron River and the challenges that I face as its elected representative. The electorate stretches across three local authorities from the northern suburbs of Cairns city in the south, through the increasingly suburban townships of Mulgrave Shire that I currently represent, to the wilderness of Cape Tribulation and Bloomfield in the Douglas Shire to the north.

It is also an electorate with a diversity of peoples—Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, as well as Asians and Europeans—all contributing their cultures to enrich our lives. The numerous ethnic restaurants in Cairns provide clear evidence of the multicultural nature of the Cairns region.

I believe that I can claim without fear of contradiction that Barron River ranks as one of the most scenically spectacular electorates in Queensland, if not in Australia. The coastal scenery of rainforest-covered mountains, rivers, mangrove forests and sandy beaches is without equal. Its environmental significance is recognised internationally by

the existence of two World Heritage areas within the electorate, namely, the wet tropics and the Great Barrier Reef.

The electorate includes the famous Daintree rainforest. That area, more accurately described as Cape Tribulation, has become famous as the area where the rainforest meets the reef and was, of course, the focus of protest when the previous State Government supported the bulldozing of the infamous Daintree road to Bloomfield through the Cape Tribulation National Park. Only a week ago, I flew over that road and it is still eroding, pouring red silt onto the adjacent fringing reef every time it rains.

British naturalist, David Attenborough, has described the time that he spent in the Daintree rainforest as "one of the magical experiences of my life". I regard myself as privileged to have had that same magical experience many times. Many of the animals inhabiting the area are in fact found nowhere else in the world. Just four examples are the Thornton Peak melomely, the Daintree River ringtail possum, the recently discovered white lemuroid possum, and the Bennetts tree kangaroo. The magnificent natural attractions of my electorate and those surrounding it in far-north Queensland have provided the impetus for the massive explosion in tourism that has occurred in the last five years.

I will document briefly the nature of the tourism growth in Barron River, because few people really appreciate the extent of that growth and the speed with which it has occurred. Figures from the Bureau of Tourism Research in Canberra indicate that in the 1987-88 financial year the far-north Queensland region received 915 000 domestic visitors. In 1988, the region received approximately 320 000 international visitors. On the basis of those figures, and despite the pilots dispute, it is likely that in 1990 there will be approximately 1.3 million visitors to Cairns.

This level of visitation has been growing very rapidly since the opening of the Cairns international airport in 1984. Figures for visitor nights in hotels and motels in the far-north Queensland statistical division show a 25 per cent annual increase since that time, with a 100 per cent increase in the last three years. Statistics from the Department of Transport and Communication indicate that Cairns is now the busiest non-metropolitan airport in Australia, with a 13.4 per cent increase in passenger movements since 1983.

The economic value of tourism to far-north Queensland is estimated by the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation to be in the vicinity of \$400m—more than twice the value of cane sugar, the traditional source of wealth in the region. Although there are no figures that relate specifically to the Barron River electorate, it does contain the two fastest growing tourist areas in the region, namely the Marlin Coast and Port Douglas, and it is therefore in my electorate that both the costs and the benefits of tourism are starkly revealed.

These statistics tell a compelling story and they also help to explain why the impact of the pilots dispute has hit the Cairns region so hard. In the light of this, I would like to express my gratitude to the Federal Government for providing a one-off special assistance grant of \$100,000 to the Douglas Shire Tourism Association, in addition to the multimillion-dollar rescue package provided to Queensland.

It gives me great pleasure to say that the Goss Government has kept its election pledge of assistance to the tourist industry and has provided \$2.2m for a marketing campaign, which has been successfully launched. In excess of \$2m has also been provided by way of loans from the QIDC, and I anticipate that Treasury will make additional funds available as required under this scheme. In addition, payroll tax and licence fees have been waived.

While there is no doubt that the recovery of the tourist industry is well under way and that predictions for the 1990 season are very encouraging, I regret to say that some businesses are still in deep financial trouble and that many may not survive until the next tourist season beginning in June. Therefore, on behalf of my constituents, very many of whom depend for their livelihood on the tourist industry, I urge both Federal

and State Governments to give further consideration to providing additional short-term financial assistance to those businesses with the ability to become viable again when the tourists return.

The recent downturn in the tourist industry has highlighted the need to retain in Barron River the strong primary industries that characterise it, in particular cane-farming. Mossman township, the site of Mossman mill, is the administrative centre of the Douglas Shire. It has been relatively unaffected by the explosion in tourism and still retains a strong sense of community, that very special hallmark of Queensland country towns.

The Mossman sugar-mill, which was established in 1984, has been at the forefront of technology, being the first mill in Queensland to computerise its operations. More recently, under the astute leadership of Mr Don Watson, director of the Mossman Central Mill Company, it has led the way in diversification, with interests in aquaculture that will increasingly contribute to the economic viability of the mill.

I would also like to recognise the dedicated work force of the Mossman mill, whose efforts consistently produce a high-quality product. Their support during the election campaign was much appreciated.

Other primary industries, such as the growing of rare tropical fruits and flowers, have a vast potential, and I look forward to continuing my support for their efforts to secure markets for their products both here in Australia and overseas.

I have clearly documented the economic significance of the tourist industry to my electorate. There is no doubt that tourism does bring a range of benefits such as increased employment and a wider range of recreational and retail shopping opportunities. In some cases it may result in the preservation of historic buildings or improved management of environmentally sensitive areas.

Another less obvious but important benefit of tourism has been the recognition and appreciation of Aboriginal and Islander cultures. Tourists are extremely eager to learn more about Australia's indigenous people and their culture.

My own interest and concern for indigenous people goes back to the time when I spent a year teaching as a volunteer in Africa and was reflected in my choice of post-graduate study, namely, the learning styles of Aboriginal children. Subsequently, much of my work as an educator and guidance councillor has been aimed at assisting Aboriginal and Islander students to achieve their personal and career goals.

I am therefore personally delighted to see how Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in the far north have themselves successfully seized the opportunity to share their culture with visitors, thereby enriching their experience of Australia. The Tjapukai Dance Theatre Company based in Kuranda is in fact currently touring Europe with the Australian Tourist Commission promoting Australia.

Within my own electorate there are currently two Aboriginal companies involved in tourist ventures. In Mossman, people may be guided along the Kuku Yulanji dreaming trail and can see the rainforest through the eyes of the people who have lived there for over 40 000 years.

At Trinity Beach nears Cairns, the Warrama Living History Centre will soon be open to the public. There, an amphitheatre, restaurant and museum will be established and craft demonstrations will be held, all designed to entertain and educate with respect to Aboriginal and Islander culture. Torres Strait island dancing is also featured at the nearby Kewarra resort at a weekly island feast evening.

The significance of these enterprises lies, I believe, with their ability to foster economic independence and cultural identity and to increase understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Islander culture. From this can grow increased self-respect and self-confidence, surely the cornerstones for self-determination and achievement for Aboriginal and Islander people. I therefore believe that support for enterprises such as those should be a priority for both Federal and State Governments.

Although I recognise the benefits of tourism, it must also be acknowledged that tourism is, in a very real sense, a double-edged sword, having the ability to bestow benefits but also to extract a high price from the local community and the natural environment.

Under the National Party Government, anybody who dared suggest—as did the member for Cairns, Mr Keith De Lacy—that there was a dark side to tourism was immediately howled down. I personally suffered abuse from the former member for Barron River, Mr Martin Tenni, being derided as a "one-eyed knocker" because I dared to raise my voice against a development undertaken by a particular friend of the former member.

Yet the evidence is overwhelming from both within Australia and overseas that poorly managed tourism development and its accompanying growth has the potential to destroy both the social fabric of the local community and the natural environment that supports it.

The environmental impact of tourism is a question that has generated intense study both here and overseas. Thus there have been numerous studies and inquiries, all aimed at coming to grips with critical issues that go to the heart of the tourism industry here in Queensland and which are seen in microcosm in the electorate of Barron River. To put it most simply, the tourist industry in my electorate is dependent for its continued viability on being able to market the superb natural environment as its key attraction. Without that special sense of place which our natural assets provide, we will become indistinguishable from any number of destinations throughout the world. Yet there is a danger that the very environment which the industry seeks to promote—indeed, on which it depends—will be destroyed by developers who are interested only in short-term profit.

In Barron River, the coastal zone and the forested hillsides are the key areas which have already been impacted by development and which are most at risk. Already, siltation and pollution of our waterways threaten the Great Barrier Reef, to say nothing of the prospect of oil spills. To cross the ferry over the Daintree River is to cross over into another world, which both I and the residents cherish and which we believe must be developed only with extreme care.

While the northern parts of my electorate are the most pristine and unspoilt, that very same care must be exercised throughout my electorate. It is critical that we determine the means whereby we can both encourage tourism development and yet preserve the environmental assets on which it is based. Whilst there is no simple, ready answer, there is enormous scope for improving on the way that this issue was addressed by the previous Government. We can no longer assume—as did the National Party—that developers will control themselves, because they rarely take the long-term view.

Once a project is completed and the environmental damage done, a developer can simply sell out and walk away with his profits. Alternatively, he can change the focus of his marketing strategy to the artificial rather than the natural. Consequently, some external regulations and controls must be in place, otherwise developers will continue to say, "I came, I saw and I concreted."

It is for this reason that the Goss Government is committed to working with local authorities to achieve land-use planning that will protect significant environmental areas. Already, a coastal protection unit is being formed within the Department of Environment and Heritage, and I look forward to the establishment of a joint coastal protection authority being formed by adjoining local authorities in my electorate. These joint authorities are an important feature of our coastal management strategy so that regional planning can be facilitated. The current method of dealing with development on a project-by-project basis, or even a shire-by-shire basis, is inadequate insofar as it fails to take account of the accumulative effects of adjacent developments.

The cooperation that is now possible between the State and Federal Governments has resulted in great progress towards the formation of a World Heritage management

authority for the wet tropics. There is no doubt of the great need to urgently proceed with these arrangements so as to ensure the most appropriate and careful management of our internationally recognised rainforests.

In addition, the Goss Government is also committed to the establishment of mechanisms that will resolve conflict over land use—mechanisms that will ensure that the decisions ultimately reflect the values of the broader community and not just those of developers, as has occurred so often in the past. The present Government review of the Local Government Court appeal system is designed to achieve just such an outcome.

The Goss Government will also be reviewing existing procedures for environmental impact assessment, because this is fundamental to the management of our natural heritage in the public interest. This issue of impact assessment was addressed in detail by the Industries Assistance Commission inquiry into travel and tourism, which released its findings last year.

I concur with Professor Burns of Flinders University who, on request, prepared an independent paper on the social and environmental impact of tourism for the commission. Professor Burns suggested the establishment of an autonomous agency to undertake environmental impact assessment studies. He recognised quite rightly that developers do not have an incentive to prepare an appropriate environmental impact statement that outlines the real costs and benefits of a proposal. He argued, too, for full public participation and review in the assessment process. Queenslanders are currently denied such input, which has long been recognised by the Federal Government as essential in a democracy.

The kind of information in an environmental impact study is frequently inadequate to properly assess a proposal. Thus, at present there is little or no attempt to evaluate either the economic or social implications of a development. The economic benefits purported to accrue to a community from a particular development never take account of the loss of the environmental assets in dollar terms. For example, if the real cost involved in losing our wetlands to coastal development was accurately assessed, it would almost certainly reveal a net loss to the community of some such developments.

The other major deficiency in the environmental impact assessment process that was inherited from the National Party is the failure to require developers to assess the social impact of their developments. This was also an area addressed by the Industries Assistance Commission inquiry, to which I gave evidence. The inquiry recognised that adverse social impacts do occur but that such outcomes are observed whenever there is economic development and associated structural change, as is most surely occurring in the greater Cairns area as a direct result of the tourism boom.

As a Mulgrave Shire councillor, I voiced my concern for our community and in that role initiated action that led to the successful application to the Federal Government for funding to investigate the social impact of rapid development in our area. Statistics gathered during that study paint an alarming picture. Many of the problems that we are experiencing stem from the extraordinarily high levels of population growth in the region. In the Mulgrave Shire part of my electorate, since 1983, there has been a 60 per cent increase in population. This one division of the shire now has approximately 24 000 residents. In Port Douglas further to the north, the population has more than doubled since the commencement of construction of the Mirage resort in 1985. This growth is reflected in the Barron River electoral rolls—a 32 per cent increase between 1986 and 1989.

In most cases, the new arrivals to the far north lack the extended family support networks that are so vital to single people or people with young families. They often come with few financial resources, expecting to find work, and are unprepared to cope with the reality that they experience.

Speculation and demand have escalated land prices, which are then reflected in exorbitant rents and house prices. The result is a regional centre in far-north Queensland

with social problems almost identical with those on the Gold Coast, but with a fraction of the resources to deal with them.

For example, Police Department records indicate that last year in the Cairns area the rate of personal offences including rape was higher than that of the Gold Coast, with property offences close behind. Last year, because of the high level of property offences in the area and the lack of police, I encouraged residents in the area of Holloways Beach, one of the townships on the Marlin Coast, to establish a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Because I am a mother of two children, the increased rate of violent crime quite honestly scares me. We have lost that sense of security that we once had.

The housing situation is a nightmare, particularly for pensioners and those on the basic wage. In 1986, the average weekly rental in the Cairns region was a mere \$81. In August 1989, just three years later, the average rent for an ordinary three-bedroom home was \$220 a week. Even a one-bedroom unit cost in the order of \$130 a week. Worse still, a person living in Port Douglas would need \$350 a week to rent a house. As can be seen, these prices are comparable with those in Sydney and are well above those in Brisbane.

Because of the virtual non-existence of public housing in my electorate, many people have no choice but to pay those rents or live in overcrowded shared accommodation. Mulgrave Shire is particularly badly off, with a mere 14 houses owned by the Housing Commission in this part of the electorate and no crisis accommodation of any kind. In July 1989, the average house price was \$164,000, a 60 per cent increase in one year and again an increase second only to Sydney.

At present my electorate has not a single Government-built child care centre, and there are no staff from community health or Family Services based in the electorate to provide much needed services and support. Not surprisingly, there exists in my electorate a deep dissatisfaction with the legacy of the National Party in the areas of housing and law enforcement. But the same is true of education, health, welfare and transport. My commitment as the local member is to build Government services back up to a level sufficient to cope with the needs of my constituents.

The Goss Government has recognised already that far-north Queensland has suffered years of neglect and has begun to address these problems in my electorate, for which I am deeply grateful. A building program will begin this year at the Smithfield Police Station on the Marlin Coast in order for it to provide a 24-hour service. No longer will six police officers have to provide a service to 20 000 people, as was the case under the previous Government.

In the coming months, residents will begin to see the extension of work on the Captain Cook Highway to progressively upgrade it to a four-lane highway through to Buchans Point, a promise never fulfilled by the previous Government. On the basis of the recent Cairns transport study, I anticipate that the work will be substantially completed by 1996. During that time, significant upgrading work will also be carried out on the remainder of the Captain Cook Highway to Mossman. Other main roads in the electorate north of Mossman will be progressively upgraded to meet the needs of resident and tourist traffic.

Community service needs in the Mossman/Port Douglas area have also been recognised by the allocation of funding for a social worker to be employed by the Mossman and Port Douglas counselling service to provide much needed assistance to people in that area. A community health nurse will also be appointed this year to work full-time in the Douglas Shire.

There are currently two neighbourhood centres being established within my electorate. They are the result of the dedicated efforts of two community groups who last year despaired at the lack of Government support services in the area and took the initiative to help themselves. Such groups can be assured of my continuing support.

The Government has already acted to remedy the appalling record of the National Party with respect to housing—the cornerstone of family life. The family housing package

is now in operation to assist families to buy their own homes. Following the passage through the House of the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Bill, almost twice as much money will be spent on housing next year. I have no doubt that my constituents in Barron River, along with other Queenslanders, will benefit from the Government's initiatives in this most important area.

With regard to education—I am immensely pleased that the Minister has responded so promptly to my representations and has approved acquisition of two blocks of land for school sites within the Mulgrave Shire to cope with the growing school enrolments and a third site is under active investigation. The other exciting educational initiative in my electorate which I hope both the Federal and State Governments will support is the Cairns campus of the James Cook University, where I worked as a lecturer in education before my election to Parliament. The campus currently operates from the Cairns College of TAFE but it is planned to move it out into my electorate, to land at Smithfield, and to commence building as soon as sufficient funds are available. Both the Mulgrave Shire Council and the Cairns City Council, together with many private citizens and companies, have already made significant financial contributions to this project. As a founding member of the committee which established the campus in Cairns, I look forward to the opening of the campus at Smithfield and I pledge my personal support to that project.

The ability of Government to provide adequate services in high-growth areas has always lagged behind demand. Increased visitation to natural areas has also imposed a cost in resource management that the Government has been unable to meet. I believe, therefore, that we must adopt a new philosophy in such areas, namely, that developers must take account of the costs that they impose on others as a consequence of that development.

One such means of seeking to make developers pay is the imposition of betterment taxes, which are now levied in other Australian States. These taxes are levied in recognition of the situation where a rezoning permits the private property-owner to reap a capital gain. Apart from ensuring that the community obtains some economic benefit as a result of the rezoning, betterment taxes would also reduce private incentives to seek rezoning for the sake of windfall gains, as often occurs in far-north Queensland.

An alternative to a betterment tax has been put forward by Professor Buckley of Bond University. He suggests that a resource-rent tax based on the assumption that our environment capital is a public asset and when it is used to produce private income it should attract some charge. I believe that this concept is particularly useful in the case of foreign investment, the level of which is causing concern amongst my constituents in Barron River.

The foreign investment policy of our Government is correctly based on the premise that it must benefit Queenslanders and Queensland. In most cases, the guidelines of the Federal Government's Foreign Investment Review Board are adequate. However, I welcome the commitment given by our Premier that there will be an inquiry into the level and nature of foreign investment in our tourist industry. I believe that the inquiry should be broad ranging and give consideration to the following proposals: leaseholding, rather than freeholding, of land wherever possible, but certainly in the case of Crown land; requirements to use Australian labour, goods and services in construction and operation or a tax on foreign products and services used in substitution; some form of environmental performance bond to guard against degradation of the environment and some form of direct or indirect tax such as betterment tax or resource rent as described earlier. The assumption underlying this approach is that the Australian environment is an asset belonging to all Australians and further that the costs of environmental degradation and social disruption are borne solely by Australians. In the light of this, some monetary compensation is only fair and reasonable if Australians are not to be short changed.

I hope that this description of the special qualities and problems of my electorate will help that majority of members of the House who live in the south-east corner of

Queensland to realise that the far north Queensland must not be forgotten or overlooked. It is in that context that I must honour a commitment made to my constituents and join the member for Mount Isa and raise the question of daylight-saving in this, my maiden speech. I can assure honourable members that right at this very moment there is no other issue which generates such strong emotions on the part of the people in far-north Queensland. Surveys have been carried out and others are under way, including one at my electorate office. There is no doubt that, on the basis of surveys taken so far, that the majority of people in the far north and in my electorate are strongly against the introduction of daylight-saving. I freely admit that I was most supportive of the idea initially, and still acknowledge its significant economic benefit to the State as a whole. Despite that, I have to say that for many people in far-north Queensland it simply does not suit our life-style. The heat of the late afternoon is wearing, to say the least, when we can be eating our evening meal in temperatures of 30 degrees. I will detail my constituents' objections at the appropriate time when this issue is fully debated in the House.

I would like to conclude today by posing the question: what does the future hold for Barron River?

Despite what honourable members have heard today about the problems confronting my electorate, I feel very optimistic about the future because I know that the people in my electorate share my concerns, and have the energy and determination to overcome them with me. Thus it was the people of Cairns and Mulgrave who came out in their thousands to join together on the Cairns esplanade when we protested against the McKeller Corporation's plans to reclaim the Cairns mudflats for a \$500m integrated resort development. It was the people of Port Douglas who effectively stopped Quintex from further encroachment into the wetlands of Dickson Inlet for more condominiums and extensions to their golf course.

It is a mistake to think that these people have just been a noisy minority. Comprehensive public opinion surveys carried out by the James Cook University and private consultants reveal that the majority of people in Cairns, Mulgrave and Port Douglas want the Government to plan for development in such a way that our special environment is not degraded. Whilst they recognise and welcome the economic benefit of tourism, the majority are in fact willing to forgo some of those benefits in order to protect the environment.

This increasing commitment to our environment and life-style has been fostered by my friends in the conservation movement in far-north Queensland who have long been a dedicated and vigilant force, endeavouring to ensure that all levels of government give environmental issues the priority that they deserve.

I have also worked closely with ratepayer and resident associations that actively participate in the decision-making process, and I can assure the House of their concern too. At just about every meeting the impact of development on their life-style and the environment is on the agenda, and hotly debated.

I am optimistic, too, because I have faith in women. It is no coincidence that the majority of notable conservationists in Queensland, past and present, are women. Dr Aila Keto, president of the Rainforest Conservation Society, Elizabeth Bourne, ex-director of the Queensland Conservation Council, and Rosemary Hill, vice-president of the Australian Conservation Foundation are just some who come readily to mind. In Cairns the founding member of the Wildlife Preservation Society was Joan Wright and I have been the president of that Cairns branch for seven years.

I believe women in my electorate share my concerns about the environment. Women want to have a greater role in determining the future that their children must face, and so they are increasingly extending their compassion and caring beyond the confines of the social environment of the family to the broader community and to the natural environment. The election of so many women to the Parliament is surely testament to that movement, and I know that other women here share with me a determination to keep environmental issues at the forefront of our thinking.

The role of local government is very much one of responding to the needs and concerns of its community. I am pleased to say that in my electorate all three local authorities have indeed recognised the importance of the environment and are giving that recognition expression in their town-planning documents. It gives me great personal satisfaction to have contributed to that process within the Mulgrave Shire.

The only thing that has been missing to secure the future of Barron River has been a State Government willing to listen and to give effect to the voice of the people. The last State member pledged his support for development no matter how many people protested. He was quite unable to comprehend the changes of attitude that had occurred in his electorate. Hence I am here in his place today.

The election of a Goss Labor Government with its commitment to sound environmental policies and to listen to the people will put an end to the development at any cost philosophy that was the driving force of the National Party.

Development will continue in Queensland but it will be development which can be sustained. It will be development which will benefit all Queenslanders. But, most importantly, I believe that it will be development that allows for the protection of our extraordinary natural environment, both for its own sake and for future generations to appreciate and to cherish. That is the kind of development that I have always supported and I look forward to being part of that future in Barron River. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Debate, on motion of Mr Cooper, adjourned.

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION BILL

Hon. W. K. GOSS (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (3.08 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to provide for a Public Sector Management Commission, to amend the Public Service Management and Employment Act 1988-1989 in certain respects, to provide for appeals by public sector employees in relation to grievances and for related purposes"

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr W. K. Goss, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. W. K. GOSS (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (3.09 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Three months ago the people of Queensland voted decisively for change—

- change in the way our economy is developed and managed;
- change in the priority given to vital services such as education, health and police; and
- change in the way that we, as a State, care for and nurture our environment.

But there was one change demanded above all. On that day in December, the voters of Queensland declared a common concern—that there should be fundamental change in the way that government is conducted and managed in this State. After three decades of National/Liberal mismanagement and after two years of Fitzgerald inquiry revelations, the people declared that they wanted good government—

- government that appoints and promotes its employees on the basis of merit and not political or personal connections;

- government that gives equal opportunity to all people to compete for positions;
- government that seriously confronts corruption and malpractice;
- government that conscientiously attacks waste and mismanagement, and is rigorous in redirecting resources to areas of greatest need.

In short, the people of Queensland want a Government able to guarantee the highest standards of accountability, integrity and professionalism.

Four months before the election, as Opposition Leader, I presented the Queensland community with a strategy for good government. I called this strategy "Making Government Work". The choice of title was deliberate. Reform of public administration in this State requires more than endless statements about accountability, it needs implementation of a carefully considered and far-reaching package of reforms.

Since taking office, my Government has moved quickly to implement several of these reforms. Firstly, we reorganised departments to improve lines of accountability, enhance co-ordination and improve ministerial control. Under the previous Government, 18 Ministers were responsible for 28 departments, with some Ministers responsible for more than one department. Ministers with more than one department had to deal with separate organisational structures and individual chief executives. Inevitably, co-ordination suffered and lines of accountability were blurred.

We addressed this chaotic situation by reducing the number of departments to 18 to correspond with the number of Ministers. Each Minister is now supported by a single department and a single chief executive. Chief executives are now responsible for assisting their Ministers to achieve the Government's objectives for the whole of their portfolio. The performance their task, and that of Ministers, will be aided by a sensible grouping of functions.

Under conservative rule, new functions were grouped together without regard to any overall plan. Groupings were often unrelated or even in potential conflict. A notorious example of the latter was the co-location of forestry and environment under the control of the former member for Whitsunday!

By contrast with previous arrangements, portfolios in my Government have a rational and meaningful basis. Portfolio groupings are designed to maximise coordination between closely related areas. They will also avoid obvious conflicts of interest. Further, they will support the Government's primary objectives for administrative reform, economic growth and social justice.

Since taking office, my Government has also been concerned to ensure that appointments to Government positions reflect the best available talent, and are made solely on the basis of merit. An immediate priority has been chief executive positions in departments. An overriding concern has been that appointments to these important positions should be absolutely free from any suggestion of patronage or nepotism of the kind engaged in by the people opposite.

Members will be aware that this Government has made a series of acting appointments to chief executive positions. Those appointed include former chief executives who have demonstrated a clear capacity to serve in their appointed positions. Also promoted have been a number of senior officers with outstanding management and policy skills. These people have not been promoted on the basis of political connections, but solely on the basis of merit. Indeed, their political associations have been neither known nor sought by the Government.

A third priority of this Government since taking office has been to further implement recommendations of the Fitzgerald inquiry. Chairpersons have been appointed to the Criminal Justice Commission and to the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission. Procedures are well under way for filling staff positions in both organisations. In the field of public administration, the Government expects that the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission will play a major reforming role. Initially, its

preoccupation will be with the electoral review. However, the commission will also be developing recommendations for—

- protection of whistle-blowers;
- registration of party political donations; and
- for judicial review of administrative decisions.

A comprehensive code of conduct for public officials is another concern of this commission. As I have said, this Government fully supports the work of the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission. Its reviews will contribute substantially to improving ethical standards and practice in public administration. But the EARC and the CJC are not the only new bodies needed if good government is to be guaranteed.

There is need for a third and complementary organisation—a public sector management commission. The Bill before the House provides for such a commission. The commission's proposed functions are detailed in Part II, Division 3, of the Bill. In essence, the PSMC will have four principal roles. First, it is proposed that the commission will undertake a detailed management review of all public sector units covered by this Bill.

Good Government is not only about probity and ethical conduct, vital as these are; it is also about ensuring—

- that resources are deployed to areas of greatest need;
- that organisational structures are the most appropriate;
- that management and personnel systems are fully effective and equitable; and
- that appropriate performance standards are established and monitored in each agency.

For far too long, areas of Government in Queensland have been allowed to operate without rigorous review. The Public Sector Management Commission will undertake this much-needed task. Reviews will be undertaken by commission staff working in close consultation with Ministers, chief executives and agency personnel. Each review will address the appropriateness of—

- unit goals,
- organisational structures,
- reporting relationships,
- staff levels and mixes, and
- operational and staffing practices.

It is intended that within two years every organisation in the Queensland Government will have been reviewed by this commission.

One key issue to be addressed will be the management and operation of statutory authorities and Government enterprises. If Government wishes to manage its operations effectively and with full accountability, it must ensure that proper relationships exist between quangos and responsible Ministers. In the course of its review, the PSMC will address some very basic questions about the role and operations of each statutory body, such as—

- is the organisation needed;
- would its policy role be better incorporated into departmental structures;
- does it allocate resources sensibly and rationally; and
- are its activities consistent with the economic and social objectives of the Government?

I make the point that this Government is not about stifling initiative and enterprise in public sector corporations. On the contrary, it is committed to establishing the most effective organisational arrangements for whatever enterprise or activity is in question. We want to incorporate the best of private sector practice in both public service and

non-public service units. However, we are equally determined that, whatever arrangements are developed, they will produce organisations which are accountable and responsible to Government and community values.

The second major role of the PSMC will be to recommend appropriate management standards for application across public sector units. A particular focus will be on developing personnel management standards. The Office of Public Service Personnel Management was established by the National Party Government, which understood little about the importance of sound staff management, let alone principles of equity and merit. Under the Public Service Management and Employment Act, OPSPM has had little power to establish effective personnel standards for departments. It has had no authority whatsoever to monitor observance of these standards, nor has it had any role to play in setting standards for non-public service units.

It is proposed that the OPSPM will be abolished. This will be achieved by repealing relevant sections of the Public Service Management and Employment Act. In place of OPSPM, the PSMC will develop personnel and other management standards for consideration by Government. It will then issue these standards following approval by me as Premier and the Government. Management standards will have potential application to all public sector units covered by the Bill. The extent of their application to non-public service areas will be determined by the Government.

I emphasise that all public sector units will continue to have a large degree of independence in managing their staff. This includes departmental chief executives. There will be no return to the days of the Public Service Board and its detailed control over staffing. Chief executives must be allowed freedom to manage their resources, and to take responsibility for doing so. Nevertheless, the commission will be looking to establish appropriate management standards for application in both public service and public sector units.

The Government has made a commitment to re-establishing effective co-ordination of the public sector. Part of the accountability of Government is to ensure that proper management standards are in place throughout the public sector and that these standards fully reflect principles of accountability, equity and merit. All management standards will require chief executives to observe particular principles and, in some cases, particular practices. Observance of these principles will be carefully monitored by the commission. One priority will be to ensure that all appointment procedures are firmly based on the principles of merit and equity. The PSMC will be reviewing recruitment and selection procedures in all public sector units covered by the Bill. In doing so, it will consult closely with the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission. It is intended that the PSMC will issue comprehensive standards for recruitment and selection of staff. It will not itself undertake the selection process; rather, it will ensure that processes are fair, that each candidate receives proper consideration and that justice is done and seen to be done.

A third and vital role for the commission will be to establish adequate procedures for staff grievances. All employees of Government have rights as well as obligations. They have a right to expect that procedures for filling jobs will be fair and based on merit. They have a right to expect equal pay for equal value in accordance with approved standards. They have a right to expect that sound management practices will be applied to them. And they have a right to expect that, if aggrieved about a decision, their grievance will be heard and heard fairly. Management standards to be established by the commission will provide a clear framework for chief executives to manage their staff fairly, and with due regard to principles of equity and merit. However, from time to time, staff grievances will occur about the application of particular management standards. Areas where complaints may arise include classification, promotion, redeployment and discipline. The Government believes that, as far as possible, all public sector employees should have access to simple but effective grievance mechanisms. Avenues of appeal should extend to all aspects of personnel management including promotion, classification and discipline. Under the Bill, appeal processes will be established through regulation

and through standards to be issued by the commission. In all cases where a grievance occurs, chief executives will be encouraged to resolve the grievance internally. Guidelines will be issued by the PSMC to facilitate this process equitably.

However, where an employee still feels aggrieved, he or she will be able to appeal to an independent body. For this purpose, the Bill provides for a new statutory office, the Commissioner for Public Sector Equity. The Commissioner for Public Sector Equity will be one of the three commissioners appointed to the PSMC. The Bill gives employees the right to appeal to the commissioner against actions taken or not taken in relation to approved management standards. The commissioner will be empowered to settle the grievance. He or she can do this either informally or by establishing a hearing process. The commissioner will have full powers to determine the appeal. This will include the power to direct the employee's organisation to undertake remedial action.

Initially, the commissioner will hear promotion and discipline appeals by public servants only. Standards for these appeals have already been established under the Public Service Management and Employment Act. Eventually, procedures will be introduced to enable all types of grievances to be heard by the commissioner. All public sector employees, not just public servants, will be covered by this protection. Classification appeals will be considered by a specially constituted body—the Classification Review Tribunal.

The Bill provides for this tribunal to be chaired by the Commissioner for Public Sector Equity. It will consider grievances in cases where an employee feels that his or her position has not been appropriately classified in accordance with standards approved by the Industrial Commission. Again, the tribunal may choose to resolve a grievance informally—the preferred method—or it may decide to conduct a hearing and make a formal determination. The establishment of simple but effective grievance procedures for all public sector employees will be a significant step on the path to good government. It will assist in maintaining staff morale and help to ensure that sound management practices are effectively and fairly applied to all employees.

Some public sector managers may be concerned about the extension of grievance procedures, particularly to areas outside the public service. I want to reassure these managers. There is no intention to introduce systems that will unduly tie down decision-making or interfere with management prerogatives. All grievance procedures established by the PSMC will be non-legalistic. As I have said, every effort will be made to resolve grievances by conciliation and negotiation, both within the organisation and through the Commissioner for Public Sector Equity. Where the commissioner is involved in an appeal, that appeal will be heard expeditiously and full consideration will be given to the views of line management as well as to those of the appellant.

There is also a fourth role proposed for the commission. There is considerable emphasis nowadays on improving the management skills of Australian executives, in business and in public spheres. We expect senior executives to have very high management skills, possess ability to think laterally and to have a capacity for sustained hard work. In the public sector we are also demanding that managers understand the need for accountability. These imperatives are much evident in the Queensland public sector. My Government will be expecting high standards of performance in public sector organisations. There is a far-reaching agenda of change. There are many new programs to be successfully developed and implemented. Much of the responsibility for managing these changes will fall on the shoulders of senior executives in departments and authorities. We must ensure, therefore, that we have the best people operating at these levels. To do this, we need new systems to recruit top managers, develop them and reward them for outstanding performance.

It is also vital that good managers are able to be deployed to those parts of the public sector where their skills can be used most effectively. We can no longer afford the situation where good managers remain in the one organisation or career stream for most or all of their working life, nor can we afford artificial barriers that prevent effective mobility between public service and non-public service units. A priority task for the

commission will be to develop and implement the Government's proposals for two new executive services.

The Chief Executive Service will comprise top management positions. It will offer incentives for maximum performance, opportunities for mobility and avenues for exchange between sectors. It will be supported by a Senior Executive Service, giving encouragement and recognition to the qualities required for effective management. All senior managers included in, or recruited to, the Senior Executive Service will be required to possess core management skills and competencies. Mobility of managers will be encouraged between public sector units, and training programs will be provided to enable them to maintain their leading edge in management skills. Ongoing membership of the SES will be dependent on proven performance. In short, members of the CES and the SES will provide a skilled and flexible management group, well able to deliver sound policy and well able to manage complex programs.

The commission will be given responsibility for coordination of the CES and SES. However, chief executives of departments and authorities will undertake much of the management of SES members themselves. Introduction of the Chief Executive Service and Senior Executive Service will be the subject of separate legislation at a later date. Consultations will be held with senior staff, unions and others in developing legislative proposals.

I now turn to the composition of the Public Sector Management Commission. As proposed in the Bill, the commission will comprise three commissioners, one of whom will be the chair. Initially commissioners will be appointed for terms of not less than two, and not more than four, years. Subsequent appointments will be for three-year terms. At no time will any commissioner be able to serve for more than two consecutive terms. This will ensure that the commission is periodically injected with fresh talent and new perspectives.

My Government is committed to appointing commissioners with a high degree of expertise and professional standing. Advertisements have already appeared in national newspapers seeking high-calibre applicants from management, academic, industrial and merit protection fields. Indeed, you will notice, Mr Speaker, that the Bill requires vacancies on the commission to be advertised nationally and for appointees to have extensive knowledge or experience in one or more of the areas I have mentioned. Appointments to the commission will be announced as soon as possible.

The commission will be supported by expert staff, proficient in organisational review, human resource management and merit protection. It is intended that all staff of the commission will be in place soon after the appointment of the commissioners. I have said that the commission will work closely with individual agencies during the review phase and also during the development and implementation of management standards. Consultation and facilitation will be key features of the commission's style.

In undertaking reviews, the Public Sector Management Commission will be assisted by an advisory board. Two members of the board will be appointed to advise the commission on the review process generally. One of these members will have business experience; the other, substantial knowledge of industrial relations or human resource management. The other board members will be drawn from, or nominated by, the organisations with an interest in the reviews. This will help to maintain overall balance and good working relationships. As I have said, consultation and facilitation will feature largely in the commission's work. However, the Government proposes to give the commission substantial powers to enable it to perform its role effectively and with clear authority. Part IV of the Bill sets out these powers. The commission will be authorised to investigate any matter relevant to—

- the conduct of reviews;
- monitoring of standards;
- merit protection; and
- any other function performed by the commission.

The commission will be empowered to require any public sector employee to provide information or documents relevant to an investigation. It will also have power to summon an employee of any public sector unit to appear before it. It will have power to make recommendations to a public sector unit and to specify a time-frame for completion of the proposed action. Should the organisation fail to comply with the commission's recommendations, the commission will be authorised to report this failure to the Minister responsible for that organisation, provided that the commission has given sufficient opportunity for the organisation to comment on the proposed report.

The Government hopes that, in practice, under this provision, the Public Sector Management Commission will not be required to report to Ministers. It is hoped that, in encouraging public sector units to review their practices, managers and staff will understand and support recommendations for improvement.

Since taking office, this Government has received considerable cooperation from the public service and from statutory authorities. It is my belief that this cooperation will continue and deepen.

The responsibilities of the Public Sector Management Commission will extend to all organisations within the public sector. Some exemptions will apply.

The commission will have no jurisdiction over the parliamentary service, as staff of this service are the responsibility of Parliament. It will not have jurisdiction over the police force. Members will recall that the Criminal Justice Commission has been assigned responsibility for oversight of the police force in line with Fitzgerald recommendations.

Universities and CAEs will also be exempted from the provisions of the legislation, as will primary producer organisations not in receipt of Government funding. The Governor in Council will be given power to exempt additional organisations should there be good reason for that.

However, I stress that the intention of the Government is to manage the public sector as a whole. Exemption from coordination arrangements to be managed by the Public Sector Management Commission will require clear justification.

Many words have been written about improving public administration in Queensland. Many problems have been highlighted; many suggestions have been made for improvement. There is no single cause for all the difficulties and deficiencies that have been identified. But there is one dimension that I believe goes to the heart of the matter, and that is the need for leadership.

Most of those who work in Government are good people. Most want to give of their best, and most want to undertake their jobs honestly and efficiently. Given the right standards to follow, given the right organisational framework in which to function—given leadership—the Queensland public sector can achieve great things, in an honest and proper fashion. My Government intends to provide that leadership. Assisting us will be the Public Sector Management Commission.

In line with the spirit of Fitzgerald, the Public Sector Management Commission will provide the coordinated management that the public sector, broadly, and the public service, more specifically, require. With the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission and the Criminal Justice Commission, it will complete the trilogy of reform in Queensland.

I commend the first Bill of this Government to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Cooper, adjourned.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT BILL

Hon. T. J. BURNS (Lytton—Deputy Premier, Minister for Housing and Local Government) (3.34 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to authorize the execution for and on behalf of the State of Queensland of an agreement in relation to housing between

the Commonwealth, the several States of the Commonwealth, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Burns, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. T. J. BURNS (Lytton—Deputy Premier, Minister for Housing and Local Government) (3.35 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

It is with great satisfaction that I introduce the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Bill to the Parliament. Not only is this my first Bill, but it is legislation that will result in considerable benefits flowing to Queensland. I refer, of course, to the increased Commonwealth and State funding for housing purposes. Accordingly, I am sure that all members will support the Bill, which, quite simply, gives legal effect in Queensland to the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement.

Members will note that the agreement is in fact a schedule to the Bill. Once the agreement is signed, sometime prior to 31 May, it will clear the way for the receipt of funds from the Commonwealth. The agreement will operate for 10 years from 1 July 1989.

For the information of members, I will now outline some of the many desirable features of the Bill. Firstly, thanks to the Hawke Government in Canberra, there will be a very significant increase in Commonwealth funding for housing. Queensland will benefit far more than the other States and Territories. At current funding levels, between 1989-90 and 1991-92, we will receive an additional \$65.9m. After that, an additional \$45.6m will be made available annually. Our funds will increase from \$135m to \$180m.

Another new provision is that all Commonwealth and State funding will be provided in the form of non-repayable grants, and there will be guaranteed minimum base level funding for four years. Members should note, however, that Queensland will also make an increased financial contribution. We will provide grant funds to match 50 per cent of the Commonwealth untied grants. These will be phased in over four years. In actual terms, in 1989-90 the State will provide \$23.1m. At current funding levels, from 1992-93 that figure will increase progressively to \$64.9m annually.

Other new aspects of the agreement deserve mention. I am happy to announce that the agreement places a strong emphasis on public rental housing and shared equity and rental purchase arrangements. Public tenants who want to become home-owners, but who cannot afford outright ownership, will have the chance to buy a share of their house. Under this scheme, they will have all the rights of home-owners, and the department will be able to use the funds generated to build more housing for those on the waiting list.

The new agreement also encourages greater use of private sector funding in order to increase home-ownership assistance. In Queensland, this will also allow grant funds to be freed up and better targeted for use in expanding our public rental stock.

Another important new feature is that there will be a high level of consultation with community organisations and tenants about the development of a State plan to cover programs provided under this agreement. For the first time, State Housing Commissions will have to consult the community and will be accountable for their policies and programs. A further innovation will see clients of the State Housing Commission able to appeal to an independent authority for the resolution of grievances or disputes with the housing authority.

Under this agreement, programs aimed at assisting specific needs groups such as pensioners and Aboriginals also figure prominently and will benefit from increased funding.

This Bill is a most significant piece of legislation. It guarantees Queensland substantial funds with which the Government can address the pressing need for the provision of housing in this State—an area which our friends opposite have neglected for many years but which the Goss Government is tackling immediately, with the support of the Hawke Labor Government in Canberra.

I commend the Bill, my first, to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Gunn, adjourned.

NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY (STATE PROVISIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.38 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Act 1985-1989 in a certain particular."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Mackenroth, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.39 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

As part of its role as Federal watchdog, under the terms of the Federal National Crime Authority Act the National Crime Authority is empowered to apprehend a person about to abscond from Australia. This applies only to someone who is required to appear before the authority or who is the subject of an investigation by the authority. Such action, of course, can only be effective if it can be taken uniformly throughout Australia.

The National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Act enables the provisions of the Federal Act to apply to Queensland—in effect, to allow them to be in force here. Accordingly, this Act must be amended when the Federal Act is amended.

This Bill, the National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Act Amendment Bill 1990, simply ensures that the State Act mirrors the Federal Act and that the NCA can apprehend an offender in Queensland and prevent that person from absconding. As such it is a part of our commitment to co-operate on all levels in the fight against organised crime and corruption.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Lingard, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 3.41 p.m.