

## TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 1996

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

### TELEVISION OF PROCEEDINGS

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members, today is an historic occasion in the Chamber as we begin to televise the proceedings of the House. If there are no objections, I propose that cameras be allowed on the floor of the Chamber to enable today's proceedings to be filmed. When the House resumes after the recess, cameras will be mounted below the galleries and will not be so intrusive. I am sure that members would join with me in welcoming this initiative as a first step in improving public awareness of the parliamentary processes.

### ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF GREENSLOPES AND MUNDINGBURRA

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I have to report that I have received from His Honour the Judge of the Court of Disputed Returns an order of the court for the electorate of Greenslopes ordering that the petition be dismissed. I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the order.

I have to report that I have also received from His Honour the Judge of the Court of Disputed Returns an order of the court for the electorate of Mundingburra ordering that Ken Davies be taken not to have been elected and that a new election be held for the electoral district of Mundingburra. I lay upon the table of the House a copy of that order.

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.03 a.m.): I move—

"That the orders of His Honour the Judge of the Court of Disputed Returns be entered in the Journals of the House and with respect to the electorate of Mundingburra, the order that Ken Davies be taken not to have been elected in the election in Queensland held on 15 July 1995, the return be amended accordingly."

Motion agreed to.

### MUNDINGBURRA BY-ELECTION

#### Issue and Return of Writ

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that a writ was issued by Her

Excellency the Governor for the election of a member to serve in this House for the electoral district of Mundingburra as follows—

Issue of writ—5 January;

Cut-off date for electoral rolls—9 January;

Nomination date—12 January;

Polling day—3 February;

Return of writ—4 March.

I lay upon the table of the House the said writ.

Honourable members, I have to report that the writ issued on 5 January 1996 for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Mundingburra has been returned to me with a certificate endorsed thereon by the returning officer of the election, on 3 February 1996, of Francis John Tanti, Esquire to serve as such member.

### Member Sworn

Mr Tanti was introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

### ASSENT TO BILLS

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to inform the House that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor letters in respect of assent to certain Bills the contents of which will be incorporated in the records of Parliament.

22 November 1995

Revenue Laws Amendment Bill (No. 2);

Lotteries Amendment Bill;

South Bank Corporation Amendment Bill;

Horticulture Legislation Amendment Bill;

Transport Planning and Coordination Amendment Bill;

Local Government (Planning and Environment) Amendment Bill;

Statute Law (Minor Amendments) Bill;

Statute Law (Minor Amendments) Bill (No. 2);

Environmental Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2);

Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2);

Criminal Offence Victims Bill;

Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill.

28 November 1995

Workers' Compensation Amendment Bill (No. 2);

Statute Law Revision Bill;

Statute Law Revision Bill (No. 2).

**PAPERS TABLED DURING RECESS**

The Clerk announced that the following papers were tabled during the recess—

21 November 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Aboriginal Co-Ordinating Council  
Department of Family Services &  
Aboriginal & Islander Affairs  
Intellectually Disabled Citizens Council of  
Queensland  
Public Trustee of Queensland

24 November 1995—

Ports Corporation Queensland—Annual Report  
1994-95

27 November 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Physiotherapists Board of Queensland  
Podiatrists Board of Queensland  
Psychologists Board of Queensland  
Royal Brisbane Hospital Research  
Foundation  
South Coast Region Health Foundation  
Speech Pathologists Board of  
Queensland

28 November 1995—

Annual Reports for the period 1 January to 30  
June 1995—

Capricornia Electricity Corporation  
(trading as CAPELEC)  
Far North Queensland Electricity  
Corporation (trading as FNQEB)  
Mackay Electricity Corporation (trading as  
MEB)  
North Queensland Electricity Corporation  
(trading as NORQEB)  
Queensland Electricity Transmission  
Corporation (trading as Powerlink  
Queensland)  
Queensland Transmission and Supply  
Corporation  
South East Queensland Electricity  
Corporation (trading as SEQEB)  
South West Queensland Electricity  
Corporation (trading as South West  
Power)

Wide Bay-Burnett Electricity Corporation

Queensland Transmission and Supply  
Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent  
for the period 1 January to 30 June 1995

30 November 1995—

Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation—  
Annual Report 1994-95

1 December 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Department of Justice and Attorney-  
General

Legal Aid Commission of Queensland  
Perpetual Trustees Australia Limited  
Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation  
Queensland Electricity Supply Industry  
Superannuation Board  
Queensland Performing Arts Trust  
Trustees of the Albion Park Paceway

Gladstone Port Authority—Statement of  
Corporate Intent 1994-95

5 December 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Medical Board of Queensland  
Princess Alexandra Hospital Research and  
Development Foundation  
Royal Children's Hospital Foundation

Erratum to the Far North Queensland Electricity  
Corporation Annual Report for the period 1  
January to 30 June 1995

7 December 1995—

First Report of the Auditor-General on Audits  
Performed for 1994-95

13 December 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations  
Island Co-ordinating Council  
Ministerial Report on the Implementation  
of the Queensland Ethnic Affairs Policy  
Queensland Abattoir Corporation

14 December 1995—

Mackay Port Authority—Annual Report 1994/95  
Port of Brisbane Authority—Statement of  
Corporate Intent 1994/95

15 December 1995—

Health Rights Commission—Annual Report  
1994/95

19 December 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95

Parliamentary Commissioner for  
Administrative Investigations (Queensland  
Ombudsman)  
Darling Downs Health Services  
Foundation

Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

Townsville General Hospital Foundation

Ports Corporation of Queensland—Statement  
of Corporate Intent 1994-95

21 December 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Darling Downs—Moreton Rabbit Board  
Queensland Commercial Fishermen's  
State Council  
Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers  
(The Committee of Direction of Fruit  
Marketing)  
Queensland Principal Club  
Surveyors Board of Queensland

Grainco Queensland Co-operative Association Limited—Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 1995

Criminal Justice Commission—Report of an Inquiry conducted by Mr R V Hanson QC into the Alleged Unauthorised Dissemination of Information Concerning Operation Wallah  
22 December 1995—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Trustees of the Funeral Benefit Trust Fund

South East Queensland Water Board

Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission

2 January 1996—

Erratum to the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations Annual Report 1994-95

Erratum to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Planning Annual Report 1994-95

5 January 1996—

Queensland Fish Management Authority—Annual Report for the period 1 July 1994 to 9 March 1995

Queensland Fisheries Management Authority—Annual Report for the period 10 March 1995 to 30 June 1995

Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority—Annual Report for the period 3 July 1994 to 1 July 1995

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Townsville/Thuringowa Water Supply Board

Trustees of the Bowen Racecourse

8 January 1996—

Mount Isa Water Board—Annual Report 1994-95

12 January 1996—

Annual Reports for 1994-95—

Childrens Court of Queensland

Dispute Resolution Centres Council

Queensland Law Society

Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees

Queensland Museum Board of Trustees

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (Incorporating the Annual Report of the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commission)

31 January 1996—

Bore Water Boards, Drainage Boards and Water Boards—Summary of Annual Reports and Financial Statements 1994-95

Queensland River Improvement Trusts—Summarised Annual Report 1994-95

2 February 1996

Erratum to the Department of Education Annual Report 1994-95

16 February 1996—

Director of Public Prosecutions—Half-Year Report 1 January to 30 June 1995.

## PAPERS TABLED AND PRINTED DURING RECESS

The Clerk announced that the following papers were tabled and ordered to be printed during the recess—

31 January 1996—

Addendum to the Roads Implementation Program 1995/96-1996/97 & indicative 1997/98-1999/2000

15 February 1996—

Office of the Local Government Commissioner—Local Government Boundaries Review of Mornington Shire (Sweers Island and Bountiful Islands)—November 1995.

## RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The Clerk laid upon the table of the House the following responses to petitions received by the Clerk since the last sitting day of the Legislative Assembly, 17 November 1995—

### Native Fauna Breeders

Responses from the Minister for Environment and Heritage (Mr Barton)—

I refer to your letter dated 19 September 1995 with regard to a petition presented by Mr D Slack, MLA, protesting at the increase in recreational, commercial and specialist licence fees for the keeping of native birds and reptiles.

The fees set down in Schedule 6 of the *Nature Conservation Regulation 1994* are the fees approved to operate with respect to the licensing of persons to keep and use wildlife.

The following table indicates the level of fees charged under the (now repealed) *Fauna Conservation Act 1974* and the fees now charged under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* with respect to these activities:

LICENSED ACTIVITY	CURRENT FEE (\$pa) (Nature Conservation Act)	FORMER FEE (\$pa) (Fauna Conservation Act)
Commercial dealing (pet shop)	350	309
Recreational keeping	30	22
Specialist keeping of restricted species	150	not applicable

As fees under the former *Fauna Conservation Act* had not been increased for a number of years, fees under the *Nature Conservation Act* were in most cases set at the level of the former fee, plus a 9.2% increase to account for movement in the Consumer Price Index over that period.

The new category of Recreational Wildlife (Specialist) Licence allows the keeping of a significantly expanded list of restricted species of birds and reptiles. Very few of these species were permitted to be kept for recreational purposes under the former legislation. The few

species which were permitted to be kept required a \$22 licence.

It should also be noted that the new legislation now exempts persons who keep species of specified common birds and reptiles from the necessity to obtain a licence.

In summary, the majority of persons who kept birds and reptiles for recreational or commercial purposes under the former legislation have only been subject to a moderate CPI-related fee increase under the new legislation.

I refer to your letter dated 19 September 1995 with regard to a petition presented by Mr G J Healy, MLA, protesting at the increase in recreational, commercial and specialist licence fees for the keeping of native birds.

The fees set down in Schedule 6 of the *Nature Conservation Regulation 1994* are the fees approved to operate with respect to the licensing of persons to keep and use wildlife.

The following table indicates the level of fees charged under the (now repealed) *Fauna Conservation Act 1974* and the fees now charged under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* with respect to these activities:

LICENSED ACTIVITY	CURRENT FEE (\$pa) (Nature Conservation Act)	FORMER FEE (\$pa) (Fauna Conservation Act)
Commercial dealing (pet shop)	350	309
Recreational keeping	30	22
Specialist keeping of restricted species	150	not applicable

As fees under the former *Fauna Conservation Act* had not been increased for a number of years, fees under the *Nature Conservation Act* were in most cases set at the level of the former fee, plus a 9.2% increase to account for movement in the Consumer Price Index over that period.

The new category of Recreational Wildlife (Specialist) Licence allows the keeping of a significantly expanded list of restricted species of birds and reptiles. Very few of these species were permitted to be kept for recreational purposes under the former legislation. The few species which were permitted to be kept required a \$22 licence.

It should also be noted that the new legislation now exempts persons who keep species of specified common birds and reptiles from the necessity to obtain a licence.

In summary, the majority of persons who kept birds and reptiles for recreational or commercial purposes under the former legislation have only been subject to a moderate CPI-related fee increase under the new legislation.

### Traffic Lights, Mitchelton

Response from the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on

Economic and Trade Development (Mr Elder)—

I refer to your letter of 16 November 1995 concerning the petition regarding the provision of green right-turn arrows on three legs of the Samford Road/Blackwood/Irvine Streets intersection, Mitchelton.

Decisions on the installation of right-turn arrows are made after consideration of many factors, in accordance with National guidelines, which indicate provision of these arrows when an intersection's safety record and performance are likely to be improved.

An analysis has shown that if arrows were provided on each leg of this intersection there would be significant increases in congestion during peak periods, with a consequential decrease in existing levels of safety. The location also was checked to determine the effect of providing an arrow on the Blackwood Street leg only; however, this would result in a performance loss with significant congestion in the evening peak period.

Queensland Transport's records of reported accidents indicate that, over the past five years, only one, involving a right-turning vehicle from any of the three legs of the intersection without arrows has occurred. These arrows could be provided if additional lanes were constructed at the intersection; however, this work would be expensive due to property resumptions and construction costs, and would cause considerable disruption to traffic. As funds are limited, all projects are prioritised in order to address the most pressing safety issues and the priority for works at this location is not considered to be high relative to other needs within the Metropolitan North District.

Consequently, after consideration of the existing accident record and the likely effect on the performance of the intersection, Queensland Transport does not intend to install further arrows at this location.

### Heritage Listed Churches

Responses from the Minister for Environment and Heritage (Mr Barton)—

I refer to your letter dated 21 September 1995 with regard to a petition presented to Parliament by Ms F Simpson, MLA, with regard to the heritage listing of church buildings.

Church buildings, including churches, church halls, houses of religious orders, hospitals and schools, are some of the most culturally significant places in the community. Many of these places were constructed on sites provided by members of the community and with funds raised in the community.

The cultural heritage significance of church buildings to the whole community is recognised world wide by their inclusion in various heritage registers.

The importance of these places to the community is also recognised by the churches themselves who have for many years repaired, maintained and conserved their considerable stock of buildings.

The importance of the work of the church in the Queensland community, and its financial—commitments in carrying out its work, has long been recognised by the community through the special position the church holds in relation to the payment of land tax and rates on its buildings which are in religious use.

The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 does not impose any legal requirements on the owner to repair or maintain a place entered in the Heritage Register. Accordingly, it is not considered that the Heritage listing of a church building which is in religious use imposes a financial burden or results in its devaluation.

While churches in the Heritage Register are subject to the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, approval of development in relation to a church or the precinct of a church is not required if the development is genuinely required for liturgical purposes.

It is acknowledged that the inclusion of a building in the Heritage Register may not allow the building to be redeveloped to its full potential.

Where possible the Heritage Council defines the boundaries of a Heritage Registered place so as to not unduly restrict the development potential of the place. There are many places, including a number of church properties, where this approach has been adopted and development has taken place.

The Heritage Council is fully aware of the changes currently taking place in some churches, and the desire of some churches to relocate and refocus their work in the wider community.

The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 includes provisions for development in relation to places in the Heritage Register and, in considering development proposals in relation to redundant church buildings, the Heritage Council seeks to work with the church to find solutions which retain the building and provide a financial return to the church. There is a number of redundant church buildings which have received approval for conversion to alternative uses, including commercial uses.

The annual Queensland Heritage Grants Program and National Estate Grants Program provide direct funds to assist the conservation of church buildings entered in the Heritage Register. However, it is clear that the current level of funds available to assist conservation work falls short of the demand.

It is not considered that the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 has unduly constrained churches in the use of their Heritage Registered buildings for religious or non-religious purposes. However, it is recognised that there is a need to find a balance between the desire

of the community of Queensland to retain and conserve those church buildings which it considers are of cultural heritage significance, and the desire of many churches to dispose of such buildings to enable them to extend their work to meet the social challenges of the late twentieth century.

It is anticipated that the operation of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 will be reviewed in due course and that this review process will involve wide public consultation. The points raised by the churches in the two petitions recently presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly will no doubt form part of their submission to Government on this matter.

I refer to your letter dated 20 October 1995 with regard to a petition presented to Parliament by Mr M Stoneman, MLA, with regard to the heritage listing of church buildings.

Church buildings, including churches, church halls, houses of religious orders, hospitals and schools, are some of the most culturally significant places in the community. Many of these places were constructed on sites provided by members of the community and with funds raised in the community.

The cultural heritage significance of church buildings to the whole community is recognised world wide by their inclusion in various heritage registers.

The importance of these places to the community is also recognised by the churches themselves who have for many years repaired, maintained and conserved their considerable stock of buildings.

The importance of the work of the church in the Queensland community, and its financial commitments in carrying out its work, has long been recognised by the community through the special position the church holds in relation to the payment of land tax and rates on its buildings which are in religious use.

The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 does not impose any legal requirements on the owner to repair or maintain a place entered in the Heritage Register. Accordingly, it is not considered that the Heritage listing of a church building which is in religious use imposes a financial burden or results in its devaluation.

While churches in the Heritage Register are subject to the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, approval of development in relation to a church or the precinct of a church is not required if the development is genuinely required for liturgical purposes.

It is acknowledged that the inclusion of a building in the Heritage Register may not allow the building to be redeveloped to its full potential.

Where possible the Heritage Council defines the boundaries of a Heritage Registered place so as to not unduly restrict the development

potential of the place. There are many places, including a number of church properties, where this approach has been adopted and development has taken place.

The Heritage Council is fully aware of the changes currently taking place in some churches, and the desire of some churches to relocate and refocus their work in the wider community.

The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 includes provisions for development in relation to places in the Heritage Register and, in considering development proposals in relation to redundant church buildings, the Heritage Council seeks to work with the church to find solutions which retain the building and provide a financial return to the church. There is a number of redundant church buildings which have received approval for conversion to alternative uses, including commercial uses.

The annual Queensland Heritage Grants Program and National Estate Grants Program provide direct funds to assist the conservation of church buildings entered in the Heritage Register. However, it is clear that the current level of funds available to assist conservation work falls short of the demand.

It is not considered that the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 has unduly constrained churches in the use of their Heritage Registered buildings for religious or non-religious purposes. However, it is recognised that there is a need to find a balance between the desire of the community of Queensland to retain and conserve those church buildings which it considers are of cultural heritage significance, and the desire of many churches to dispose of such buildings to enable them to extend their work to meet the social challenges of the late twentieth century.

It is anticipated that the operation of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 will be reviewed in due course and that this review process will involve wide public consultation. The points raised by the churches in the two petitions recently presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly will no doubt form part of their submission to Government on this matter.

### **Renaming of Palmerston National Park and Bellenden Ker National Park**

Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage (Mr Barton)—

I refer to your letter dated 20 October 1995 with which you enclosed copy of the wording of the petition presented to Parliament by Mr M Rowell, MLA, with regard to the change of name to Wooroonooran National Park of the former Palmerston and Bellenden Ker National Parks.

The Bartle Frere National Park was named in 1991 when the Bellenden Ker and Palmerston National Parks were amalgamated together with

areas of former State forest to create a significantly enlarged park.

Upon the introduction of the Protected Areas Regulation under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the opportunity was taken to rename this area as 'Wooroonooran National Park'.

Naming of protected areas is undertaken using the guidelines contained in the Place Names Act, including avoidance of confusion of place names.

To revert to names previously applied to national parks which have since been amalgamated would lead to confusion.

The use of the former national park names may continue as sections within the existing park (i.e. Palmerston section of Wooroonooran National Park).

The petitioners' interest in this matter is appreciated.

### **Centenary Highway, Noise Barriers**

Response from the Acting Minister for Environment and Heritage (Mr Elder)—

I refer to your letter dated 19 September 1995 with which you enclosed the wording of a petition presented to Parliament by Dr D J H Watson, MLA, Member for Moggill, on 13 September 1995 relating to excessive noise pollution along the Centenary Highway from the Fig Tree Pocket off ramp to the Brisbane River.

The matter is one for the attention of the Department of Transport.

However, officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage have advised me they would support the erection of noise barriers on existing transport facilities where the cost of installation is commensurate with the level of reduction of significant environmental nuisance, and where the barriers themselves do not cause environmental or other amenity problems.

### **Mooloolah Electorate, Effluent Disposal**

Response from the Acting Minister for Environment and Heritage (Mr Elder)—

I refer to your letter dated 19 October 1995 addressed to the Honourable Terry Mackenroth, MLA, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, enclosing the text of a petition presented to Parliament by Mr B Laming, MLA, in relation to the release of treated effluent into the Mooloolah River or Pumicestone Passage.

The Caloundra City Council has taken the decision to sewer the town of Landsborough due to a chronic drainage problem with the

usual associated secondary pollution and health effects if septic tank systems continue to be installed.

An environmental impact statement has now been completed for the scheme and released for review by the Department of Environment and Heritage and other referral agencies.

It has been established that disposal of treated sewage effluent by irrigation is not possible in the Landsborough area due to climatic conditions. It has been estimated that run off would occur at times.

The scheme proposed in the environmental impact statement is for nutrient removal from the sewage, followed by disposal by irrigation to land. Subsurface drainage of the irrigation area is to be collected and further treated within an artificial wetland. The highly treated waters from the wetland will then flow to the Mooloolah River in times of high rainfall. Direct discharge to water courses is therefore avoided.

The Department of Environment and Heritage has not detected any potential problems in the proposed scheme.

### **Mooloolah Electorate, Effluent Disposal**

Response from the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing (Mr Gibbs)—

Treated effluent released into receiving water is required to meet water quality standards predetermined by the Department of Environment and Heritage. Provided compliance with these standards occurs and dilution is adequate, impacts on receiving waters are not considered to be detrimental.

A number of local authorities, e.g., Caboolture City Council, Hervey Bay Town Council, in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries, have however commenced using treated effluents for alternate purposes such as irrigation of sport fields, sugar cane and timber lot production. The Government has recognised the benefits of recycling of nutrients and recently provided additional funding to Councils to upgrade existing sewerage treatment plants and explore alternate uses for treated effluents.

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Changes in Ministry**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.06 a.m.), by leave: I desire to inform the House that on 19 February 1996, Her Excellency the Governor—

(a) Accepted the resignations of—

Wayne Keith Goss

Thomas James Burns

Keith Ernest De Lacy

Robert James Gibbs

Terence Michael Mackenroth

David John Hamill

James Peter Elder

Paul Joseph Braddy

Peter Douglas Beattie

Matthew Joseph Foley

Glen Richard Milliner

Kenneth William Hayward

Anthony McGrady

Thomas Alfred Barton

Wendy Marjorie Edmond

Kenneth Victor McElligott

Margaret Rosemary Woodgate

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

(b) Appointed—

Robert Edward Borbidge, to be Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development; Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing; Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development; Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services; Minister for Health; Minister for Minerals and Energy; Minister for Environment and Heritage; Minister for Lands; Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs;

Joan Mary Sheldon, to be Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth; Treasurer; Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning; Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities; Minister for Education; Minister for Justice and Attorney-General; Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts; Minister for Administrative Services; Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development; Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters; Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women; and

(c) Appointed—

Robert Edward Borbidge

Joan Mary Sheldon

to be members of the Executive Council of Queensland.

Mrs Sheldon and I shall administer all Government departments until such time as a full Cabinet is appointed and details of other administrative arrangements are finalised. I give all honourable members an assurance that I will attend to these matters as expeditiously as possible.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the *Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary* of 19 February 1996 containing the relevant notifications.

### OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS

**Mr BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—Leader of the Opposition) (10.08 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday, the parliamentary Labor Party elected me as leader and, of course, that means Leader of the Opposition. It also elected Jim Elder as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and I inform the House accordingly.

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.08 a.m.), by leave: I move—

"That for this day's sitting a discussion on Matters of Public Interest and an Adjournment debate shall not take place."

Motion agreed to.

### MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN NATIONAL/LIBERAL COALITION GOVERNMENT

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.09 a.m.), by leave: I move—

"That this House expresses its confidence in the National/Liberal coalition Government."

I am privileged to be the chosen leader of the National/Liberal coalition and, therefore, can command the confidence of this Parliament and guarantee stable progressive Government and continuity of Supply to Her Majesty. Her Excellency has recognised this by her actions in commissioning me as Premier.

At the outset, I would congratulate and personally thank the member for Logan for the manner in which he has conducted the ongoing processes of the transition of Government. Over recent days, he has fulfilled what are clearly unhappy duties with considerable dignity and considerable courtesy. I fully appreciate there are some within the member's own party who regret that he has not been politically more aggressive. I say to them that I share the member for Logan's view that both the office he has vacated, and the Parliament which underpinned his authority, has been better served by his statesmanlike approach. For that I thank him and wish him well in the future.

On 15 July last year, the people of Queensland voted for a change of Government. On 15 July last year, the National and Liberal Parties achieved 53.4 per cent of the two-party preferred vote—almost 7 per cent more than that achieved by our political opponents. A total of 110,000 more Queenslanders, the equivalent of five State electorates, directed their first preference votes to the National and Liberal Parties. This Government is the preferred Government of a majority of Queenslanders.

A little over two weeks ago, the final outcome of the 15 July State election became known. The Mundingburra by-election confirmed our Government's right to govern. Unlike our political opponents, we have accepted the results of 15 July 1995 and 3 February 1996. Unlike our political opponents, we accept the verdict of the electorate with humility—not with arrogance. Unlike our political opponents, we have heard and we have understood the messages. We have heard and we have understood that what the people want from their Government—this Government—is a return to basics: a return to a proper connection between money spent and services delivered; a return to the time when the people of this State actually get value for money from their Government; when Government seeks to reach out to those in need—those in our community who are sick, frail or aged; a time when teachers could teach, when nurses were free to care for the sick, when police could enforce the law, when business, particularly small business, could get on with the job—free of unnecessary Government interference. I have often heard our political opponents say that the election of the National and Liberal Parties will turn back the clock in Queensland. If seeking to get Government back to basics, back to its core responsibilities, is turning back the clock, then I will wear that tag proudly.



In seeking to paint the National/Liberal coalition as a re-run of Governments of the seventies and eighties, our political opponents prove again their inability to acknowledge that the political landscape has changed. The politics of 1996 are vastly different from even a decade ago. So, too, our Government will be different. That is why I will soon detail a parliamentary reform package designed to enshrine the principle of public service and to address the political sins of excessive and secret Government—a parliamentary reform package that was promised by Labor in 1989 but which will, in the end, be delivered not by Labor but by a coalition Government.

We have also outlined a clear and determined agenda of environmental reform. We will re-establish the processes that have undermined the environment debate over the past six years. However, the overwhelming priority of our Government will be to address two key areas: health and law and order. In both those areas, the priorities of my Government are clear and relate consistently back to what is a recurring theme of converting significant increases in funding into much more efficient service delivery.

In law and order, this process is going to have many important elements and impacts. The first, second, and third priorities in this area will be towards increasing the number of operational police on our streets. Over a very long period, we consistently heard massive fiction from our political opponents about the extent to which the Police Service had allegedly expanded. Nobody was fooled: the Criminal Justice Commission was not fooled; the Public Sector Management Commission was not fooled; and the people certainly were not fooled.

I do not underestimate the fact that instant progress is now going to be tough. The neglect of the civilianisation process and the confusion that has marked the training regime dictate that remedial action will take some time. I can assure the people of Queensland that, in the member for Crows Nest, they will have a no-nonsense Police Minister who will work to provide more men and women on the beat as rapidly as is humanly possible. As well as immediate attention to the civilianisation process, his work will include a rapid start to the Townsville police academy, which will virtually double our capacity to produce police officers. A start on that academy will be one of the highest priorities of my Government.

The law and order arena also covers Corrective Services, and a range of penalties and sentences legislation, as well as the

Criminal Code. All of these areas are set for major and rapid reform under my Government. Corrective Services has been shockingly mismanaged, both from the point of view of provision of adequate numbers of cells and prisoner management. Our political opponents shut down prisons when they wanted to save money, and have more recently, at least on paper, engaged in a belated catch-up exercise in terms of capital works. We will ensure that that Capital Works Program proceeds much faster than the current rate and that the number of cells in our prison system is such that authorities do not feel obliged to put criminals back on the street well before time, simply because there is nowhere else for them to go. Associated with the ongoing mismanagement that has produced an outcome which threatens the safety of prison staff and the public is the longwinded disgrace of overcrowded watch-houses. There will be a rapid start to a refurbishment of the Brisbane watch-house and others around the State which have been neglected for too long. Watch-houses are not prisons and, as soon as is humanly possible, we will not allow them to be used as prisons any longer.

In relation to the legislative elements of law and order, the member for Indooroopilly is already well advanced with a detailed legislative program for the Parliament. Labor's appropriately controversial draft Criminal Code will be scrapped. The idea behind the rewriting of the code was good. The process, and the outcome, were a mess: a farce. We will fix it, and we will fix it rapidly. In fixing it, we will ensure that those convicted of criminal behaviour serve the majority of the time for which they were sentenced. In relation to the Penalties and Sentences Act, we will remove the constraint on judges whereby the judiciary was actively encouraged to keep criminals in the community and to treat prison as a penalty of last resort.

My Government's plan in relation to law and order is simple. People are sick of rising crime rates. People are sick of seeing criminals walk free after serving only a fraction of their sentences. People are sick of the fact that, despite claims that we have had a massive increase in police numbers, police visibility, police availability and police presence is down. We will do the right thing by the men and women of the Queensland Police Service. We will do the right thing by Queenslanders. That will be one of the highest priorities of our Government.

In relation to health, the need for major remedial action is just as urgent as it is in relation to law and order issues. Unlike the

Leader of the Opposition, we will not be raiding the capital works budget to fix the problems. Since 1989, the budget for Queensland Health has grown by the quite extraordinary level of \$1.1 billion—70 per cent—while waiting lists across the State have run literally out of control. All Queenslanders are well aware of the problems. They have been treated to regular reports of ward and theatre closures throughout the life of the former Government. We had this historic announcement from my friend opposite, as he is walking past the exit sign on the way out, about how he is going to fix it all and that he has left a blueprint for the incoming Government. The former Government has sought excuses all over the shop, Minister after Minister after Minister, just as it has in regard to law and order.

We have heard about the increasing complexity and expense of procedures. We have heard about the massive growth in the use of health services put down to the rate of expansion of our population. These are all valid points as far as they go. Inflation in the medical area has outpaced inflation across the rest of the economy. The demand for services has increased and, in some areas, quite dramatically. But so has the budget. A \$1.1 billion increase in health spending in the life of the former Government is, in plain language, absolutely massive. My Government will ensure that many more of those dollars reach the sharp end of service delivery.

If there is a single department of Government that has epitomised the propensity of our political opponents to build bureaucracy upon bureaucracy at the cost of service delivery, it is the Health Department. That is where far too much of the extra dollars committed to health since 1989 have gone and it is my firm undertaking that those dollars will go back to the doctors, the nurses and the patients—back to where they belong.

The first challenge in this area is in relation to waiting lists. One of the first announcements of our Government—and it will come within days—will be an announcement to ensure that a sufficient number of operating theatres and surgical wards around this State reopen to ensure the fight against waiting lists will be under way just as soon as possible.

Without doubt, the two areas of health and law and order will dominate the opening weeks and months of our Government's efforts. But they are a long way away from being the only areas in need of quick attention. Rural and regional Queensland has

been to hell and back over the past six years under Labor's stewardship. The emergence of a long and severe drought began to bite into rural and regional Queensland at the same time as the imposition of a drought in Government services started biting into the social fabric of rural Queensland. In some locations, it is hard to know which drought was most savage in its impact.

I can assure rural and regional Queenslanders that just as the traditional drought has broken in many areas so, too, the man-made, the Government-made drought, will lift and lift rapidly. We will return to rural and regional Queensland those services that have been removed. We will return to equity and service availability in this State. We will be a Government for all Queenslanders. We will also return Government to equity and commonsense in decision making across-the-board. Those simple commitments will be an umbrella covering the core attitudes of my Government.

They will particularly cover the public service, which for the past six years has suffered, on a par with rural and regional Queensland, from an overbearing and arrogant Government. Under my administration, public servants will be treated with the dignity that they deserve.

**Mrs Edmond:** Just like they are under Kennett's; just like they are in Victoria—44,970 sacked.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** It is the public service that goes on. Governments come and go, Ministers come and go, but the men and women whose role it is to deliver the services stick it out administration after administration. For the benefit of the honourable member who is interjecting, I say to her that there will be no Gulags under my Government. My Government respects—

**Mrs Edmond** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mount Coot-tha will cease interjecting.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Speaker, I am sorry. I was provoked. My Government respects and understands the problems and the importance of the public service. We will actively seek to restore the confidence of the public sector both in itself and in its availability to deliver after years of confusing and often unforgivably inhuman review after review after review. Today, my message to the public service is simple and straightforward: "As of today, you are relevant again; as of today, you will again be part of building a better Queensland."

Mr Speaker, I can assure you that this, the Forty-eighth Parliament of Queensland, will serve out its contract with the people of Queensland. I note the comments of the Leader of the Opposition of his nervousness about the possibility of an election. Mr Speaker, do you know how many seats Labor would lose if we had a general election in 26 days' time? Based on the result in Mundingburra, Labor would lose an additional 15 seats over and above what it has lost. Our situation is simple: the people of Queensland expect this Parliament to honour its term and it is my intention that it should. I want to assure this Parliament that our Government will be pro-active; it will be pro getting this State moving again. But above all, our Government will stand for and deliver the basic services people expect to be delivered by their State Government—services that they have failed to receive for too long from our political opponents; political opponents who concentrated too much on themselves, too much on their mates and not enough on the people who matter, the people of Queensland. I commend the motion to the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Is there a seconder?

**Hon. J. M. SHELDON** (Caloundra—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (10.27 a.m.): I have pleasure in seconding the motion moved by the Premier. On Friday, the member for Logan announced the end of his reign as Premier of Queensland and in the same breath withdrew from the leadership of the Parliamentary Labor Party. The occasion was sombre. It was a sad moment for many Queenslanders who expected great things from Mr Goss when he claimed victory for Labor just six and a half years ago. As Deputy Leader of the Coalition, I want to make it plain that in some ways I admire the member for Logan. Rob Borbidge and I have assumed the important mantle of State leadership that he has vacated and the Borbidge/Sheldon Coalition Government will be confirmed by the motion now before the House. It is appropriate that at the beginning of my speech I thank the honourable member for Logan and offer my best wishes to him and to his family.

Six and a half years ago, the direction sought by Queenslanders was plain. Expectations were high. Six and half years ago, the ALP had a strong mandate and a clear set of instructions from the people of this State. But on Friday, 16 February 1996, the words spoken by the member for Logan were final proof to those at the very heart of the ALP that it really was all over.

To everyone else in Queensland, the Goss Government mandate was dead before the Government sought its third term on 15 July. It was gone; lost through sheer neglect and a preoccupation with image rather than substance. Today, I want to make it clear that there is a new mandate at work in Queensland: members know the numbers and they know that coalition policies and our style of leadership have attracted support from close to 54 per cent of voters in this State.

This motion, and the subsequent debate, is all about confidence—confidence in a new coalition Government and, conversely, a lack of confidence in the outgoing State Labor Government. It is proper that a motion of confidence should signal the birth of a new coalition Government because it was the confidence of the people of Queensland that we could get the job done that has led to this change. Last week, the Government was complaining that there had been no so-called trigger for its collapse—no corruption scandal, no financial collapse. But there was a collapse—a collapse in confidence. That is the trigger, and that is the reason why Labor has moved to the Opposition benches. Queenslanders became tired of rhetoric and wanted action. The constant complaint about Labor was that it did not change with the needs of the Queensland community. When Queenslanders wanted action, they got little from Labor by way of response.

That is not the case with the coalition. Today, Queenslanders have confidence in the coalition because they have seen that the National and Liberal Parties will listen to what the people say. In 1992 the people of Queensland told the National and Liberal Parties loud and clear that they would not tolerate three-cornered contests in State elections. They told us that they wanted a viable and united opposition. We listened, and we worked hard to forge a coalition team which is now a byword for unity in Australian politics.

Where Labor misread the mood of the Queensland people, and where Labor still gets it wrong, is in the belief that the vote on 15 July was a protest against Labor. The fact is that the vote on 15 July, and again in Mundingburra, was not a negative protest against Labor, but a positive vote for the coalition. The people of Queensland voted for the coalition because they wanted the coalition to form a government. They wanted a change, and now they have that change. The people of Queensland have confidence in the coalition's ability to deliver the services they demand. The people of Queensland have

confidence that the coalition can and will open hospital wards and cut waiting lists. The people of Queensland have confidence that the coalition can and will boost police numbers and champion legislation which truly punishes offenders, rather than just slapping them on the wrist. The people of Queensland have confidence that the coalition will cut the burden of taxes, fees and charges on business to get our economy working again.

The coalition mandate is strong. We are in power today because Queenslanders are demanding service. In a State hailed for the strength of its Budget, they will not tolerate departments that do not deliver. They will not settle for second best in hospitals and health care, or in resources for their police force. They will not tolerate a Government that places political imperatives above the needs of average people. This is not a mandate about a financial collapse, a scandal or gross incompetence. It is a mandate that reminds politicians why we are elected in the first place. We are here to serve, not to be served. That is our job description. Queenslanders rightly perceive that the administration of Government services in Queensland is in tatters. They want us to refocus our efforts on these basic problems that are now pressing needs.

I want to say a few words of reassurance to members of the Queensland public service, who will help pave the way forward. There are two watchwords in my vocabulary when I view the public service and the way I hope it will change under a National/Liberal coalition Government: freedom and responsibility. "Freedom", because the emergence of the coalition signals an end to centralised control and the domination of public servants by internal watchdogs such as the PSMC and the Office of Cabinet. At last, freedom will allow public servants at all levels to exercise the skills they have gained through years of training and experience. The second word is "responsibility", because public servants in Queensland will reassume their rightful role in the development of policy. With the coalition, the public service will properly share the responsibility of discharging the mandate issued on 15 July by a significant majority of Queenslanders. That is the nuts and bolts of our relationship with the public service.

We are moving back to accepted practice under the Westminster system of Government and the central requirement for an apolitical public service that administers the implementation of Government policy. Under this system, Queensland will be served by a more pragmatic, consultative public sector,

where public servants will have clear lines of authority. The impact of the change will be felt in many positive ways. Gone will be the many anomalies we have seen in recent years. Under the coalition, Queensland public servants will no longer operate with one hand tied up with PSMC paperwork and one eye on the political agenda of the Office of Cabinet.

Across Queensland, the only people who are as bogged down in irrelevant paperwork and persecuted by political thought police to the same extent as public servants are those in small business. Small business is the engine room of growth in Queensland. However, with unemployment locked at 9.5 per cent or more and youth unemployment riding dangerously close to 30 per cent, we must do more than simply repeat supportive slogans if we are to deliver on another important part of our mandate—that is, the need for real growth in employment. When I say "real growth", I am talking about a significant, long-term reduction in the State's rate of unemployment. That is a high priority for the coalition, and to achieve results we will proceed along the path we laid down on 15 July.

Unlike Labor, the coalition will target unemployment by clearing a path for small business in this State. Instead of creating peripheral demands that consume the resources of small business, we will free their hands to create real jobs. The transparent process of removing young people from job statistics by shunting them from one training program to another will end. Instead, coalition policies such as raising the payroll tax threshold and phasing out land tax will create real incentives for small business to expand and invest in new jobs for the future of our State. These positive policies, joined with cuts to red tape and regulations which have exploded in the last six years, will provide a great boost to small business in Queensland.

We have often heard the credo from former Treasurer Keith De Lacy that he has left the State's finances in good shape. I hope he has. As Treasurer, I will instigate an independent commission of audit to tell the Government and the people of Queensland the exact position.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Borbidge:** They don't want an audit.

**Mrs SHELDON:** I do not think they do want an audit. It is not yet one day since I was sworn in by Her Excellency the Governor as part of the new Borbidge/Sheldon Government. While I have not had a chance to meet all the departmental heads or to avail

myself of their briefings, the flow of information has begun and I want to share some of those points with Queenslanders today.

The facts are that while the former Government was renowned for its mismanagement of services, there is a widespread assumption that, because of the traditional strength of the Queensland economy, the coalition will inherit a rosy economic outlook. I want to take a few moments to quote some lines from the first briefing papers supplied to me last night by the Queensland Treasury. Firstly, I must say that Treasury shares many of my concerns about the shape of the State economy and some negative aspects that have worsened in recent times. I quote the Treasury briefing—

"While Queensland has had a record of strong economic growth, it is not clear with the current economic structure of the State and with current economic policy that this is being translated into increases in the standard of living for Queenslanders.

Economic growth has been achieved largely from population growth, rather than by increased productivity.

Real gross state product per capita (which is a crude measure of productivity) in the rest of Australia is now about \$2,200, (or 10.4%) higher than in Queensland. The differential is widening."

It goes on—

"The differential between the level of average weekly ordinary time earnings (referred to by the abbreviation AWOTE) in Queensland and the level in the rest of Australia has worsened steadily over the past decade.

In 1984-'85, AWOTE in the rest of Australia was 3% above that in Queensland, whereas in '94-'95, the level of the rest of the nation has grown to be around 8% higher than in Queensland.

Over the past five years"—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** These are the words of the Treasury.

"Over the past five years, the average differential has been 8% compared with 5% for the previous five years."

Treasury's areas of concern about the economy are—

". . . excessive reliance on traditional industries (agriculture, mining, tourism-

related), with associated high risk through lack of diversification and dependence on overseas demand for commodities; inadequate pace of diversification into high income, growing service industries, including finance, telecommunications, education, community services; excessive reliance on migration for consumption and housing investment growth; relatively low wages, caused largely by Queensland's industrial structure; and the slow and inadequate pace of productivity improvement in key areas such as the labour market, public trading and financial enterprises."

In its briefing, Treasury expresses alarm about current cost overruns in Health, forecast to total \$34m or more this financial year. I quote from that briefing—

"In effect, therefore, Queensland Health faces an adjustment problem of the order of \$70m next year in order to realign current expenditure and service levels with the forward commitments.

This adjustment problem is before consideration of any further service enhancements/expansions that may be proposed."

The Treasury reports that Labor election commitments, such as the \$29m Back to School Uniform Allowance, have caused expenditure to outweigh receipts in 1995-96 by \$10m, which will only be offset by the Government's higher than expected opening cash position. Economic growth, which the former Treasurer told us during the last Budget Speech would reach 4.3 per cent this financial year, is currently forecast at 3.5 per cent, but only if the State can implement fully its planned capital works program. At this late stage in the year, with the former Government's record of failing to deliver promised works being repeated, that now seems extremely unlikely.

I have gleaned these points in a few short and very busy hours. They reflect many of my personal concerns about the State economy and issues I have pursued as shadow Treasurer. The task of coming to grips with the State's budgetary and economic outlook has only begun. The coalition Government will conduct a full independent audit of our State finances, and this will play a very important part in defining any further problems, outlining options that might be considered and the future direction necessary to deliver the benefits to Queenslanders.

Finally, in reference to the State economy, I refer to a Treasury graph that

demonstrates the problems besetting private enterprise in this State. Since July 1994, we have seen the biggest drop in housing approvals in Queensland's history. In essence, it demonstrates the depth of the challenge that our Government must face. It is a challenge to rebuild business in Queensland, to create higher levels of sustained prosperity and to deliver the benefits to all Queenslanders. Instead of using the advantages of a strong Treasury to help support and enhance Queensland's economy, Labor looked on it as little more than a tax collection agency. Is it any wonder that in these circumstances we have seen the emergence of support for the coalition among blue-collar workers, whose traditional allegiance might have been to the Labor Party?

When the price of drinks and smokes continues to rise in leaps and bounds, average workers are clearly not impressed by claims about whether or not we are net debt free, or whether ours is a low-tax regime. They want services—basic services—which Governments are elected to deliver. That is why the people of Queensland voted out Labor. The big 9.4 per cent swing to the coalition in Mundingburra on 15 July was extended on 3 February by a further 2.8 per cent. Elsewhere, the so-called Labor stronghold of Gladstone returned a non-Labor Independent. The onus is now on the coalition to show electorates such as these that we deserve the trust and support of working people.

The distinguishing feature of the Labor Party is its permanent climate of excuse. When it was last in Opposition that was never its fault; it was the gerrymander, the media, the capitalists—anybody but itself. In Government, Labor blamed the previous Government for its inaction. Now we see it doing the same thing again, but this time it is blaming the honourable member for Gladstone, Liz Cunningham. We even heard one Labor member say, "We will wait till the voters get it right." The voters did get it right. That is why one of the most incompetent Governments in Queensland's history is now in Opposition. Mundingburra was a lesson to all politicians that communities do not like to be patronised and taken for granted. This Parliament is not a home for academics, elitists or people who are uncomfortable without an Italian suit. We must continue to strive to represent the broad range of Queenslanders and to provide a sounding-board that accurately presents their concerns. Coalition Ministers will be working

hard to return the support we have been given and to ensure that voters are not taken for granted, no matter where they live and no matter how they may have voted in the past.

As Treasurer, I believe the coalition can provide great incentives for the Queensland economy that will provide economic and social benefits for all Queenslanders. Rather than just tax, tax and tax again, Treasury should look to areas where the removal or lowering of a tax, charge or fee could actually help the community. Through the offices of Treasury, a coalition Government can directly attack Queensland's unemployment problem through genuine job creation by giving business, particularly small business, incentives to grow, expand and employ. Treasury must be proactive. As in health, law and order, education and the other areas in need of decent management, the Treasury must also look to providing a service rather than just being a tax collection bureau.

While Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia have forged ahead in the nineties, Queensland has remained stagnant, and that is not good enough. Once again Queensland must take centre stage in Australia as the economic powerhouse of the country, and that brings me to another aspect of the coalition mandate that we will pursue with vigour. I am referring to the need for the effective development of infrastructure to carry the State into the twenty-first century. Clearly, the need for new roads, rail, water, power and other facilities marches on and waits for no man or woman. However, in Queensland the provision of some of these facilities has been on hold for six years while our population has continued to grow. The coalition will expedite infrastructure planning in all areas of the State. We will be taking stock of the power needs of development, particularly in the north. We will be targeting social infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools. Queensland must be returned to an era in which things get done and are not just talked about.

We will continue the direction first adopted by the previous coalition Government in Queensland when it began developing an effective trading and cultural relationship with Asia. Although other States and the Commonwealth have now adopted a similar attitude, it is fair to say that Queensland should be at the forefront of contact with Asia. With the return of a coalition Government, the time has come for us to advance the relationship once again, and this course will be followed by the Borbidge/Sheldon Government.

I am very proud of this State. People are flocking to Queensland from all over Australia for a good reason: it is the best place in the world in which to live. The Borbidge/Sheldon coalition Government has shown what can be achieved through teamwork. Now we want to broaden that teamwork to encompass every Queensland. Rather than ruling from on high or governing autocratically, the coalition Government will work with the people of Queensland.

As Deputy Premier and Leader of the parliamentary Liberal Party, the man I have to thank for helping in the formation of this effective, unified coalition Government is my colleague the member for Surfers Paradise, Rob Borbidge. Alongside Rob as Premier and Leader of the National Party, Liberals are once again proud to undertake a leading role as an integral part of Government in Queensland. I commend the motion to the House.

**Mr BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—Leader of the Opposition) (10.48 a.m.): I rise to oppose the motion before the House and, in doing so, flag to the House that later I will be moving an appropriate amendment. How can we support a motion of confidence in a Government that has done nothing? That is the irony of this debate. This is a solemn occasion. It is a solemn occasion when there is a change of Government without a general election, and that is what has happened.

Contrary to what has been suggested by the incoming Government, we are not bitter, but we are disappointed. We are disappointed because we are entitled to be disappointed. We are entitled to be disappointed because the Goss Government was a Government of vision, integrity, honesty and diligence—a Government that had the interests of Queenslanders at heart. I pay tribute to Wayne Goss and his former Government for the contribution that it has made to the people of this State. Let us not forget that there were no Fitzgerald inquiries, scandals, or gaolings of police commissioners. No Ministers went to prison and there were no financial scandals. We had good, competent Government. Nevertheless, there has been a change of Government.

The member for Gladstone outlined approximately four reasons for throwing out the competent Goss Government. My former ministerial colleagues do not agree with those reasons, and they will deal with them during this debate. Unlike the incoming Government, we will not truncate this debate. This is the people's House and this is where this debate should take place. Let us deal with one of the

four reasons given by the honourable member for Gladstone for throwing out a Government. The first reason was a leaky roof in the Gladstone Hospital. When I was the Minister for Health, the honourable member never wrote to me about it—not once. The hospital thought that the roof was of such concern that it never raised it even with the regional health authority, yet that was the reason for throwing out a Government—a tiny leak in a hospital roof. That was one of the four reasons given for throwing out a Government. The National Party used to be a party of graziers. Under the reasons outlined by Mrs Cunningham, to stay in office it will have to become a party of plumbers! Honourable members must ask whether that is sufficient reason to put out a good, competent Government that did not have the smell of a scandal anywhere near it. They must think of the trauma it will mean for those public servants who will be sacked under the incoming Government and think of the trauma that it will mean for those ordinary Queenslanders who will be subjected to its policies.

Let me make it very clear that there will be no vindictiveness from the Opposition towards Mrs Cunningham, the honourable member for Gladstone. We will be seeking her support for more sittings of this Parliament. We believe that because the Labor Party Opposition has 44 seats, the coalition has 44 seats and one seat is held by an Independent, decisions should more than ever before be made on the floor of this House. We will be seeking the support of the honourable member for Gladstone in ensuring that this Parliament plays a greater role than ever before. In a short time, we will be seeking her support for an amendment which I believe is in the interests of the people of this State. We will be seeking to have ongoing discussions with the honourable member for Gladstone, and I look forward to that on a future occasion.

Let us return to the absurd motion that has been moved. The coalition is asking us to express confidence in a minority Government which said it was ready for Government back on 15 July, yet after eight months only two of its members are ready to be Ministers. How can we have confidence in a Government which comprises only two people? I do not know why the other coalition members are sitting on the front bench. The coalition cannot be serious. It reminds me of that old Jackie Trent song *It's Just the Two of Us*, because that is all there are—just two of them!

**Mr Hamill:** What about the *Odd Couple*?

**Mr BEATTIE:** How could I do better than that? But I do not get into personality politics; that is not my style.

The Premier asked for the recalling of Parliament, and for what—to pass a vote of confidence in two people. That is the farce of this motion.

**Mr Mackenroth** interjected.

**Mr BEATTIE:** Exactly. Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon will not even have their Cabinet ready to be sworn in until Monday. They should go back and look at the history books to see how long it took for the first Goss Ministry to be sworn in. The coalition said that it was ready, but its Cabinet still has not been sworn in.

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mr BEATTIE:** They will. How can the coalition ask us for our confidence when it does not even know who will be sitting on its front bench? The coalition said that it would hit the ground running. All it has done is hit the ground.

Why should we have any confidence in an illegitimate minority Government which has not won a general election and which therefore does not have the necessary mandate to govern? This is a minority National/Liberal Party Government. We have coalition members who have stumbled into Government, unready to lead the State, and a new Premier who has gained power through the back door. That is how coalition members got onto the Government benches.

How can we have any confidence in a Government which has bought its votes with promises which will cost \$7,005m—or \$7 billion—to implement but which has not revealed how those promises will be paid for? If the Treasurer wants to have an economic debate, let us have an economic debate and an analysis of her promises. The Government says that it will eliminate land tax and that there will be reductions in stamp duty on share transactions, yet it claims that it will still provide a surplus. How can we be confident of a surplus when we examine the promises of the coalition?

**Mr Purcell:** Get out the bankcard.

**Mr BEATTIE:** I am about to come to that! It is the Myercard, not the bankcard.

The incoming Premier has said that a multilane Pacific Highway, which Treasury estimates will cost \$813m—and Mrs Sheldon referred to Treasury, and we would love her to table the documents; we know about selective

quoting—will be built within three years. The incoming Premier is the very person who in 1986 said that the Gold Coast rail line would be built before Expo in 1988. He was wrong then and he will be wrong again. Another \$200m has to be found to eliminate the debt on the Sunshine Coast Motorway—the tollway. That was a commitment by the coalition. The member for Toowoomba South promised new hospitals at Robina and Noosa which will cost an estimated \$340m over the next five years—unless, of course, the coalition Government does what it did to the QE II Hospital when it left office, that is, it did not staff it and did not build it properly. The member for Beaudesert promised a new hospital for Beaudesert which the coalition has already had to disown.

It is not just the Opposition which is asking these serious questions. I was pleased to see the *Australian* newspaper raise the issue yesterday of the Government's promised capital works program, which was referred to today. That newspaper stated—

"Sheldon"—

and I believe that is a discourtesy; I would never refer to the honourable member like that—

"could not explain before the election and has not explained since where the \$1 billion or so to do this will come from."

That is what the financial assessment of the coalition's promise is saying. All this is not a recipe for successful government; it is a recipe for financial disaster, and the coalition has been in Government only one day. No wonder the Treasurer wants an audit commission to examine the Treasury, as she said in the House earlier. She is desperately searching for a scandal so that she can walk away from not just the hospital at Beaudesert but a host of other promises that have been made.

I know that there is no scandal. Our figures have been tested by respected international institutions such as Standard and Poors, Moody's and Natwest, which have examined our handling of the Budget and the economy and given us the "thumbs up". That is what they said, and the coalition knows it. It cannot argue with those bodies because they are independent and beyond political reproach. Coalition members have also had every chance of examining the books through this Parliament's Estimates committees. For the Treasurer to argue that she wants to now conduct some sort of inquiry reveals that she has no confidence in her own parliamentary colleagues.



Let us be very clear about this. This audit commission is nothing more than an attempt to rough up Treasury. That is what the Treasurer wants to do—rough up Treasury. Does anyone actually believe that the Treasury would indulge in trickery? Of course not! The Treasury is a proud institution in this State. Let me assure everyone that they can have confidence in the fact that our Budget for this financial year is as well balanced as it always was. I can guarantee that we would have gone on to balance the 1996-97 Budget as well. I know that I can be confident of that because we have constantly improved this State's financial position every year since 1989, when we inherited—and this was the legacy of those opposite—a net debt of \$4,500m, or \$4.5 billion. That is what we were left with in 1989. We have turned that into a surplus of \$1,600m. The surplus that the new Government inherits is \$1.6 billion. If the Treasurer does come back in the future to say that she has found a problem and will have difficulty in balancing the books, that will simply be yet another reason why we should have no confidence in this minority Government, because it will be a trick to get out of the election commitments that it has given.

Now that the Liberals and Nationals are back in bed together, after all those years in which the Liberals told the truth about the Nationals—and those episodes make great reading, and I will have a lot of fun referring to them over the next little while—they expect us to believe that they can fulfil one of the most important tasks of Government: ensuring the maintenance of a strong Budget and a sound economic policy. This is vitally important, because after the months of uncertainty caused by the Liberal challenge to the Mundingburra result, business must be confident about the economic climate and the taxes and charges that it faces.

Let me remind everyone that there was every reason to have confidence in the Goss Government's handling of the economy. Whilst there was a brief slowing in growth in the March and June quarters of 1995, the trend figures indicate a quickening in economic growth. That is what the coalition Government inherits. The latest ABS data indicates that the Queensland economy, as measured by the constant price trend gross State product, grew by 1.1 per cent in the September quarter of 1995. This is an annualised figure of 4.4 per cent. The seasonally adjusted figure indicates an annualised figure of 6 per cent. Treasury knows that, and that is the strength that we are leaving the coalition Government.

Crucially, the trend data is showing an acceleration through those three quarters, representing growth of 0.2 per cent, 0.8 per cent and 1.1 per cent. Those results should be confidence building—showing an economy which, under Labor, was growing and growing rapidly. I am confident of one thing: members of the coalition will try to put up their hands very, very soon. And what will they try to do? They will try to take credit for what the Labor Party did in the sound economic management of this State, and we will make sure that at every opportunity they are reminded of the sound legacy that they inherited.

I also remind the House that there was every reason to have confidence in the election commitments given by the Labor Party. Every one of them was costed by Treasury. The Treasurer referred to Treasury, so let us look at some Treasury figures. Our promises were costed by Treasury with its usual professionalism and meticulous attention to detail. The total cost of our promises over five years was \$1,265m. For the benefit of members and the people of Queensland, I table details of Treasury's costings and funding sources.

As I asked earlier: how can we be confident that the \$7,005m, or \$7 billion, needed to fund the coalition's promises will be found, or that promises will be kept, or that services will not be slashed to pay for the promises? I table the extravagant list of the coalition's promises, costed by Treasury, which amounts to a total of \$7,005m, or \$7 billion. That is what the coalition's promises amount to. Yet while the coalition is making those promises on the one hand, on the other hand the Treasurer says, "We are going to cut land tax. We are going to cut sales tax on share transfers." She cannot do that; the figures simply will not add up. As I said, I table that document for the information of the House.

Why should we be confident that there will not be open slather on borrowing by this incoming Government? I say to the Treasurer: the problem with borrowing at this level is that there cannot be just a little bit; each year that borrowing accumulates, with no basis for repayment, and the debt builds. As Treasurer, Mrs Sheldon seems quite happy to do that. This is not a case of economic rationalism. My criticism is simply commonsense. It is not possible to run the State on a Myercard or a bankcard. It simply cannot be done. Why should anyone have any confidence in a Government whose Treasurer is on record as saying that a balanced Budget is not necessary? On another occasion, the Treasurer said that she was fairly determined

to balance the Budget. Why should we have any confidence in a Treasurer who once asserted that the Sunshine Coast tolls should be lifted because people should not have to pay for them; that the Government should pay—not the people, the Government should pay!

Should we have any confidence in a Treasurer who does not seem to have a comprehensive economic philosophy? All we have are a few vague notions, such as a cut in land tax and increased borrowing and increased debt. The coalition has promised to abolish land tax, which currently contributes \$180m to fund essential services such as schools, police and medical services. But there is no explanation of how those funds will be replaced and no explanation of any benefits from that removal of income. It will not help the home-building industry, because home owners are exempt. And it will not help the people of Gladstone, because they pay very little land tax. Where do people pay a lot of land tax? The truth is that the general public will suffer so that the National Party backers on the Gold Coast can benefit. Surfers Paradise land and property owners—many of them absentee—pay 20 per cent of what the State collects in land tax. I draw the attention of the honourable member for Gladstone to this point. This plan simply transfers a tax burden from the wealthy—the millionaires on the Gold Coast—to working families in places such as Gladstone. That is what it does. That is what these policies mean. Why has such a major priority been given to those areas? The answer is fairly clear.

These are the questions that need to be asked, and these are the questions that the people of Queensland need to consider when they watch this debate and listen to the goings-on in this House today. Does anyone seriously believe, after what the Treasurer said today and on other occasions, that Treasurer Sheldon should be the custodian of the finances of this State? Do people seriously believe that? The answer is: no. Does anyone seriously believe that these two—"just the two of us"—will look after the interests of working families in this State? No! Does anyone seriously believe that these two will stand up for the environment when the developers walk through the door with brown paper bags? Are they going to stand up for the environment? No! Does anyone seriously believe that these two have a plan to reduce hospital waiting lists and rebuild the hospital system? No! Their chance will come, because I have challenged them to table every six months the status of

the waiting lists. That will be the test. Let us see what they are like.

Does anyone seriously believe that these two deserve the confidence of this House? No! I hereby move the following amendment—

"After 'Government' add—

'and further the Parliament advises the Governor that no writ should be issued for a general election to be held before 2 May 1998 without express resolution of the Parliament'."

I do that for this reason: this State needs stability. We have had enough instability. The only way that there will be certainty in the business community and in the community generally is if there is a clear indication of a date before which there will not be an election. We do not want an early election. The Premier says that he does not want an early election. I say to the Premier: put your money where your mouth is. Here is your chance to give the people of Queensland certainty. The Premier offered the people of Queensland a contract. He offered the people of Queensland an opportunity to form a contract with him. Here is his chance to form that contract. I urge the honourable member for Gladstone, who also is on record as not supporting an early election, to support the Opposition on this amendment. Let us give the people of Queensland certainty. Let us give the business community certainty. I urge the House to support this amendment. The Opposition opposes the Premier's motion.

**Mr ELDER** (Capalaba—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.08 a.m.): I second the amendment. I oppose the Premier's motion. Today, the House is debating whether or not this coalition has not only the capacity to govern in this State but also whether it has the right to do so. The main point that was made by the Opposition Leader is simply this, and it should not be forgotten: the Labor Party holds 44 seats in this Parliament, and the Liberal/National Parties hold 44 seats in this Parliament. This coalition has not won a general election. Despite its claims to the contrary, and despite the rhetoric, we went to the election on fair electoral boundaries—no gerrymander; no 33 per cent of the vote required to win Government. We have 44 seats, and the National/Liberal Parties have 44 seats. Despite claims to the contrary, the coalition has not been supported by enough people in enough seats to form a majority Government. From this day forward this position will create a significant dilemma for those sitting opposite, because now they will

have to develop full and formal policies—none of those convenient documents that they roll around at election time—to put before the people of Queensland. They will not have the opportunity to say what they will not do; now they will have to put on record what they will do. No longer will the member for Surfers Paradise have the luxury of nodding his head and looking sympathetic and reassuring as a substitute for hard work and detailed policy development. No longer will members of the coalition be able to get away with trotting out wish lists at election time. No longer will coalition members have the luxury of just simply opposing for opposing's sake. They will have to propose something instead. Above all else, the members of the coalition will have to refer all issues back to this Chamber, because this is a hung Parliament. This is the people's House. This is where all issues should be decided.

Let us consider what the Parliament is being asked to support today. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would flood a World Heritage area and build a hydroelectric scheme while abandoning the Eastlink proposal that would have provided low-cost electricity to Queensland. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would weaken domestic violence laws and deprive women of the protection that they need. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would scrap the Cape York wilderness zone. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would reduce the rights of workers to compensation. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would cut back the teaching of foreign languages in our schools. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would scrap the maintenance of many fragile ecosystems in rural Queensland through the already-negotiated guidelines for tree clearing. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would introduce a referendum for an expensive Upper House to simply employ more politicians. This Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that would return to the bad, old practices of the bad, old days of planning when there was no systematic planning and the result was terrible urban sprawl. And this Parliament is being asked to support a coalition that has a track record of ransacking the environment. That is the coalition in which this Parliament is being asked to express confidence; yet all of those matters are crucial and important to Queensland and they should be decided here, in the people's House—not by some Executive Government team, not by

Ministers in a minority Government but here on the floor of this House. It is a hung Parliament; it is not a majority Government.

I turn to a matter that comes within my former portfolio, Transport. On Wednesday of last week, my former shadow, who is to be sworn in at some time as the new Minister, made a commitment, which was published in the newspapers, that he would downgrade—that is code for "abolish"—the South East Queensland Transit Authority. I remind members, and in particular the member for Gladstone, that the formation of that body took place on the floor of this Chamber. It was significant legislation that had majority support of this House. The new Minister has no right to downgrade it; he has no right to abolish it. He has no right to touch that organisation and set back the introduction and acceptance of public transport initiatives throughout south-east Queensland. He has no right to do that because those decisions should be made here, on the floor of this House. The coalition does not have a mandate to change; coalition members have no mandate at all: they are a minority Government.

I have outlined only a fraction of what the coalition in office stands for. All honourable members would know that during the past six months Mrs Sheldon, the member for Caloundra, has been trooping around Victoria getting the drum from Jeff Kennett. Honourable members have seen the member for Surfers Paradise strutting the national stage, telling those in the conservative parties, particularly those at the Federal level, "You'd be a mug to tell them beforehand. Don't tell them a thing. Keep it quiet. Don't say a thing. Tell them nothing. That's the way to go." Where is the integrity in that? Where is the commitment to open government? That is their record.

In Victoria, they have a new verb to describe being duded by the Kennett Government: being "Jeffed". I predict confidently that, in this State in the very near future, people will be talking about being "Robbed" and "Robbed" blind. Why should they not think that? The only group that has been willing to endorse the coalition's economic strategy has been the Institute of Public Affairs, that Right Wing think-tank, all the former heads of which sit on John Howard's front bench. They are the only economic commentators in this country who supported the coalition's economic policies.

To endorse and reinforce points made by the Leader of the Opposition I point out that,

despite the member opposite trying to distance himself from it and change the facts, Labor is handing over an economy that is growing strongly. As the Leader of the Opposition said, in the September quarter the gross State product, that is, the total of everything that is made in this State, grew by 1.1 per cent. As he said, that is an annual growth of 4.4 per cent. Seasonally adjusted, that is a growth of 6 per cent; that is, 6 per cent more goods and services are being produced in this State than in the previous quarter. That is growth; that is jobs for Queenslanders. That is what Labor is handing to the coalition. It is handing over an economy in which, as the Leader of the Opposition stated, we have paid off the bankcard. A total of \$4.5 billion of debt was on the books when Labor came to Government in 1989. Now, despite the members opposite trying to distance themselves from it, those books are \$1.6 billion in the black.

Why would members of the public not be worried? We should all be concerned because, as the Leader of the Opposition outlined, the member for Caloundra is ambivalent about debt. Apparently her financial philosophy is that of Alan Bond, that is, of course, just keep on borrowing and let tomorrow take care of itself. That will be a shameful legacy for her as Treasurer to leave behind.

**Mrs Edmond:** They might follow some other National Party Ministers.

**Mr ELDER:** It is following straight after National Party Ministers and others in other States. Importantly, when Labor was in Government it diversified this economy. That was never achieved by the previous National Party Government. The economy is no longer just farming, mining and tourism. We have seen growth in a viable manufacturing sector and, as a result, we have seen growth in the provision of long-term jobs. Instead of exporting raw materials, Queensland now exports finished products. When we came to Government in 1989, just under \$4 billion worth of manufactured products was exported. As we leave Government, those exports now total over \$6 billion. That is a 50 per cent increase in that period. That is not a bad record, despite the picture of gloom the members opposite try to paint. That is a good record of diversifying the economy and creating growth. We are handing over an economy that is in a strong and sound state. It is a diversified economy that provides long-term, sustainable jobs for this State.

What is being offered by the minority Government that is coming into office—\$7 billion worth of promises. Its members have stopped short of promising a block of flats and a set of steak knives to everyone who would vote for them.

**Mr Hamill:** I'm not sure about that.

**Mr ELDER:** The honourable member might find the steak knives in Mundingburra somewhere. As the Leader of the Opposition outlined, the only way the coalition will pay for those promises is by cutting land tax. The coalition plans to cut \$180m from the Budget by cutting land tax. As he outlined, this minority Government's early priority is to give a tax break to the millionaire property developers on the Gold Coast. The coalition intends to cut payroll tax. Labor has done more to develop small business and enhance it through payroll tax deductions than any conservative Government in this country. The Treasurer must understand that the coalition is planning to cut the two main sources of revenue for State Governments: land tax and payroll tax. The member for Caloundra and the member for Surfers Paradise believe that they can cut taxes and increase spending. The last time that that was seriously argued was by Ronald Reagan in the United States. Ronald Reagan tried it and when he left office he left a deficit of \$3 trillion. That was his legacy! Someone else had to pay. Yet this coalition is determined to take that approach. It seems to me that it thinks Budgets are like Norman Lindsay's magic pudding. Members know the story—one takes a bite out of the pudding, but instead of it getting smaller, it gets bigger. It is just amazing! That is the way the coalition sees the Budget; that is the way it sees fiscal responsibility.

So let me make a prediction—the Borbidge minority Government will be no different from any other conservative Government in this country, which has filled its Treasury coffers by cutting back on nurses, by cutting back on teachers and by selling Government assets and services. This Government will be no different. We know that when the squeeze is on the conservative parties, those will be the areas that will suffer the most—nurses, teachers and Government assets and services. The Premier talks about the good old days: the "good old days" were the days during which those professions were the lowest paid in Australia; the "good old days" were when those professions had no services and no infrastructure whatsoever to support them. That is what the Premier is talking about—going back to those good old

days. When the squeeze is on, that is where the cuts will be made because, deep down, the coalition believes that it does not have to manage to rule; it believes it was born to rule. Deep down, it still believes that.

But how long will it be before we see some ginger in the Liberal Party? How long will it be before the Liberals cannot sit comfortably with the racist and redneck remarks of their National colleagues? How long will be it before the Nationals dream of those happy days when they ruled in their own right without having to share power with a handful of Liberals? How long will it be before the landed gentry of the National Party start to question the credentials of the Surfers Paradise motel owner who leads them? In all, I think the Beatles probably best summed up with their famous song of some 25 years ago what the coalition parties have done to get to where they are today—they came in through the bathroom window protected by a silver spoon. I could not have summed it up any better.

I say that, notwithstanding whether the minority Government has come through the back door or the bathroom window, it is not legitimate—it is a minority Government. Therefore, it needs to test all issues on the floor of the House. I ask the people of Queensland: does the coalition have a mandate to scrap the Cape York wilderness zone? No, it does not. Does the coalition have a mandate to reduce the rights of workers to get compensation? No, it does not. Does this coalition have a mandate to flood a World Heritage area to build a hydro-electric scheme? No, it does not. Does this coalition have a mandate to weaken the domestic violence laws and deprive women of the protection that they need? No, it does not. Does it have a mandate to recentralise the health system in Brisbane? No, it does not. Does the coalition have a mandate to dismantle the koala coast protection plans? No, it does not. Does it have a mandate to dismantle the South East Queensland Transit Authority? No, it does not. All of those matters and many others must be decided by this Parliament.

This Parliament must run its full term. That means a commitment from the member for Surfers Paradise that he will not call a general election until at least the middle of 1998. The Leader of the Opposition has challenged the member for Surfers Paradise to state publicly that he will not call an election before May 1998, yet there has been no response at all to that call. The member for Surfers Paradise boasts about how he will bring stable Government to Queensland, so he should

give the commitment now. He should not wait; he should accept the challenge.

People have always set the bar higher for Labor Governments than they have for conservative Governments. They have demanded of Labor its very best and have never accepted anything less. When a party comes into Government after 32 years in Opposition, there is a desire and an expectation that it will change the world. The difficulty lies always in finding the right pace for change. For some, the pace was too fast; for others, it was not fast enough. However, we have listened to the people and we have accepted their criticism. Again, let us not forget one fundamental point: the Labor Party holds exactly the same number of seats as do the two coalition parties. The difference between the minority Government and the Opposition is the support of the member for Gladstone for the coalition. That is not a situation that leads to good or stable Government.

I speak for every member on this side of the House when I say that inside each and every one of us burns a determination to bring back stable Government to Queensland, and to do that through the re-election of the Labor Party. We represent a party that has over 100 years of history. Throughout the party's 100 years of existence, it has overcome and triumphed over adversities and the setbacks placed before it. The Labor Party has done that on a continual basis. Opposition members represent a party that has given Queensland great reformers—Ryan, Theodore and Goss. We represent a party that has always sought to work for the benefit of all Queenslanders and not just for the sectional interest of a privileged few. But most importantly, we represent a party that has fought for the rights of ordinary Queenslanders to share in the wealth and benefits of this great State. I know that many thousands of Queenslanders will be following today's proceedings with a heavy heart and a sense of anger and total frustration. I appreciate and share their feelings. However, I urge them all to take heart and face the future with optimism because those of us who represent them in this Parliament will fight on. We will not let them down, and we will be back.

**Mr W. K. GOSS** (Logan) (11.28 a.m.): Unaccustomed as I am to speaking fifth in a major parliamentary debate, I do so to place certain matters on the record. The first thing that I want to do is to congratulate the Leader and Deputy Leader of the parliamentary Labor Party on their election to their positions, to indicate to them my support and to wish them and our fellow colleagues in the parliamentary

Labor Party every success for the future. I am sure and I am confident that that success will not be too far away. Both Peter and Jim are steeped in the tradition and the commitment of the Labor Party and that, I think, augurs well for the future. As well, they have a team in the parliamentary Labor Party that numbers 44—closer to Government than Labor has ever been before when in Opposition. However, it not only has good numbers but also it has good talent—people who not only have experience of Government, people who have experience of committees and people who have experience of the Parliament but also people who have a commitment to all of the things that the Labor Party has stood for in its long history in this place.

I would like to thank Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon for their kind remarks directed towards my family and me. Can I say that my two decisions last Friday were made not only in what I believe were in the best interests of my family and me but equally importantly in the best interests of the Parliament of Queensland and in the best interests of the Labor Party, because I did not want to see the Labor Party today as part of a funeral service. I am pleased with what I have seen already, because what I have seen from the leader and deputy leader signals that they have commenced the march back. The march back to Government will not be anywhere near as long as the long march that ended in 1989.

Peter and Jim have dealt with the issue of the vote of confidence moved by the new Premier. As someone who has been in this place a little longer than some, I would note with some irony and humour that the last National Party Premier to move a vote of confidence in himself on his first day in office was Mr Cooper, and that signalled the beginning of the end of that Government.

The men and women of the parliamentary Labor Party are entitled to have every confidence in their ability to govern and their ability to come back. That belief is not only based on the numbers and the talent that sit on this side of the House, it is also based on a record of change and the fact that today we have a new Queensland which, in the 1990s, is fundamentally better and fundamentally different than the Queensland of the 1980s. The major changes will not and cannot be turned back. If anybody on the other side tries to wind back the major reforms and major changes we have implemented, I believe that the people of Queensland will rebel and rebel quickly.

Last Thursday in the annexe I made a speech to launch a couple of books, the *Queensland Policy Handbook 1996* and *A Government of Routines*. At the beginning of my speech I pointed out that one of the unhappy consequences of all the distractions of January was that I missed the last Toadshow production of *Glamalot*. That was only one of the disappointments of January. Referring to the show, I said in my speech—

"At the end of Toadshow's *Glamalot* a dispirited King Arthur (from Inala) handed his kingdom to his adversaries, and slipped away to some place called Avalon, there to forever sing bad pop songs from the 1970s, reminisce at the BBQ, and drive his purple Valiant charger."

Leaving aside the fact that I did not think there were any other sorts of pop songs from the 1970s, let me say that, despite that ending in the musical *Glamalot*, I am very optimistic about the future of this State and the future of Labor in this State. I know that whatever happens in the days ahead, that during our time in Government, and my time as Premier, that Queensland moved on from being what I think in the 1980s was a closed and insular society culturally, socially and politically to a society today which is a community of Queensland which is much more open, much more confident, much more outward looking and much more sophisticated. We can be proud of that.

I refer to high-profile reforms, and I instance honest electoral boundaries for the first time in 40 or 50 years, major environmental reforms such as occurred with Fraser Island, and the rebuilding of the public education system. Beyond the high-profile reforms that are perhaps most remembered, there are reforms and changes right across-the-board. Before I mention some of these—I would like to place them on the record—I remind Opposition members that in the first week after the election in 1989—not a week or a month later, but in the days immediately after 2 December 1989—we did not dillydally or procrastinate. We knew what we wanted to do. Before we were sworn in, we abolished imperial honours; on the day we were sworn in, Mr Mackenroth abolished the special branch; and within days of that, Labor hired hundreds of extra teachers as the commencement of rebuilding the public education system. The reason we started with education is that Labor believes that education is at the heart of any social justice agenda. We had a commitment from the

beginning, which we have discharged. We believe that the public education system is one that should be boosted, and so it was, because, irrespective of the sex, race, geography, religion or social circumstances of any child in this State, we believe that they should receive a quality education. That is at the heart of social justice; that is at the heart of equality of opportunity.

In referring to our high-profile reforms, and before I go on to place some other reforms on the record, I pose two questions to members and to the public: can anyone recite a list of the great reforms of the National/Liberal Party Governments of 1957 to 1989?

**A Government Member:** Death duties.

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** Death duties, I have over here. Well and good. Death duties! Government members may look to death and the past; we look to the future and the young people of this State.

Turning to the future, however, can anybody recite a list of the great reforms proposed by this incoming National/Liberal Party Government? This morning there has been reference to improving services and getting back to basics; every Government believes in that. This morning, the only thing I did not hear a promise in respect of was motherhood and curly hair for kids.

I said before that Queensland is a different place, and indeed it is a better place, for the Government of the last six years. Let me instance some of the reasons why I say that, and I ask whether anybody believes that the incoming Government will match this scope of reform. In the political and the administration area, we introduced electoral laws, anti-discrimination laws, equal employment opportunity policies, freedom to march laws, and homosexual law reform. I point to the work of the CJC and EARC—despite some of the arguments we had with the CJC—the reform of the Police Service, the implementation of the Fitzgerald reforms, freedom of information legislation, appointment to the public service on merit instead of the old approach and, of course, the introduction of sound and strict ministerial guidelines for the first time and the abolition of those ministerial credit cards and cash advances that were so famous in Queensland and so infamous around the country. In the area of the environment, I would cite Fraser Island, doubling the national park estate, the Noosa north shore, the tree-clearing guidelines and the coastal protection legislation. One of

the disappointments that I have following the premature end to our Government is in relation to the Cape York wilderness park. I sincerely hope, and appeal to Mr Borbidge, that decisions will not be taken in the days and months ahead that will prevent the establishment of what could be a world-class wilderness park, something that has the potential to not only rival Kakadu but which will do more for the economy of far-north Queensland than the grazing industry could do in the 11 or 12 properties that are involved.

I have spoken about education and I instance the huge boost to the education budget, the program of computers in schools, Asian languages and studies, the big boost to grants to P & Cs, and wage justice for teachers. One last issue that I raise is our successful campaign to gain a fair share of tertiary places in Australia for young Queenslanders; that is something that I am proud of. It was the State Labor Government when in power that provided unprecedented opportunities for young people in regional Queensland to have a campus in their areas. One only needs to look at Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone and the Sunshine Coast as examples.

One thing that I would give special mention to is the decision that was taken last year, in consultation with all the stakeholders and, in particular, in consultation with Griffith University, to at last establish a campus of Griffith University in Logan City. Logan City is the third biggest city in Queensland. I say to Mr Borbidge: Logan City is an area which is not only the third biggest city in Queensland but also has a very high proportion of young people, and a high proportion of young people who, in the past, have not been encouraged to go on to higher education. It was one of my dreams and goals that young people would be encouraged and given an opportunity to attend that facility, as do young people on the Gold Coast in the electorate of the honourable member for Surfers Paradise. Young people in Brisbane have the choice of attending three universities, as would young people right up the coast in regional Queensland. I have read in the newspaper the comments of the honourable member for Surfers Paradise that that decision will be reviewed. I do not take that as a firm and final decision to transfer the Logan City campus to Mr Lingard's electorate of Beaudesert. I appeal to the honourable member for Surfers Paradise to consider the high numbers—

**Mr Borbidge:** It is a legal problem, my friend advises me.

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** It is a legal problem. That is well and good, but I hope that it will be resolved and addressed in good faith. There is a great need for that facility, and the honourable member will do a great thing if he is able to confirm that decision for those tens of thousands of young people in Logan City who are too far from Brisbane and the Gold Coast to have the opportunities that young people in those other places have.

In relation to the economy, it is with great pride that I leave the State with a balanced Budget, the lowest State taxes and charges of any Australian State, full funding of our future liabilities and the best debt position of any Australian State. This was achieved by a Labor Government during the worst recession in Australia's history and during the worst drought in Queensland's history. We could be proud of that record in any circumstances but doubly proud in the circumstances in which we found ourselves in Government. In addition to that, I refer to the diversification of the economy. There has been more value adding and more will follow. For example, I refer to Korea Zinc, Comalco's expansion plans, and the gas pipelines that are either under way or about to be commenced in the north west of our State. All of that is a great achievement and I hope the incoming Government will build on it. I am sure it will, but I certainly hope that it does.

Our reputation as a farm and a quarry is not something to sneer at; it is something that we can be proud of, but we cannot leave it at that. We have to build on those foundations. We have to add to our natural resources, the intellectual resources of Australians and the intellectual resources of a first-class education system to produce more value adding and more skilled and better paid jobs for future generations.

Before I conclude, I acknowledge and place on record the work of Edmund Casey, who was a great Minister for Primary Industries. I refer especially to the sugar industry, which is in the best position ever largely due to the reforms pioneered by Ed Casey.

In relation to trade, this Government has focused Queensland and the Queensland business community on the Asia Pacific, and the advances that we have made in places such as Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong, southern China, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea are ones that also must be built on. I am confident that in those areas we will see the new Government continuing to pursue the changes in direction that we have made over the years.

That is important and that is where this State's future lies.

As to housing—I refer to the reforms introduced by the member for Lytton, Tom Burns, in relation to boarding houses, senior citizens and tenants' rights, which are very basic to a Labor agenda. I place on record in this speech my appreciation of the work in Government of the former Deputy Premier, Tom Burns, as a Minister and also his support for me.

The former Queensland Government had a big investment in rail. I refer to the Gold Coast railway, which was to be opened next Sunday but, I hope, will be opened soon.

In relation to women, I appeal to the member for Caloundra, Mrs Sheldon, not to turn back the clock on reforms. I say: retain the Women's Policy Unit, the women's policy adviser and the Women's Consultative Council, which gives women right across the State from all backgrounds and all social circumstances the opportunity to feed opinion into the Government. It is a proud achievement of our Government and one that we will certainly continue to be proud of that, until there was a Labor Government, no woman ever held senior public positions in this State—for example, the head of a department, Supreme Court judge, District Court judge, magistrate, police superintendent, Industrial Commissioner, and the highest office in the land, that is, the position of Governor. Importantly, this gave women their rightful place in our society and also encouraged young women and girls to aspire to the very senior positions that this State and community has to offer.

As to industrial relations—we are proud of the fact that in our first six months we swept away that repressive Bjelke-Petersen industrial relations regime. I hope that the Government will not be silly and reactionary enough to try to go back down that path. We are also proud of the fact that we restored the superannuation rights of SEQEB workers that were unjustly taken away by the Bjelke-Petersen Government. I could go on and on, but I have only two minutes left.

In the time of this Government, we put Queensland on the national stage. Queensland gained respect and became a national player instead of being sidelined. Whether it was in relation to the national electricity reforms, the national rail reforms, Hilmer, or reform of Australian financial institutions, it was this Government and Mr De Lacy who led that reform and who produced the template legislation, as a result of which



we have the headquarters of the national office in Queensland. As to training and the Australian National Training Authority—it was this Government that played a leading role in the national debate to establish that body and, once again, the national headquarters in Queensland.

I said before that Labor is entitled to confidence in our ability to return. We are entitled to confidence because we have the numbers to come back. We have the ability to come back but, most importantly, what Labor has and what members opposite do not have is passion and belief. We believe in the role of Government to create a better society. We believe in the power of policy to shape the way in which a Government does that. We believe in the right of people to a better society, an honest, hard-working and decent Government, and we have delivered it.

*An incident having occurred in the public gallery—*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the members of the public gallery to stop clapping. I do not allow the public gallery to express any view by actions such as that. I know it is a very sorry day and there are a lot of emotions, but I would ask the public gallery to desist in the future from doing that.

**Mr De LACY** (Cairns) (11.48 a.m.): Mr Speaker, I think that members of the public gallery were right. I take the opportunity provided by this debate to place on record the progress made in Queensland over the six years of the Goss Government in areas of direct relevance to the Treasury portfolio and, it goes without saying, areas of fundamental importance. I refer to areas such as financial management, public administration, micro-economic reform, economic and employment growth.

By anybody's standards, it is an extraordinary performance, one which everyone, especially the media, would do well to heed in the coming months as the incoming Borbidge/Sheldon Government attempts to perpetrate the big lie, which it commenced today with Mrs Sheldon reading selectively and deceptively from a Treasury document. That document was probably 50 or 100 pages long, yet in her usual fashion she could only find one or two quotes putting down Queensland.

**Mrs Edmond:** A dishonest start.

**Mr De LACY:** It was a dishonest start to what looks like being a dishonest Government.

The performance of the Goss Government is without parallel in the annals of

Australian Governments. We have put so much space between Queensland and the other States of Australia that even an incompetent, ill-prepared, policy-free coalition Government would have to work very hard to destroy it. In the context of this formidable record, one would have to wonder at the motives of the member for Gladstone in seeking to bring down the Goss Government.

Firstly, I would like to place on record my admiration for the performance of my former department over the past six years. Queensland Treasury is widely regarded as the best Treasury in Australia by far and, I say without disrespect to anyone else, the most professional public service department in Queensland. The achievements which I shall shortly outline are due primarily to the dedication, hard work and independence of all members of this department. I have nothing but the highest regard for their professionalism from the top to the bottom, and they would be an asset to any Government.

All members of Treasury, from the Under Treasurer down, subscribe very strongly to the Westminster tradition that public servants serve without fear or favour. That is why I am disturbed—in fact, I am appalled—at rumours which are circulating that suggest that the incoming Government is going to bring in a Liberal Party lackey to head the department. The person most commonly mentioned, an academic from Bond University, has been shouting from the rooftops that he will be the new Under Treasurer—which, incidentally, does not say very much about his sense of propriety and discretion, both vital qualities in a successful Under Treasurer.

The current Under Treasurer is one of the most widely respected public servants in Queensland, a career public servant selected on merit by an independent panel on the basis of a national advertisement. He is thoroughly professional, extremely competent and very popular. As a professional and independent public servant subscribing to Westminster principles, he would serve any Government with distinction. If the rumours are true, it will be the first great disaster of the Borbidge Government. It will be a disaster from which it will never recover. It will signal to the world at large that the bad old days are back again, that merit selection is a thing of the past and that Fitzgerald was for nothing. The leaders of the coalition would be doing not only themselves and their Government a great disservice; they would also be doing a great disservice to the people of Queensland. I can only hope that the rumours are unfounded, and I believe that the leaders of

the coalition have an obligation to put them to rest today. But on the basis of those rumours, one wonders why anybody would be voting for a confidence motion in this Government.

Now to the achievements—a performance against which the Borbidge/Sheldon minority Government will be judged. Since 1990-91, the first full financial year of the Goss Government, Queensland real gross State product—that is, the Queensland economy—has grown by an average rate of 4.4 per cent per annum in real terms. Over this same period, economic growth for the rest of Australia has averaged 1.9 per cent. Queensland has maintained an average growth differential of 2.5 per cent per annum over the other States of Australia during the period of the Goss Government. During the last 20 quarters for which figures are available, Queensland outperformed the rest of Australia in 17 of them, including the last quarter for which figures are available. This was despite an extended period of depressed world commodity prices, the worst recession since the Great Depression and the most severe and sustained drought in Queensland history.

Total private investment has experienced a sustained recovery. Over the past three years, growth has been 10 per cent or above in each year. Business investment has been particularly strong, growing by 33.2 per cent in the last financial year—twice that recorded in the rest of Australia. People make much of the slowdown in housing, yet in absolute terms it is still strong. Over the five years in question, a total of 216,500 dwelling units were commenced in Queensland—28 per cent of the Australian total. During the last month for which figures are available, despite being at the bottom of the housing cycle, there were as many new dwelling approvals in Queensland as in New South Wales, with twice our population, many more than in Victoria, with one and a half times our population, and more than in all of the other States and Territories combined.

Since 1990-91, Queensland exports have grown at an average annual rate of 6.3 per cent compared with the average annual growth rate of 4.2 per cent for the rest of Australia. Queensland now accounts for 18.2 per cent of Australia's population, up from 17 per cent five years ago. Queensland's population has grown at an average annual rate of 2.5 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent in the rest of Australia. Queensland has accounted for 41 per cent of Australia's population growth over that five-year period. Net interstate migration to Queensland was 215,000. The only other State to record a net

increase over the period was Western Australia, with 5,000. All other States recorded a net loss of residents. Even in this financial year, net interstate migration is expected to be very close to 40,000—a figure exceeded only once in the 32-year history of the previous Government.

Since 1991, Queensland has generated 171,200 new jobs, or 55 per cent of the new jobs created throughout Australia. Over the same period, Queensland's manufacturing employment grew by 22 per cent compared with the 4.9 per cent decline recorded in the rest of Australia. Latest data shows that in the year to January 1996, employment in Queensland grew by 3.9 per cent, compared with 3.3 per cent in the rest of Australia—this notwithstanding the downturn which occurred during that period. While Queensland's unemployment rate is currently above the national average, in the last 60 months Queensland's unemployment rate has been below the national average on 42 occasions. Compare this with the last 60 months of the previous National Party Government, when Queensland's unemployment rate was above the national average every single month. Mrs Cunningham, with her professed concern for unemployment, should ponder these figures.

It is true that the Queensland economy entered a cyclical downturn in the middle of last year. Nevertheless, recent ABS data confirms that the economy is growing strongly once again. The recent widespread rains indicating a recovery in the rural sector, high levels of business investment, the extraordinary surge in investment in new mining and processing projects and the State Government's recently announced \$745m accelerated capital works program point to a very strong economic future for Queensland. It would take very poor management indeed to destroy something so robust.

Let me point to other achievements for which Treasury is primarily responsible. Queensland not only retains its status as the low tax State of Australia, but also we have increased the differential between Queensland and the other States. Other States now pay 39 per cent on average in State taxes more than Queensland, compared with 32 per cent six years ago. We have consistently achieved structural surpluses in our Budget position and reduced net debt by \$6.2 billion, that is, from \$4.3 billion six years ago to negative \$1.9 billion as of now—in other words, we have a surplus of \$1.9 billion—this while still enhancing Queensland's position as the low tax State and substantially increasing spending in all of the important social areas.

By way of comparison, the combined net debt of the other States and Territories of Australia is \$72.5 billion. This has enhanced Queensland's AAA credit rating and sets Queensland apart not just from the other States of Australia but from most jurisdictions around the world. However, as I said, none of this has been done at the expense of service delivery. Our good financial management has enabled us to increase spending in service delivery by 39 per cent in real terms since 1989-90. Health spending has increased in comparable terms by 64 per cent or a massive \$1.1 billion. Education spending has increased by 56 per cent, also by a massive \$1.1 billion. Spending on law and order has increased by 58.2 per cent from \$342m to \$541m.

Queensland has by far the best performing financial institutions in Australia—a far cry from the situation six years ago, when the QIDC was seen as another arm of the National Party and Queensland's investment strategy involved investments in Kern Corporation and Qintex which led to write-offs of more than \$150m. The Queensland Treasury Corporation is recognised as the premier central borrowing authority in Australia and raises funds at a substantially cheaper rate than any other body. The Queensland Investment Corporation not only ranks as one of the 10 largest fund managers in Australia; it is also consistently one of the top performers. For instance, in the last financial year QIC achieved a 10 per cent return on investment—2.6 per cent above the average of its private-sector competitors. The QIDC is now fully corporatised, making healthy profits and returning dividends to the taxpayers of Queensland. It has diversified its operations, and while still a major lender to the primary sector, has increased its exposure to both secondary and tertiary sectors.

Suncorp has now joined that select group of Australian companies with after-tax profits in excess of \$100m—this in an increasingly competitive environment. The corporatisation of GOEs in Queensland has been carried out in a systematic, consultative and efficient way, unlike the chaotic attempts of the other States. Corporatisation has generated productivity improvements, lower prices, a commercial return on public assets and greater responsiveness to client needs. Specific benefits include a 40 per cent improvement in labour and asset productivity for Queensland Rail, a 14 per cent reduction in real electricity prices to consumers and a 17 per cent reduction in real charges by the Port of Brisbane Corporation.

In a whole range of other sectors Queensland has outperformed the rest of Australia: in terms of the supervision and introduction of casinos; the introduction of gaming machines; our superannuation, which is the only fully-funded public sector superannuation scheme in Australia, and the most generous and the most efficient; the Government Statistician's office; a whole range of micro-economic reforms; and our drought relief programs, which are widely acknowledged as the most comprehensive in Australia. Over the past six years Queenslanders have done virtually everything better than everyone else. Queensland is respectable again, and in terms of financial and economic performance it is the envy of every other State.

Mrs Sheldon claims that she is going to have an independent audit of Queensland's financial position. I challenge her to do this and to make the findings public, so long as it is an independent audit by a respected organisation—not one of her Liberal Party lackeys. Let me assure everyone that everything in Queensland is on the public record. We have standards of accountability which require this. I can only imagine that Mrs Sheldon's jaundiced view must stem from memories of the bad old days of the National Party. The fact is that we have numerous independent audits each year, most notably by the international credit-rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's. Their audits are on the public record and pay a glowing tribute to the strength of Queensland's financial position and the integrity of our Budget. My fear—and it is a fear which ought to be shared by every Queenslander—is that the financial management principles which have been responsible for the performance I have just outlined will be jettisoned by a Government with no concept of what good management is all about. My fears lie in two aspects: firstly, that the minority Borbidge/Sheldon Government will sell off assets and use the proceeds to fund recurrent programs. They have already alluded to this by saying that they will use QIFF funds to balance their Budget and to meet their election commitments. I remind all honourable members that the funds currently in QIFF came from the sale of capital assets such as Queensland Nickel and the State gas pipeline. Those funds have been earmarked for capital infrastructure programs, such as the water pipelines from the Eungella and Lake Julius Dams, upgrading of the Mount Isa to Townsville railway line and the large water infrastructure projects on the Comet and

Dawson Rivers. If these funds are used to plug holes in the recurrent Budget then it will be a great travesty; it will be the start of Queensland on that slippery road downhill.

My second concern is that the Borbidge/Sheldon Government will start borrowing when it cannot balance its books. And after looking at the commitments that it made during the last election campaign—\$7 billion worth of commitments over five years—it is clear that it cannot balance the books. For the past six years the previous Labor Government had a policy of borrowing only when there was an income stream capable of servicing the debt. To do anything else would be a disaster; it would be an admission that the Government cannot pay its way and that it will make the children pay. Nothing could be more un-Australian than that.

There is a general feeling amongst members opposite that if they borrow they can spend more. In fact, the reverse is the case. If the borrowings do not generate an income stream, they have to be repaid and repaid from the Budget. And not only does the amount borrowed have to be repaid, but real interest also has to be repaid. It would be one of the great ironies of Australian politics if, as the other States do their level best to emulate Queensland, Queensland started going down the track that caused so much financial chaos and heartburn in the other States of Australia and left them with a legacy which will take generations to extinguish.

I heard Mrs Cunningham say this morning that she could not envisage any circumstances which would cause her to withdraw her support from the coalition Government. I put it to members that financial mismanagement along the lines that I have just outlined would constitute such circumstances. The consequences to future generations are too horrendous to contemplate. Queenslanders can be very proud of themselves. As I said, we do most things better than everyone else. The former Government can be proud of its achievements over the last six years. I believe that it is incumbent upon everyone—certainly us as an Opposition, but also the media as a watchdog—to ensure that we do not allow this new Government to sacrifice the principles that have made Queensland great. I assure this new Government that I know the Budget papers back to front. With the new standards of accountability which were implemented under our Government, there is no way that the books can be fiddled, and there is no way that this Government can introduce practices alien to the Queensland tradition without the

whole world knowing. I will make it my business to ensure that the whole world does know.

I cannot support a motion of confidence in the incoming Borbidge/Sheldon Government. From listening to them today, I realise that they are still full of empty rhetoric and unfunded promises. Mrs Sheldon in particular has not realised that she has shifted sides, and she is still in her knocking mode. I assure her that one has to be pretty good to find something in Queensland that is worth knocking; one has to be capable of saying that black is white. As I said, I cannot support this motion. I accept that Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon are forming a Government. We in Opposition will ensure that the principles that have made Queensland great are maintained into the future and that future generations will inherit the kind of society and the kind of economy that the Goss Government has established.

**Mr GIBBS** (Bundamba) (12.07 p.m.): I rise today obviously not to support the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier. Mr Speaker, each morning that this Parliament sits, one of the important traditions of this place is when you—and obviously your successor will, too—come into this House and read prayers. There are a couple of things which, over the years, always stick in people's minds. Two of the words that always ring in my ears at the commencement of each sitting day are two important words, namely, "truth" and "justice". I put it to members that today there has been no truth and there has been no justice in the events that have taken place in the last couple of weeks.

I want to say to every member and branch member of the Labor movement—because I believe that we owe it to those people—our industrial supporters and our voters out there in the electorate that there is going to be a little bit of truth and justice for some of those people here today, because I am not going to be one of those who come into this Chamber and bite their tongues on what I believe to be one of the most shocking indictments on a person, that is, the member for Gladstone, that I have seen in this Parliament in my entire 19 years in this Chamber. The fact is that here is the person who has brought down an elected Government, and yet during this entire debate today she does not even have the courage to take the microphone and really put on record in this House why she made that decision. We saw the press conference that was held on that vacant lot next to the house in Gladstone

which is her electorate office, but this is the place to put it on record. I offer this challenge to the member for Gladstone: do not sit there taking the wishes of your political masters—and that is obviously what they are—have the spine to stand up in this Parliament today and put on record the good and concise reasons why you believe this Government should have been brought down. The reality is that, to more than anybody, we owe that to our supporters in the seat of Gladstone. I know that our branch members there feel very disillusioned with proceedings, particularly since July last year, and with a member whose ability so far has been one performance—one maiden speech in this Parliament—and nothing else until this conspiracy in which she indulged with members on the other side of the Parliament.

The member for Gladstone will go down in the political records of this State as having the same stained reputation as the late Albert Patrick Field, the late Vincent Clair Gair and, of course, that Labor rat, whom I hope is listening, that diabolical creature in Townsville, the former member for Mundingburra, Ken Davies. For the benefit of the member for Gladstone, I say that singly she has achieved more for the Labor movement, particularly in the past six months when some discipline had disappeared and some comradeship had started to fragment, than Wayne Goss, Peter Beattie or others in the party would have been able to achieve. She has galvanised the Labor movement. There is no more professional, angry, political animal than the Labor Party when it is fighting and prepared to do the job.

**A Government member:** You should know.

**Mr GIBBS:** I do know, and that is why I am saying that members opposite should be concerned. We should not forget the proud traditions that have been mentioned here today. We can be very proud of the leadership of this Government by Tom Burns and Wayne Goss over the past six and a half years. In my opinion, they form an important part of the Labor movement. They are the sorts of people one reads about in books such as those written by Chifley. They symbolise the light on the hill. They, along with the new leadership of the Labor Party in the Parliament today, symbolise the reason for the anger and disappointment in the community. To those supporters who are in the gallery today I say: do not let it be a destructive anger; make it an anger that is constructive, an anger that makes one want to get to work and unite as a team, an anger like that which existed in the years leading up to the 1989 State election. It

must be a constructive anger that will drive people to put in the great effort that will ensure that, at the next election, Labor returns to its rightful position on the Treasury benches of this State.

The born-to-rule syndrome of those members on the other side of the Chamber has already been mentioned. It is with great disappointment today that I heard the Premier mention rural Queensland. He said that the former Government had a lot to answer for and that we did not look after rural Queensland. I will tell honourable members a very quick story. The story that always got a run during the first days after the election was the story of the day we sat down in our very first Cabinet meeting. Of course, the media took the good line and said that we were told to go and have a shower. That is a true story. However, another true story that has never been reported, and I doubt that it is talked about much, is that, on that day, Goss stood at the head of the table and made it very clear to every one of his Ministers that, because as a party we had never had the support of rural Queensland and Labor did not win one rural seat in the election, we were going to be a party—at that time a Government—for the whole of this State and not just a Government for the south-east corner or the regional areas.

The former Government has a proud record of achievement in rural Queensland. For example, over the past six and a half years, in some of the most horrendous circumstances of the worst drought on record, Labor provided \$107m to rural Queensland to address problems that were emerging, such as suicide among rural young people, and to assist people who did not have expertise in proper property management and had worries and concerns about financial management. I see the member for Warrego sitting on the other side of the Chamber. He knows full well the outstanding success of the former Government. If he talks to the graziers and other coalition supporters in Charleville, he will find that they applaud the initiative taken by the former Government in implementing the south-west strategy. That has become a role model which has now been adopted by conservative Governments in other States.

Labor took the initiative through the extension of the Beardmore Dam to help the cotton farmers of St George ensure that that vital industry would play a major economic role in this State. Now it is flourishing. Certainly, the recent rain that has broken the drought has contributed greatly to that success. Members opposite should talk with people who live in that area and ask them whether they consider

that the Goss Government was an anti-rural Government.

Members of the former Government visited the small outback towns throughout Queensland—places the then shadow Minister had not visited in the past six and a half years—and ensured, through the Water Quality Program that, for the first time in their lives, people in those areas have access to proper sewerage facilities and the most important, fundamental right in their community, that is, the right to have a drink of clean water. It was the Goss Government that provided that amenity for thousands of small outback towns.

The former Premier referred to the restructuring of Queensland's great sugar industry. That industry is proud of the restructuring that took place under the former Government and, as members of that former Government, we are proud to hold our heads up in that industry community. People in that sector do not vote for us, but they know that we achieved more for that particular sector of the rural community than members opposite achieved in the 32 years that their parties were in office. The further extension of the Burdekin scheme—the land allocation scheme and the huge expansion of the sugar industry in the Burdekin area—is another proud achievement of the Labor Government. I find it disturbing that already the vultures on the other side of the Chamber are talking about breaking down the reforms that have been achieved. In particular, that is shown by the ill-informed comments made by members of the Government in the past couple of days in relation to Pumicestone Passage, which contains one of the most finite resources in Queensland, yet the area has been killed environmentally by only 10 commercial fishermen. I have read statements by the Deputy Premier about the possibilities of reopening Pumicestone. I have read that in the media and, of course, I believe everything that the media say. It would be an environmental disaster to allow commercial fishing in that passage to resume. It would be an even greater travesty of justice to pay full compensation to the nine affected commercial fishermen, as has been suggested by the member.

**Mrs Sheldon:** Do you think they should get nothing?

**Mr GIBBS:** We were prepared to sit down with them. I instructed Crown law on the matter and Crown law has been involved in that process. We spent 12 months trying to negotiate an ex gratia payment. The member

for Caloundra needs to understand that one cannot pay compensation to people who will not open their taxation records to show what they have been earning for the past five years. Therein is a little clue for the Treasurer if she is smart enough to pick it up. The reality is that the average earnings of those fishermen from Pumicestone Passage has been \$14,000 per year. As part of the compensation process, we were prepared to refit the boats of most of them to ensure that they could continue commercial fishing in other areas of Moreton Bay.

The Government came into office on a no-policy campaign. When the members opposite talk about how anti-rural we were, it is significant to note that when one reads the National/Liberal coalition document on primary industries, one finds that it is a blueprint of what Labor has done. It is a blueprint of initiatives that have already been implemented. It is a blueprint of so many programs that are already in train in the Department of Primary Industries.

**Mr Perrett:** By taking away all the service delivery people.

**Mr GIBBS:** The member who interjected knows full well that he will inherit a department that is very well geared up. That department is implementing many of the programs for which he supposedly stands.

**Mr Perrett:** What about the fruit fly?

**Mr GIBBS:** I will tell the honourable member about the fruit fly. The fruit fly is not politically biased. The honourable member seems to forget that. It did not come into Queensland because there was a Labor Government. If that is the argument, let us give the fruit fly some credit for intelligence, because it would seem to me that, since the swearing in took place yesterday, it has now moved further: it has arrived in Bowen. So in 24 hours under a Liberal/National Party Government it has spread its wings into other areas of the State. Perhaps it is politically biased—I do not know. I choose to think that, in fact, it is not.

The coalition talks about the ideas that will come from Mr Perrett when he becomes the Minister for Primary Industries. One of his great, crazy ideas is the \$100m Clarence River diversion scheme. How many times does the member have to be convinced that this scheme has been costed? The best engineering brains in this nation have investigated the scheme and they have found that it is simply not viable. The member will find that out, because he will receive the same advice from the DPI that it has been giving for

years, and the reality is that the structure and the pumping costs make this scheme a cost-prohibitive program. In terms of the cost per megalitre of water that the Government will have to charge farmers to recover costs, the scheme is just not a viable proposition.

The member for Barambah is also talking about taking Water Resources out of the Department of Primary Industries. That news has already sent the people in the bush into panic mode. I have received a lot of phone calls from people in the rural community and they have told me that, whilst they found the first five years of the welding together of various aspects of the department difficult—because change can often be difficult for people to accept—the reality is that this program ensured proper natural resource management throughout Queensland. I can tell the member that already people are calling him the "Minister for Mud", because the combining of lands and water resources will do nothing to assist in the proper, good, professional decisions to be made in the management of either land or water throughout this State.

I want to make some comments in relation to the member for Crows Nest. He is a shining example of somebody who loves the bush and the rural electorate that he represents. Here is a man who represents the seat of Crows Nest but for the last three years has lived in a house at Ascot. Surely, such a person has to have some hypocrisy. At the weekend, he made the following statement in relation to the racing industry—

"In particular, the role of QRIS promoter John Needham will be investigated . . . 'I think there needs to be a better spread of the QRIS money around the major country areas. It needs to be decentralised', the National Party Minister said."

The important point to make is that Mr Needham, upon the instigation of coalition members, has already been subject to a thorough examination by the Criminal Justice Commission. The member for Crows Nest should forget about those people in the industry to whom he speaks. They have hate in their hearts. When the member took control of the shadow portfolio, I rang him and offered him a full briefing of what was going on in the department. He could have received the best information in the world—the same information that I received. But no, he jumped into bed with the haters—those who want to destroy the reform that has taken place in the industry. The reality is that Mr Needham came up with a

great idea for Queensland racing. That idea was accepted, and it has now been copied. The racing industry in Queensland is the envy of every other State racing Minister and the racing industry in other parts of Australia and in New Zealand. The member should look at some of the stock that is coming to Queensland. That should answer any questions or doubt that he has about the industry.

I say to the member, who has made a statement about decentralising the industry—chopping it down—that because of the way the Labor Government structured QRIS, people in rural areas are now the recipients of something like \$255,000 for races throughout western Queensland. Until the Labor Government implemented that scheme, those people never had those races. People in western Queensland are now the recipients of three \$100,000 carnivals. Every year, the Labor Government promoted those races in those areas. I say that at least the member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, always had the decency to acknowledge the good job that was done by a Labor Government in that regard.

The member for Crows Nest—and this should send great shock waves and alarm throughout the racing industry—will have to interfere in the racing industry to achieve what he referred to in that newspaper article. He talks about Sky Channel coverage and TAB coverage of the dog racing industry in Townsville. Does he know what that means? It means that, each year, the club has to find \$385,000 to pay for Sky Channel. That equates to an extra 700 patrons a week coming through that club's turnstiles. That is an impossibility. The only alternative is to raid the Racing Development Fund, which is the only place from which that money can come. So the member is going to put his greedy paws on \$385,000 to keep a club going. It deserves to be kept going, but it is a battling club and it needs help. Because there is no profitability in the proposal, the member for Crows Nest would have to direct the TAB board to make a non-commercial decision to fund that club on a TAB distribution basis. With the greatest respect for the club, I say that punters in Queensland and Australiawide will simply not go to the TAB and punt on second-rate animals running around the track in Townsville.

The other promise that the member has made in relation to the racing industry in Townsville is to reopen harness racing in that city. A group of people in that city were given a \$6m gift to build a beautiful stadium. By the

time that amount was paid off, the stadium had cost the taxpayers of this State \$21m. Now the member wants to give them a new facility at the showgrounds. He should look at the track. It is worse than the track upon which Ben Hur raced. It is a dangerous track and one should not spend money on it.

Finally, I want to go on record and say that I have been very proud to be a Minister in the Goss Government. It has been one of the greatest privileges and proudest moments of my life. In common with every other Labor Government Minister, I am proud to have worked with Mr Goss and Tom Burns—people who, as I have said, are the lights of the Labor movement and people whom many on this side should be making sure that they model themselves on in the future.

**Mr HAMILL** (Ipswich) (12.27 p.m.): Today, I came here with the expectation that we would see a new coalition Government—a Liberal and National Party coalition Government—with its tail up. I believed that we would hear in this place an alternative vision for the State.

**Mrs Sheldon:** You did.

**Mr HAMILL:** I take that interjection, but I am still waiting to hear it. The more things change, the more they stay the same. The seating arrangements in this place may have changed, but unfortunately what we heard from the Premier and his deputy was more of the same. Their speeches were the same old speeches that we heard time and time and time again when they were delivered from this side of the House. That is a great disappointment. I thought that just maybe on this historic occasion there may have been some vision from the Liberal Party or the National Party—some outline of the policy prescriptions for the State. However, today all we are asked to do is to vote confidence. That is like writing out a blank cheque, because we have not been told anything at all about the nature of the policy prescriptions of this incoming Government. What is more, after hearing from the Premier and the Deputy Premier, the rest of the coalition dried up. Where are the rest of them? Do they not have confidence in their own side? Do they not have one iota of an idea about where this State ought to be going?

**Mrs Edmond:** They are hiding.

**Mr HAMILL:** I say to the member that if I had to come into this place and support the policy claptrap that were the articles of faith of the Liberal and National Parties whilst they were in Opposition, I would be hiding, too.

Upon what basis are we asked to vote confidence? From what we have heard today, the people of Queensland could have no confidence in this new administration. Quite clearly, it is an administration that lacks vision. Certainly, after hearing the words of the Deputy Premier, I say that it is an administration that lacks credibility. What is more—and let us be very clear about this—it is also an administration that lacks not only vision and credibility but also the majority in this place. Let us not forget that this new administration has exactly the same number of members in this House as does this Labor Opposition. Were it not for the allegiance of the member for Gladstone, they would still be languishing over here.

I am waiting with bated breath to hear some of the policy announcements of this new Government. Government members were not noted for their policy cohesion whilst they were in Opposition. It may be a small point, but I want to give an example of that from the area of education. We used to have a parade of National Party rednecks, such as the honourable member for Keppel, running around prescribing a birch rod and whipping stool for every classroom. That was a great embarrassment to their education spokesperson, the member for Merrimac, because he would say, "No, no, no; the Liberal Party does not support that." That demonstrates the modus operandi of the Liberal and National Parties. They were all things to all people. During the State election campaign last July, the Liberal and National Parties engaged in the cynical exercise of promising anything and everything to any group or individual, which is exactly the same attitude that we saw from members of the last conservative Government in this State.

During her speech, the member for Caloundra took us on a little trip. Fortunately for her, she had a Treasury briefing note to bolster the content of what she had to say, which was the best part of the speech, I thought. As the incoming Minister for Transport, I well remember getting briefings from officers of the old Main Roads Department. One day in December 1989, I went up to Spring Hill and was told about the massive blow-out in funding for the construction of the Sunshine Motorway. Do honourable members remember that toll road, bequeathed to the people of Queensland by the very Government of which Mr Cooper and Mr Borbidge were such prominent members? Let us go down memory lane for a moment. Who remembers a certain man of principle, a Liberal turncoat who came into this place to



help deliver a parliamentary majority to the National Party back in 1983? The person I had in mind was Brian Austin. Do members remember him? I certainly remember Brian Austin. He was reborn, of course, as the National Party's man on the Sunshine Coast when he became the member for Nicklin. He had an idea that he would make a name for himself by overseeing the construction of a toll road on the Sunshine Coast. Brian Austin was Minister for Finance in those heady days of the National Party administration, and he had a very simple attitude to the construction of that road: he did not care that the money was not there; he did not care that the loan could not be serviced. "Build it," said Brian Austin, "Build it, and we will worry about paying for it later."

I ask the House: what has changed? The Liberal Party is still propping up the National Party; the Liberal and National Parties are still in the business of making wild promises which they do not have the means to honour.

Let us turn to education. The policy statement issued by the Liberal and National Parties at the last election is long on rhetoric and very short on specifics. It is actually quite a light read. If we pare away the platitudes that are contained in this document, truly we are left with very little of real substance. Nevertheless, there are some interesting points, a couple of which I would like to share with the House. The document states—

"The coalition will provide enhanced funding and support to ensure that standards in state schools are raised and maintained."

**Mr Bredhauer:** What does that mean?

**Mr HAMILL:** It sounds great; the only thing that is missing is the dollars.

**Mr De Lacy:** And the curly hair.

**Mr HAMILL:** And the curly hair, and maybe the commitment. The document also states, and this is a good one—

"The coalition will overcome the severe shortage of guidance officers/student counsellors needed to assist with student behaviour and learning problems by doubling the number of these specialists in the first three years of government."

That also sounds great, but again I ask: what about the dollars? I wonder whether they really knew what they were saying or, indeed, whether, when they made those statements, they had any real expectation of being called to account to deliver on the things that they said they would do?

Let us look at their promise in relation to guidance officers. Did they cost the promise? Do they know what it really meant? What they are promising—and I am happy to hold them to account on this—is 400 additional guidance officers, which is going to cost about \$22m. I hope Mr Quinn is listening. That is an extra \$22m which is not currently in the Education budget. Let us not finish with that; there has been a range of other promises, too. The member for Toowoomba North gave a solemn undertaking that there was going to be a new high school at Wilsonton in Toowoomba. Only a couple of days ago I saw in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* that he was again running away from that promise. I see there is going to be a new high school at Jimboomba, and there are going to be new primary schools in Townsville and Cairns. There is going to be a police station in every school, not to mention the airconditioning in schools promise, which was a new promise trotted out during the Mundingburra by-election.

Incidentally, it is a shame that the Treasurer is not here, because I want to share a bit of information with her. I do not know who did the costings for the airconditioning promise, but they got it wrong by only about \$60m. What is \$60m among friends? Actually, they were trying to get the money from somewhere else. They have their hands in the pockets of the P & C as well, trying to siphon off some of their hard-earned dollars to subsidise the electoral bribe. Even after that siphoning off, they are still about \$60m short.

During the Mundingburra by-election campaign, Mr Borbidge actually stated that he would implement all of these promises if he formed a Government. Mr Borbidge has also talked about having a contract with the Queensland public. I say: watch out for the small print! While Mr Borbidge likes to portray himself as Santa Claus with his little Liberal helper, he has not said that he has not got the money to pay for all the toys in the toy bag. Despite promising new programs worth hundreds of millions of dollars for education alone, the coalition at the last State election actually promised a \$27m cut in education spending. They promised a 1 per cent productivity dividend skimmed off all of those service departments, including education. That is another way of saying that they are prepared to siphon money which would otherwise go towards employing additional teachers, or to providing additional therapists for kids with disabilities, or to building those new schools or upgrading the old schools, or just helping those kids who need a little more assistance with their reading, writing and

arithmetic. Yet Mr Borbidge has the cheek to ask this House to vote confidence in his Government.

From the very beginning, as the member for Logan has said, education was the number one priority of the Labor Government. We doubled education spending from \$1.8 billion under the National Party to \$2.7 billion under Labor; we have built dozens of new schools across the State; we have provided millions of dollars direct to P & Cs to help meet the costs of the basics. I remember what it was like under the National Party: P & Cs were raising money to buy soap and toilet paper for schools. Let us not go back to those dark days.

We have brought our schools into the information technology age with the Computers in Schools Program. Since coming to office in 1989, we have employed an extra 3,000 teachers in the classrooms of Queensland and, if we had been able to serve out the rest of this term in Government, there would be another 1,700 teachers on top of that who would be teaching kids in our classrooms in Queensland. We committed \$300m to curriculum reforms and to the Wiltshire report recommendations to lift the standards of literacy and numeracy among our young people.

Honourable members should cast their minds back to what it was like under the previous National Party Government. Our schools were a national shame. The Labor Government's response was to launch a major refurbishment program to update long-neglected classrooms and buildings. We were well on track with our Building Better Schools Program, which was all about upgrading older primary school classrooms, providing enhanced training opportunities in vocational education in our secondary schools and improving shade provision and school security across Queensland schools. Against that proud record of achievement, is it not ironic that the member for Gladstone attempted to clothe her political assassination of the Goss Government in a concern that the Goss Government was not delivering in education? I suggest that the member for Gladstone needs a better alibi. Allow me to set the record straight.

Since 1989, over \$11m in grants have gone to schools in Gladstone. The number of teachers in Gladstone schools has increased from 391 to 414, more than keeping pace with the growth in student numbers. Gladstone parents and families have benefited from programs such as Helping P & Cs with the

Basics and our uniform and textbook allowances. Since May 1993, more than \$341,000 has gone to Gladstone schools as their share of the \$41m School Computer Plan to provide access to a computer for every child in upper primary and secondary schools.

**Mrs McCauley:** What about the Boyne/Tannum high school?

**Mr HAMILL:** I will come to that point with great pleasure. Since 1993, under the School Improvement Subsidy Scheme, nearly \$222,000 has been provided to schools in the Gladstone electorate to help with the purchase of water coolers and ride-on mowers and to complete projects such as shade cover in playgrounds. Since 1991, \$3.4m has been spent on capital works in schools, including non-State schools, in Gladstone, including the provision of a home economics block at the Gladstone State High School. Since 1992, \$1m has been allocated to schools in the Gladstone electorate for school refurbishment projects, and the increase in recurrent funding of \$1.7m from 1994 to 1995 was a jump of 7.5 per cent. That is not bad for a Government which the member for Gladstone claims has neglected education in Gladstone. Rather, I suggest that in her press conference the member for Gladstone neglected a few of the facts and by so doing has done a great disservice to the people whom she claims to represent. Her ability to play it fast and loose with the truth can be seen in her public comments regarding the proposed Tannum Sands high school.

Here are the facts, and I say this for the benefit of the member for Callide as well. The Goss Government did not—I repeat "did not"—procrastinate on developing a new Tannum Sands high school. It has said consistently that it was committed to having the school open on Crown land at Canoe Point for the first day of school in 1997.

**Mrs McCauley** interjected.

**Mr HAMILL:** Again, I take the interjection from the member for Callide. The land was acquired by a former coalition Government back in 1979, and by 1989 it still had not delivered the school. The funds to build the high school were allocated by the former Labor Government in the Budget for this year. It was only after the July election, which saw Mrs Cunningham become the member for Gladstone, and her stated opposition to the school going ahead on the Canoe Point site, that the Government decided to consider further site options, including land owned by Boyne Smelters Ltd. That was in spite of an environmental impact

assessment which had revealed no impediment at all to building a school at Canoe Point. That report stated that the Canoe Point site offered unique opportunities for environmental studies for the students who would attend that school.

On 10 November last year, in order to consult directly with members of the local community on this issue, the then Minister for Administrative Services, Glen Milliner, and I arranged a public meeting, which was attended by the member for Gladstone, at the Tannum Sands Surf Lifesaving Club. The public meeting was informed that, if the school proceeded at Canoe Point, planning was sufficiently advanced for it to open in 1997. The meeting was also told that if the Boyne Smelters site, which was being supported by the member for Gladstone, was chosen the school could be built only at additional cost as the site was less suitable for building and certainly more costly to develop. Additional planning and development of the Boyne Smelters site would push the school opening back to the beginning of the 1998 school year. I told that public meeting that I would pursue negotiations with Boyne Smelters regarding the availability of its site. However, I rejected the suggestion that the Crown land site could simply be swapped for the Boyne Smelters site, given that the Crown land site at Canoe Point was \$100,000 more valuable than the Boyne Smelters site.

In subsequent negotiations with Boyne Smelters, of which Mrs Cunningham was fully aware, an agreement was reached that, if the school was built on the Boyne site, Boyne Smelters would pay the difference in land values. Although the adjoining land had been scraped clean for residential development, with the approval of the then Calliope Mayor Cunningham the now newly elected member for Gladstone and her council, and the anti-school for Canoe Point lobby wanted the school land protected from development. Accordingly, I sought to protect the perceived environmental values of the Canoe Point site which, under the agreement, would pass through to Boyne Smelters.

I believe the conservation agreement offered appropriate protection. After all, the member for Gladstone had argued that the site be made an environmental reserve. Sadly, Boyne Smelters has consistently refused to enter into a conservation agreement to protect the Canoe Point site. As recently as 2 February, I was advised by the Lands Department—

"Boyne Smelter Ltd requires that the exchange transaction be completed so that freehold title status is maintained and is not prepared to enter into a Conservation Agreement."

The fact that it refused flies in the face of the wishes of the local community. I suggest that is an issue that is now in the hands of the Calliope Shire Council and the new National/Liberal Party Government. Let us see whether there are some future developments in relation to that issue. While we were delivering the school, unfortunately, Mrs Cunningham was delivering Government to the Liberal and National Parties.

I ask aloud: given the sorts of cuts in education spending under Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon that were outlined, how will schools in Gladstone be affected? I cannot have any confidence in a Government with a program such as that. I cannot have confidence in a Government that is anti-education, and I will not support the motion.

**Mr BRADY** (Kedron) (12.47 p.m.): In supporting the Opposition amendment, I oppose the motion moved by the incoming Premier and his deputy. At the outset, I refer to the circumstances which brought about our being in Opposition with an interim Government on the Treasury benches. In her speech delivered not in the Parliament but outside it in which the member for Gladstone revealed that her preference—and that is what it is—was for a conservative Government, she stated, among other things in relation to Gladstone, that "police numbers continue to dwindle in spite of a growing population and demonstrated need".

I have the results of some research and, as Mrs Cunningham has never asked me about the figures, I am sure that she would be interested to know what they are. In 1989, when we came to Government, the total of all the positions within the Gladstone police district within her electorate was 52 police officers. Today, under the model established last year, after a review not by the Government but by the Police Service, 63 officers are authorised in positions within her electorate. In the six years and two or so months since we came to Government, the Gladstone population and that of the surrounding area has grown by about 10.6 per cent. However, police numbers have grown by 20 per cent. That 20 per cent increase outweighs the population increase. I was stunned when I heard Mrs Cunningham make that claim, calmly as she did, on

Queenslandwide and national television. I will tell honourable members why I was stunned.

Since becoming the member for Gladstone, Mrs Cunningham has never written, telephoned, seen me or sought to lead a delegation to see me about police numbers in her electorate. The member for Gladstone has to account to her electors for using that as one of the bases for her decision to vote against the Labor Government despite the fact that in the eight months she has served as a member of Parliament she has never in any forum or in any way directly approached me about police numbers. I reiterate that an analysis of the position within the Gladstone electorate reveals that police numbers have increased by 20 per cent, which is higher than the level of population growth.

Mrs Cunningham now has in her electorate people fulfilling positions such as district community liaison officer—a position that did not exist in 1989. There is now a scenes of crime officer—another position that did not exist in 1989. That is an extremely important position, because the work of that officer assists in solving serious crimes more quickly. There is now also a district intelligence officer in the Gladstone electorate. Those are the sorts of positions that were created and filled under the Labor Government. It is important that the record of this Parliament reflects that the member who gave police numbers as one of her reasons for voting against the Labor Government did not raise that issue with me as the responsible Minister, did not obtain the figures from me, did not ask me to talk to her and did not ask me to visit her electorate and go around the police stations with her.

Mrs Cunningham has to learn—as most other members of Parliament have—that lobby groups, including police officers, do not always tell the truth. If Mrs Cunningham wanted the facts, I could have taken her to the senior police officers and they could have talked to her. Certainly, in recent months the police have looked at changing the model. As part of that process, they examined the overall numbers of police based in the central police region. But that is not permanent. Had Mrs Cunningham been able to convince me that she had a good case, I would have raised the matter—as I have done on other occasions—with the commissioner and steps could have been taken to remedy the position. The police ultimately make the decision on staffing levels in various locations. However, Mrs Cunningham never raised the issue with me. I find that unusual, because quite a few members from both sides of the Chamber

have raised matters of concern about police numbers with me and have obtained the real figures. That was their job. But on no occasion since she was elected to Parliament did the member for Gladstone raise that matter with me. Her record is clear, and she will have to account for that to her people.

I turn to the overall situation with which we are presented. As Labor members have said in this place today, we have lost the confidence of the Parliament based on the casting vote of the member for Gladstone against a background of no financial or other scandals. That was certainly not the position that prevailed when the Labor Party came to Government. The history of the new coalition Government includes the Fitzgerald report and the Kennedy report. After three decades in office, at the last death knell, when the bells were ringing for the end, the National Party Government commissioned those reports which detailed the disgraceful condition of the Queensland Police Service and the even more disgraceful condition of the corrective institutions of this State. Let us compare that record with the performance of the Labor Government over the last six years.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BRADDY:** I note that, after all the time it has had to prepare, the Government can rake up only two speakers to contribute to the debate on this motion.

Since 1989, the Labor Government has increased police numbers—raw police numbers—by more than 1,100. For years, this tawdry coalition Government has lied around this State—

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr BRADDY:** They are not my figures; they are the official figures of the Police Service.

The Labor Government also increased the number of civilians attached to the Police Service by 770. At the end of the day, that represents an operational police increase of almost 1,700. The Labor Government ensured that many of those police recruits filled new positions. Some existing police officers did not welcome that move. That was also the attitude of some Government members, who sought to play politics. I refer particularly to the member for Crows Nest and the member for Noosa.

The former Labor Government makes no apology for instituting police shopfronts. We discovered that in our community the police were too far removed from contact with the people whom they served and protected. The

tradition of the village copper and the small-town copper has largely disappeared—certainly in the large cities. By locating police in shopfronts, it means that they come into direct contact with the people whom they serve and protect. Thousands of people pass through those shopfronts every day. That move was opposed and criticised by coalition members who were seeking to play politics on the issue. That is an illustration of their lack of vision.

As to other improvements in the Police Service under Labor—we saw for the first time the meaningful inclusion of Aboriginal and Islander people and women in the service. The Labor Government established the Aboriginal police liaison officer scheme, which now employs nearly 100 people. That was a very positive innovation. I still recall that the former bodyguard of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, Lawrie Witham, said at his retirement function in Rockhampton that one of the two best reforms he had seen in the Police Service in his time had been the introduction of the Aboriginal police liaison officer scheme. In addition to that, we deliberately recruited those people as sworn officers. We established two TAFE courses through which we offered those officers educational upgrading, and then we recruited them into the service. Currently, of each batch of recruits to the Police Service, about 6 per cent are Aboriginal and Islander people. I have issued a directive to the Police Service to lift that level to 10 per cent if it is humanly possible without lowering standards. I did that not to favour Aboriginal and Islander people but because it is good for the Queensland community and it leads to a better Police Service. The police are much better off working with Aboriginal and Islander people instead of merely viewing them—as they did too often in the past—as either villains or victims of crime.

The recruitment of higher numbers of women has also been beneficial for the Police Service. Under the Labor Government, instead of only a handful of women being recruited into the Police Service—as was the case under the National Party Government—30 to 35 per cent of every recruiting intake are females. At the last swearing-in ceremony that I attended, female recruits represented 36 per cent of the total number. That has been a positive reform to the Police Service. Female police officers are doing wonderful work, and their recruitment means that the Police Service is rapidly becoming more representative of the community.

At the same time as these reforms were taking place, some narrow-minded and ambitious people on the executive of the

Queensland Police Union went the other way. Those people want to take the Police Service back to the bad old days. When those people criticised the promotions system and claimed that there were too many jobs for the boys, I said that I would do what I did when I was Education Minister, when I included representatives of the Teachers Union on the promotions panels. I offered that very thing to the Police Union executive, but they could not get out of the room fast enough because that meant responsibility with power. Such people have never accepted the positive changes instituted by the Labor Government.

When challenged recently on the Anna Reynolds radio program over the concern that the union was conspiring with the incoming Minister for Police, the president of the union, Gary Wilkinson, said, "I do not know what occurred under Bjelke-Petersen, and I do not care." What a disgraceful comment from the Police Union President, who campaigned openly for the Liberal Party in Mundingburra accompanied by three other officers, all of whom are seeking the full-time post of secretary of the union and who were competing with each other to see who could kick the Labor Government hardest and who could be loudest in their praise of the Liberal Party.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

**Mr BRADDY:** Over the period that we were in Government, we saw a Government which applied itself properly to the process of cleaning up the Police Service and making it as efficient as possible. As was said to me the other day by someone who has studied these matters, it takes at least 10 years to substantially reform a service such as the Police Service, which we inherited from this incoming Government in a corrupt and inefficient state. It was probably equal to the Police Service in New South Wales in terms of being the most corrupt Police Service in the country, as well as the smallest, the worst paid and the worst resourced. In six years we made substantial improvements in the Police Service, and the great tragedy is that this Government, in conjunction with the member for Gladstone, has seen fit to cut short—by this voting process—that period within which to complete that reform.

One of the things that was said today by Mr Borbidge in order to bolster his false claims to be given responsibility to attack the justice problem—and which was clearly wrong—related to rising crime rates. The facts are that the last available set of statistics from the Police Service and the Australian Bureau of

Statistics shows that, in most sectors of crime, Queensland is doing better than most other States in Australia and that, significantly, in the past 12 months of published figures, the position has been improving substantially.

I turn now to Corrective Services. Mr Cooper has been going around the State, as he has done for several years, beating up this issue. Mr Cooper's only claim to fame is that, as the last despairing National Party Premier and, before that, Minister for Corrective Services, he had to start to do something about the 30 years of shame that were revealed in the Kennedy report. Having inherited a most inefficient and corrupt corrective services system, we now have a Corrective Services Commission which has a record that is equal to that of any other State in Australia in terms of escapes from secure custody. Last year there were four escapes from secure custody in Queensland, equalling the best record of any State in Australia. A couple of years before that, with the system that we inherited from the previous Government, there were no secure perimeters, prisoners were rioting at Boggo Road, burning the place down and dancing on the roofs. That was the system that operated under the previous Government, which was in power for 32 years in a row. We changed all that. Now, in a desperate attempt to continue to attract publicity to himself, Mr Cooper is putting up another straw man, and that straw man is that this outgoing Government does not recognise that there is a problem with drugs in prisons.

Mr Cooper and the people of Queensland should be aware that in the 1995-96 Budget—the current Budget—the sum of \$1.5m was voted for a significant drug strategy. Three centres have been selected for trials, and this includes four key elements, namely, the detection of drugs, the deterrence of drugs, the treatment of drugs and the evaluation of the drug strategy. There will be improved procedures for the operation of contact visiting areas, for example. We also set up an additional drug desk within the Corrective Services Investigation Unit. There are other things that I cannot talk about, because they are not appropriate to be disclosed or divulged. In order to progress the implementation of this strategy, a project team was established. The former Labor Government, having remedied the dreadful mess that it inherited in relation to prisons—the worst in Australia, along with the Police Service—was well on track to attacking the problem of drugs as far as it can be attacked. Everybody knows that significant numbers of people who go to prison are drug

addicted; that is why they commit crimes, and that is how they get there.

The record of the former Labor Government over the past six years, given the abysmal mess that it inherited, was excellent in terms of reforming the Police Service and the prison system. I can only hope that, in the viciousness that some members opposite have displayed, they will not proceed to either dismiss the Commissioner of Police or, when his contract expires, fail to reappoint him. They are making noises about that. Commissioner O'Sullivan is the best Police Commissioner in Australia. He was the chief investigator of the Fitzgerald inquiry and was forced to arrest many of his fellow police officers who had hidden behind the veil of corruption and secrecy that the former National Party Government gave them for 32 years. Similarly, Keith Hamburger and his staff have the confidence of the current board, which was appointed originally by Mr Kennedy with the support of Mr Cooper. Mr Hamburger and his staff deserve the respect for cleaning up the mess that this Government and its predecessors created by their failure to address either corruption or a secure prison system.

There are far too many members on the other side of the Chamber who worshipped at the altar of Joh Bjelke-Petersen. They worshipped at the altar of the most corrupt Government that this State has ever seen. They are still there, and I and others on this side of the House will keep an eye on them—the Mr Coopers, the Mr Lingards, the Mr Littleprouds and the rest who served in those corrupt regimes.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr BRADY:** I never served under Keith Wright; I replaced him.

Time expired.

**Mr MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth) (2.38 p.m.): Firstly, I would like to place on record my appreciation in having been able to serve in a Labor Government under Wayne Goss, who I believe has been the best Premier that this State has ever had, Tom Burns, his deputy, and my colleagues for the period from 2 December 1989 until yesterday. I believe that as a Government we achieved a lot. I believe also that as time goes on a lot of the work that has been done will be recognised.

I accept the decision of this Parliament today, undoubtedly because of the decision by the member for Gladstone, to support a minority Government. I accept that because I

do believe that the Parliament does have the right to make these decisions, and I will accept that decision. However, whilst I have this opportunity, I would like to thank the people who have been close to me, particularly over the last six years. My family have had to put up with a lot, particularly the personal vilification that I had to endure when I resigned from Cabinet and before I came back. Members would know the people behind the types of slurs that were made then. Members of my own family have had to put up with personal slurs, particularly over the past three years. I know who spread the stories and who started them. I would like to put on record that I appreciate that support from family members and the backing that they have given me to continue with the job that I have been able to do.

I listened to Mr Borbidge last week on the radio when it became apparent that he was going to become the Premier. He said that he wanted to see Queensland get back to the past. I listened to the things that he said. He spoke about what it was like in education, health and the Police Service. I thought to myself, "This man must be dreaming if he really believes that all of those services are not better today than they were six years ago." They are far better.

I can remember listening to speeches in this Parliament in which it was asserted that we had the lowest spending on those services of any State in Australia. The Goss Government increased the spending on all of those services. When I walked around Parliament House today, I saw the old, former National Party Ministers living it up. They were really happy to see the coalition back in Government. I thought, "Oh, yes. That's what they want. They want to go back to the past, back to the days when they could do whatever they liked." Although we have listened to Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon—

**Mr Lingard:** You just whinged about people casting insinuations.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** I am talking about personal slurs on members' families. The honourable member knows as well as I do who spread them. I am referring to personal slurs on members' families, who do not deserve that.

**Mr Lingard:** Howard who?

**Mr MACKENROTH:** The honourable member can give me as much as he can, but I can give back more. I do not want to see, and I do not think the people of Queensland want to see, Queensland return to those old days.

I support the amendment that has been moved. Mr Borbidge said that he wanted a contract with Queenslanders that he will see this Parliament go its full term. The member for Gladstone stood in the car park and said, "I want the Parliament to go its full term." If that is what they want, they should support the amendment. It does not stop us having an election earlier if circumstances change. What it does—

**Mr Stephan:** Oh!

**Mr MACKENROTH:** The honourable member should listen. It allows—

**Mrs Sheldon:** Would you like to clarify that?

**Mr MACKENROTH:** Yes. If Mr Borbidge wishes to have an early election he needs to come back to have this Parliament decide it. If he wants to see the Parliament go its full term, he can support this amendment. The members opposite form a minority Government and this Parliament should make that decision, so I urge the members opposite to support the amendment. I certainly do not support the motion of confidence in the Government, which cannot even decide whom to drop from the front bench. It has 19 members on the front bench and it has to get rid of one. The coalition has had over two weeks, but it still cannot decide whether it will be Mick Veivers or Marc Rowell. So what did the coalition do? It came up with the motion that we are going to debate later tonight to endorse the creation of the position of parliamentary secretaries: second prizes. Those secretaries will not be paid for that role, but when they travel around Queensland they will be able to say, "I am the parliamentary secretary." Big deal!

**Mr Gibbs:** That's why the farmer is wearing dark glasses.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** Yes, that is why he is wearing dark glasses. The problem that Rob Borbidge has is this: does he drop Mick Veivers, who would be a most vicious person to put on the back bench, or does he drop Marc Rowell and have no-one from north Queensland, apart from Tom Gilmore, on the front bench? That is the big problem that he must solve, and I am pleased that it is he who has that problem.

As a former Minister for Police and Emergency Services and a former Minister for Housing, I am proud to have been the person who has brought what I believe are some major legislative reforms into this Parliament. The Police Services Act, the Queensland Fire Services Act, the Ambulance Services Act, the

Contaminated Land Act, the Local Government Act and the Residential Tenancies Act were all major legislative reforms.

I was the Minister for Police for two years and in that period I saw the majority of the Fitzgerald reforms implemented. I saw the actions of the Police Union in the Mundingburra by-election when its members campaigned actively against the Government in that area. That took me back not just to the days when I was Police Minister but beyond to the days when I was in Opposition. I saw Gary Wilkinson campaigning in that area. For the benefit of Mr Cooper, who will become the Police Minister, I say that Gary Wilkinson used to knock on my door when I was the Opposition spokesperson and give me all the information I needed to use against Mr Cooper. So when Mr Cooper sits down to negotiate with Gary Wilkinson, he should remember that.

I turn to the Queensland Fire Service. On Thursday of last week, I met with officers from the Fire Service. They had made an appointment to see me and they said, "Do you still want to meet with us?" I said, "If you want to come to see me, I'll be there." So they came to see me. They asked about a letter I had sent to them, and I said, "Let's get it straight. We have a new Government coming in and I think it will be time for you to go and talk to them. But remember this: I gave you the best fire service, I believe, in Australia."

**A Government member:** In your opinion.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** No, in their opinion. When we abolished 81 fire brigade boards and set up the one Queensland Fire Service, we gave them the opportunity to get together and to demonstrate against our Government. I said to those officers, "The coalition has been promising you the world. Today I tell you that they will not be able to deliver and I will expect to see you people outside the gates of the Parliament in the next year or two in exactly the same way that you demonstrated against our Government. When you don't get the things that they have promised you, I expect to see you outside the gates of the Parliament demonstrating in the way that you did against our Government."

In the housing sector, we have a proud record. We took over a department that was deliberately run down. It was run down by a Government which did not care about its clients.

**Mr Connor:** What is the waiting list? Tell me how long the waiting lists are.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** The waiting lists—

**Mr Connor:** Six years.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** I will tell the honourable member why. He has not been here very long, and he would not remember that under the National Party Government, and before that the National/Liberal Party Government, people were actively removed from the waiting list. Those Governments stigmatised public housing.

**Mr Connor** interjected.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** The honourable member asked the question and he should listen to the answer. They stigmatised public housing to the degree that over and over again they used the words "welfare housing". Then, when people applied for public housing, if they did not present personally on the right day at the end of one year, their names were removed from the waiting list.

**A Government member:** But you do the same.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** No, I do not. The former coalition Government worked actively to remove names from the waiting list.

Members opposite want to talk about the record. Under the Goss Government, the volume of public housing stock increased by 57 per cent, from 29,000 to 46,500. Over the past five years, we have spent on average \$57m every year on maintenance and upgrades. The coalition can compare that with its record of \$15.6m. That was its average.

**Mr Connor** interjected.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** I am waiting to see the honourable member's first actions if he becomes the Housing Minister. The first action that has been promised by his Government is to turn half the land that is owned by the Housing Commission into parks. In relation to Stafford, the coalition will say, "People don't want to see public housing. We'll make it into a park." In the Pine Rivers Shire, a housing estate of over 1,000 blocks is planned. The coalition will say, "Oh, no, we don't want public housing there." Where will it build public housing? What will the coalition do in Freshwater, which is now in a National/Liberal Party seat? It will say, "We will not build any more houses there because the people don't want them." The honourable member and his predecessor have travelled around the State promising to make parks out of Housing Commission land. Let us see what happens.

When the Labor Party came to Government, the average number of houses



built for people with disabilities in any given year was three. In the time that Labor was in Government, it increased that number to over 100 each year and carried out specific modifications to over 3,500 homes for people with disabilities. That is what Government is: to care and to look after people—things that, previously, had never happened. Under the Labor Government, each year 10 per cent of the number of dwellings that were to be built were given to group training schemes so that those group training schemes could employ apprentices. That was never done before. The Labor Government put a considerable amount of money into upgrading housing programs at Leichhardt, Riverview and in the Housing Commission areas in Bundaberg, in Townsville and in Inala—all Labor electorates. When I listened to Mrs Cunningham talk about a leaking roof, it took me back six years to the disgraceful state in which the National Party Government had left all of those Housing Commission houses—an absolutely disgraceful state! They had not had any proper maintenance.

**Mr Connor:** Six years ago you could get into public housing in six months, 12 months or two years. Now it is five or six years.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** What does the member think happened? The Labor Government increased the volume of stock by 57 per cent, and the stock was far superior to what it ever was before. The Labor Government took away the stigma that the National Party Government had placed on public housing. In fact, today people are quite proud to live in public housing. They never were under the National Party Government because it did not care about them.

**Mr Connor** interjected.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** I will wait and see how long the waiting list is in 12 months' time. I say to the member that I will make a comparison based on how many people the coalition Government has housed over the year.

**Mr Connor:** Hopefully, under our Government not as many people will need it because the economy will start again.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** I guess the member really believes that stuff. That is really the stuff of the Liberals—"People will not need any assistance; everything will be fine." That is utter rubbish!

The Labor Government implemented a community rent scheme, which funds 1,200 householders for interim accommodation throughout the State. Recently, it put \$2m into

that scheme to provide an additional 500 transitional housing places for women and their children who are escaping domestic violence. They are the sorts of things that we need to be doing.

In the time that I have left to me, I would like to talk about other aspects of my previous portfolio, particularly the area of planning. I know that we are still waiting to see how that portfolio will be broken up, but I hope that, irrespective of which Minister or which department gains control of it, the area of planning remains with local government because that is the logical place for it to be allocated. Most of the planning in this State is done by local government. One really should have those two departments locked together.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** That has been fixed. It will be local government and planning. I do not normally give the Opposition parties advice, but I have done a lot of work in the planning area and I would really like to see some of those reforms continued.

**Mrs McCauley:** Have you spent all the money?

**Mr MACKENROTH:** No. SEQ 2001 was an exercise in which all but one of the local governments in south-east Queensland signed a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of their growth management framework. That is very important—not for the Labor Party, the Liberal Party or the National Party, but for the community of south-east Queensland. It is also very important to see that framework implemented through the policies of local government and a State Government.

During the 1970s, a plan called the Moreton study was carried out and as soon as it was completed it was put into a bottom drawer and no-one ever did anything about it. I think that it is important for our community that we have proper plans and that the good things that we have in south-east Queensland are not destroyed because the State Government is not strong enough or is not prepared to make the necessary decisions to ensure that the SEQ 2001 framework is implemented. The Labor Government carried out the same process in far-north Queensland with the production of FNQ 2010. It also started the process in Hervey Bay, and the first full meeting for that process is to be held on Thursday of this week. I would like to see that process go ahead because the Labor Government worked very hard to get councils to agree to work in cooperation with the State

Government. I believe that that is the way of the future.

In conclusion, I would like to say that over the next two years it is going to be very important for this Parliament to meet and to make decisions. Irrespective of all of the arguments that have been put up today in relation to electorates, or whatever, there is one very important point to be made, and that is that the Borbidge/Sheldon Government is a minority Government. It is a minority Government that is able to govern with the vote in this Parliament of one Independent. It is important that this Parliament meets and makes decisions. I will be very interested to see the parliamentary program for the rest of this year to find out when, in fact, we are going to meet—and I heard Mr Borbidge talk about his reforms—to see what the coalition Government does with the parliamentary reforms that were implemented in this Parliament by the Labor Government and whether it tries to slide back to the past when it was almost impossible for the Opposition to have any say whatsoever. I think that the Labor Government opened up the parliamentary process. When the Labor Party came into Government, it had had the benefit of looking at the parliamentary process from the Opposition's viewpoint and it was able to make appropriate changes.

**Mrs WOODGATE** (Kurwongbah) (2.58 p.m.): In rising to speak against this motion of confidence in the illegitimate, minority coalition Government, let me say that any thinking person would need to look no further for a reason to oppose such a motion than at what a Borbidge/Sheldon minority Government is intending to do with the Department of Family and Community Services, a department which I have been honoured and privileged to administer since July 1995.

Over the past weeks, statements attributed to the member for Beaudesert and reported in the media have already sent out warning signals to the community that a return to the bad old days is imminent. Members opposite fail to realise that Queenslanders do not want a return to the bad old days. If the coalition members have learned nothing from six and a half years in Opposition, they should learn this—Queenslanders now expect more from their Governments than they did six and a half years ago. They have had a taste of good Government.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mrs WOODGATE:** If the member wants to belly-ache, he should get up and take his

20 minutes like a man. Queenslanders have had a taste of good Government, of responsible Government, of a Government that has brought this State into the twenty-first century. They will not want a return to the days when Queensland was the butt of southern jokes, which always had a sad ring of truth about them. They do not want a return to the days when democracy in this State was as hard to find as snow in Queen Street. They do not want a return to the days when the National Party Government ignored every crying social need in the community.

I am proud to have been part of the Goss Labor Government, which finally introduced social justice into the Queensland vocabulary. On the roller-coaster ride of life, that is one journey that I would not have missed for quids. During my time as the Minister for Family and Community Services, I saw the great need that exists in the community and that will always be there. So many people in our community need, and rightly demand, a compassionate Government—people with disabilities, women and children escaping domestic violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and families needing child care. Despite my concern at the ever-growing need, I have been heartened at all times by the progress the Labor Government made in providing a better life for the people of Queensland.

When the Labor Government came to office in 1989, the department I administered had a paltry budget allocation of \$150m—a woefully inadequate response in anyone's language. In the last State Budget, the total funding was \$500m. This year alone, the Labor Government allocated \$137m to community groups to provide services for people in need. These are remarkable achievements in such a short time frame and with the limited dollars Government has at its disposal. Make no mistake, this is no more than a caring and committed Government should have done for those citizens who are disadvantaged or in crisis. Let me offer all Queenslanders a warning: the coalition has a bad record on social justice. Not only does it have a bad past record, but it has signalled that its future record will be just as appalling. The minority Government opposite is committed in its policy documents to dismantling the vital programs which the Goss Government put in place after 32 years of conservative neglect. It is no exaggeration to consider the destructive media statements made by the member for Beaudesert, Kev Lingard, on issues as critical as institutional reform, adoption and domestic violence. The

process of destruction has begun and it will continue at a speed which will shock and horrify any responsible person.

Let us talk about institutional reform, a policy that has been very close to my heart. I will be totally honest: when I came into this portfolio, I was very uncertain about institutional reform. I expressed my concerns to the Premier the day after I was sworn in. Institutional reform involved the closure of two major institutions for people with intellectual disabilities, Basil Stafford and Challinor, and provided support for these people to live in the community. I took a long and hard look at our policy. I talked to many people and I visited the institutions many times. I came away from those deliberations with my decision: those institutions should have closed years ago. This is not a reflection on the staff, who I believe are hard working and dedicated, but on the age and nature of the institutions.

An institutional life is confining, it does not allow flexibility, it is not humane and it certainly does not allow individuals to realise their full potential. However, I made sure that institutional reform would proceed at a slow and steady pace, and that all the community supports which were needed would be in place before residents left Basil Stafford or Challinor, notwithstanding comments made in the media by the member for Beaudesert about the fast-tracking which we had undertaken. That is not true. Five people came out of those institutions in the seven and a half months that I was the Minister. We have also had a significant financial commitment of more than \$80m for institutional reform. I note the comments of the Premier, Mr Borbidge, over the weekend when he said that institutional reform was ill conceived and that the Goss Government had set about kicking people with institutional disabilities out into the street or forcing them onto their aged parents. That is not true. I have said time and time again in this place that supports would be in the community before people left and that there is no way that families would be forced to take their loved ones back, although they may have wanted them to live closer to home. People with disabilities deserve a better life. They should not be kept behind closed doors because some people in the community feel uncomfortable in their presence.

During the process of the reform, I believe that some individuals have been opposed to the process for personal reasons. The member for Beaudesert has milked this minority's opposition for all it was worth. Not once has he considered that people who live in the institutions actually want to leave; that

they want to live in the community like the rest of us. In an act of pure political opportunism, the member for Beaudesert has exploited the community's fear of the unknown to the detriment of people with intellectual disabilities. I really despair with people with intellectual disabilities living in our institutions. He has told the media that he will stop institutional reform and that he will force those people who have already gone out under this program to return to institutional life.

**Mr Woolmer:** What are you going to do with those who want to stay there?

**Mrs WOODGATE:** The member is allowed 20 minutes, too; he should get up and speak! What do members opposite want to do—drag them kicking and screaming back into a life they do not want? That is retrograde step number one under the coalition!

Let us talk about retrograde step number two. The member for Beaudesert, once again, has foreshadowed that he will place women and children in danger by making it harder for victims of domestic violence to get protection orders. In another act of political opportunism he has been courting a number of men's rights groups who, it seems to me, are more interested in creating a gender war than trying to overcome domestic violence in our community. He has told one such group in Townsville that he would review the Domestic Violence Act to make it harder for women to get protection orders and that he would review the existence of the Domestic Violence Council, which provides advice to Government on domestic violence issues. These moves are dangerous, to say the least, and will leave women and children in situations where their lives will be in danger.

Queensland has every right to feel proud of its current domestic violence laws, which are regarded as the best in Australia, and of its record of dealing with such a difficult and complex issue. It was the Goss Labor Government which introduced automatic bans on firearms for perpetrators of domestic violence and extended protection orders to protect the families and friends of victims. In all seriousness, I do hope that the member for Beaudesert will reconsider his stance on this issue, because he seriously places women and children in danger with this Neanderthal stance.

Let us talk about retrograde step number three in Family Services. The coalition has adopted a policy which will take our adoption laws back into the 1960s. One of the first changes that the Goss Government made was to open up adoption laws which, for the

first time, allowed either birth parents or adoptees to locate one another. There were safeguards placed on this legislation in cases where contact was not wanted by either party. A birth parent or adoptee could do one of two things: either lodge a veto on contact but allow the applicant information about the adoption, or veto both contact and information being released. These changes were greeted positively by the community and there have been many success stories and reunions. Now the coalition plans to take us back and make it impossible to get information about adoptions, a move which I am sure will outrage individuals and the community at large. Once again I hope that the coalition sees reason on this topic, listens to the community and does not pander to minority groups.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs is another area which will face decimation at the hands of the coalition. Their stated policy is to reduce the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs to a handful of people, sack the 100 remaining staff in that office and transfer its operation to the Premier's Office.

**Mr Bredhauer:** They are going to sack public servants in the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

**Mrs WOODGATE:** That is right. The Goss Government was committed to self-determination and self-management for Aboriginal and Islander people after decades of neglect and control. Slowly, Aboriginal and Islander people have been regaining control over their own lives and destinies, something which was taken from them from the time of white settlement. White people have much to gain from this, too. The maintenance of the oldest living culture in the world is a heritage which all Queenslanders can be proud of, and indeed we can benefit from it. It contributes to the diversity of the cultural composition of Queensland and is a valuable asset. We have to look only at the burgeoning tourist trade associated with the Aboriginal culture to understand this.

The legacy of the white settlement of Australia and the ruthless treatment of Aboriginal people contains many, many tragedies. These tragedies have ensured that Aboriginal people have never enjoyed the same standard of living and equality of opportunity that other Australians have. The Goss Government came a long way in acknowledging that Aboriginal people have to be supported in their self-directed efforts to overcome ill health and other negative effects of past attitudes. There were many

achievements over the past six and a half years which have positively impacted on the lives of Aboriginal people. However, I believe there is still much more to be done. It is only since 1989 that we have seen the first community health centres on Aboriginal communities, the first domestic violence refuges and the first child-care centres. It is a disgrace that that all started only in 1989. Where were we before then?

Land rights is recognised under legislation, and the Goss Government provided a comprehensive response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which includes the establishment of diversionary centres and cell visitor programs.

I am concerned that the coalition Government will ignore the problems which seriously need addressing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. However, I do have some hope because I believe that the Aboriginal and Islander communities now have strong leadership which will not allow any Government to return to the days of oppression. They will fight to ensure that their communities get a fair deal and that what they have achieved since 1989 will not be taken away. Those of us on this side of the House will be with them all the way, supporting them.

**Mr Bredhauer:** They started out the front at one o'clock today.

**Mrs WOODGATE:** That is right. The treatment of juvenile offenders under the coalition is another area about which we should be concerned. The coalition has flagged that it will transfer the operation of youth detention centres to the adult Corrective Services Commission and will take a much tougher stance with juvenile offenders. For a long, long time I have been very concerned about the way in which young people are portrayed by our friends opposite. They have created a perception that all young people are hooligans, vandals and criminals whom we should lock up and throw away the key. The facts do not support this perception, and neither do the statistics.

I am most concerned that, as a society of adults, we have all too often blamed young people for the ills which beset us. Youth crime is a significant social problem—there is no doubt about that—but there is no indication that it is running out of control. Just as it is not fair to stereotype young people, it is not fair to push the community's concern about crime under the carpet. Crime does occur. We are not stupid; we know that. Juvenile crime does occur. Crimes are committed by young people, and it is the responsibility of the Government

generally to do something about it. Governments, of whatever persuasion, must provide the programs which will work towards preventing crime and breaking the cycle of repeat offenders. I hope that the coalition Government will make this commitment and not create an hysterical view of all young people as marauding thieves and vandals.

I would like to talk briefly about the Public Trust Office. In October last year, a number of matters came to my attention which I referred to the Attorney-General. The Auditor-General decided to conduct an audit of the Public Trust Office and, to date, the Auditor-General's report has not been completed. I do not wish to pre-empt any of the Auditor-General's findings, but I remind all members of the House of the commitment that I gave to the House last year that this report would be made public.

The Public Trust Office is a unique organisation within Government which has responsibility for its clients' welfare, and in particular their financial welfare. It is vital that the integrity of the Public Trust Office be a paramount consideration in its relationship with clients and that clients have full confidence in the management of their affairs. I call on this coalition Government to publish the Auditor-General's report in full in order to restore confidence in the Public Trust Office and to implement any recommendations which will improve service to clients.

There are many policies which when in Opposition the coalition made public and many more that I am sure they have not which, I am convinced, will have a negative impact on Queenslanders. In six short years, there have been many achievements by the Goss Labor Government in mending the neglect of the previous conservative regime. Let me remind the House of just a few. For example, funding for child care has increased from \$800,000 under the Nationals to more than \$9m under Labor, which has created more than 8,900 new child-care places. In December 1990, the Goss Government established the Seniors Card, which provides a range of Government concessions and private business discounts to more than 300,000 cardholders. In 1994-95, the Government allocated \$24m over three years for a three-point child protection strategy, including new child protection legislation, five new parenting centres and a parent help line. In 1994-95, for people with disabilities total funds of \$52.3m were allocated to provide 343 services across Queensland. Those are just a few of the many achievements in the portfolio of Family and

Community Services under the former Goss Labor Government.

I was proud to be a Minister in the former Goss Labor Government. I am disappointed that some of the reforms that I wanted to put in place will now fall by the wayside. I place on record my sincere thanks to the hardworking and dedicated officers in the Department of Family and Community Services. The issues that this department faces every day are often complex and difficult and there is no easy solution for a lot of them. It is not the portfolio of good-news stories, but it is a department which impacts heavily on the lives of Queenslanders and their wellbeing. Unfortunately, I do not have confidence that the incoming Government will have the same commitment to social justice as the Goss Labor Government.

I am quite saddened to see the member for Surfers Paradise occupying the Premier's chair so recently vacated by the member for Logan, Mr Wayne Goss. Although the member for Surfers Paradise may be filling the Premier's chair, he will never fill his shoes. Wayne Goss will be remembered for being the great Premier that he was. Let history tell the tale of Cunningham, Borbidge, Sheldon and Davies. They shall be seen in the same light as the Kerrs, the Frasers and the Johs. February 1996 in Queensland will live the same as November 1975, an inspirational time for all the true believers. There is no way that I could ever support a motion of confidence in a minority, illegitimate coalition Government. I believe the Queensland people will quickly learn that any confidence they may have in it has been very sadly misplaced.

**Mr FOLEY (Yeronga) (3.14 p.m.):** At the outset, let me say that one group of people who will have no confidence in a National/Liberal Government is the group of SEQEB workers sacked in 1985 and denied their superannuation by a ruthless, brutal Government hell-bent on denying workers' rights. Today, at the big end of town, the privileged may be clinking their champagne glasses, but working people and their families throughout Queensland have little cause for confidence in a National/Liberal Government. Out in the factories at Acacia Ridge, in the mines of central Queensland, in thousands of shops, offices, cafes and kitchens around the State, working people have cause to fear a loss of protection of their rights to decent wages and conditions.

No issue is more critical than industrial relations, and yet the speeches of Premier Borbidge and Treasurer Sheldon were

remarkably silent on their plans for industrial relations. In recent times, we have heard honeyed phrases and attempts to adopt a more urbane style on the part of the National and Liberal Parties. However, we know that what they are on about is a fundamental power struggle to change the balance of power in industrial relations. What they are on about, and what they do not wish to speak about today, are their plans for attacks on the trade union movement. They do not want to speak about their plans to water down the role of the independent umpire, the Industrial Relations Commission. Today, they do not want to talk about their proposal to attack the job security of workers by diluting unfair dismissal laws. Today, they do not want to talk about their plans to join with John Howard to bring in the Kennett recipe from Victoria and the Kierath recipe from Western Australia, because they want desperately to avoid industrial relations as an issue in the Federal election. They know that they are not trusted on that issue.

Much has been said today about the role of the member for Gladstone. I for one do not believe that the member for Gladstone had a mandate to bring down the Government. However, I say this about the role of the member for Gladstone: there will be no more critical role for that member than the role that she adopts with respect to industrial relations laws that may be brought before this Parliament by the Government of the day. It will require the support of the member for Gladstone for the Government to put into effect its proposals to attack the foundations upon which our industrial relations system has been built.

The record speaks for itself. It was a record of industrial relations reform ushered in by the Honourable Nev Warburton with a mandate to sweep away the era of repression and confrontation, taken up very honourably by Ken Vaughan, and to bring industrial relations out of that dark era of confrontation in which the Nationals had left it and to introduce a new era of cooperation. Under the Goss Government, we saw industrial relations embracing labour market flexibility with enterprise bargaining being productivity based. However, when the Nationals and Liberals talk of enterprise bargaining, they do not wish to talk about award safety nets, the no-disadvantage test and having an independent umpire in the form of the Industrial Relations Commission to run the ruler over proposed agreements; rather they would speak of the employment advocate, a toothless tiger put up by Mr Howard.

In the coming months, we will see the plans that Premier Borbidge and Deputy Premier Sheldon have been so careful to avoid in their discussion in the House today. What a contrast between the Government of Borbidge and Sheldon and the Government of Wayne Goss and the Labor Party! What a spectacular contrast between the current Borbidge/Sheldon Government, a Government in the classic Liberal and National Party tradition, a Government of privilege and reaction, and the former Government which was committed to social justice.

The history books will well record Wayne Goss as the greatest Premier that this State has ever seen. He goes down in history as a Premier akin to Labor greats such as T. J. Ryan and Theodore. At a time in history, they brought to this State a framework of industrial conciliation and arbitration to provide basic protections for workers. They brought a framework for State-owned enterprises to ensure that workers and their families got a fair go. But the Goss Government came to power during one of the most challenging periods of history in this State—at a time when the information revolution was sweeping through our society, at a time when technology was transforming our workplaces and our social relations.

The Goss Government, through a commitment to social justice, has helped take this State into an open economy, into an economy that is open to our region in the world, to the most dynamic region, the Asia-Pacific region, to a society that was culturally open and culturally willing to acknowledge, firstly, its history in its dealings with indigenous people and, secondly, the need to open the windows of the mind from the dark prejudices of the past.

History will record that the fundamental basis of the democracy, that of electoral laws, was well and truly reformed as a result of the actions of the Goss Government to put an end to the electoral corruption and gerrymander that the Nationals and the Liberals tolerated for so many years. History will record that those who had been bashed and arrested for marching in the streets at long last could see a peaceful assembly law which guaranteed the right of peaceful assembly, which guaranteed the fundamental right in a democracy to have one's say. History will record that that process of electoral reform did not simply stop at the level of this Legislative Assembly but was also carried out in local government, throughout the length and breadth of this State. That reform was a major reform in terms of bringing

about electoral justice in an area in which it had been grossly neglected.

We saw profound changes as a result of the electoral and administrative review process, the introduction of judicial review that required the giving of reasons for decisions rather than the unreasoned and arbitrary exercise of power. We saw the introduction of freedom of information laws, so bitterly resisted for so many years by the National and Liberal Parties when they were in power, to make decisions able to be challenged before an independent Information Commissioner. In so many ways, we have seen the changes take place. The ordinary citizen gets to participate in the affairs of the democracy through exercising his or her vote and also through participating in jury service. But what sort of jury service did we see in this State? We saw ordinary people being the subject of polling and vetting. That is why there was a need to reform the laws relating to juries, and that is exactly what the Goss Government did.

We had a legacy of National Party and Liberal Party rule where midnight raids upon our liberties had become commonplace. Instead of that, we saw a fundamental reform to put in place fundamental legislative principles in the statute books and to back that up by a Scrutiny of Legislation Committee in this Parliament. Those fundamental legislative principles operate, as it were, as a mini Bill of Rights to enshrine in the law and in the operations of this Parliament some safeguards to prevent the excessive abuse of power.

But one should not think for a moment that the reforms introduced by the Goss Government were matters simply of constitutional, electoral and administrative dimensions. They went to the grassroots of ordinary working people and ordinary disadvantaged people. Take, for example, the public housing tenants in my own electorate. They now, thanks to the Goss Government, have a right to challenge Government decisions; a right to participate in policy decisions. If one goes to the pensioner units in School Road, Yeronga and talks to some of the pensioners and contrasts their opportunity to participate in decision making with what it was like six or seven years ago, one finds a completely different quality of life—a quality of life where the rights and the opportunities of those people are respected and where they do participate to the great betterment of their own community.

Again in the most absurd way, for years this State languished without enduring power of attorney laws. We had families all over this

State who had to have the affairs of a loved one who became aged or infirm and unable to manage their affairs dealt with through the Public Trustee. That reform, to introduce enduring power of attorney legislation, enabled those people to be able to care for that person within their own family. Similarly, if one casts one's mind back to the time when the Nationals were in power, one still saw the full force of the criminal law being used against people engaging in homosexual conduct. What an inappropriate use of the criminal law, and what a proud achievement for this Government that we put in place homosexual law reform to ensure that that anachronistic and discriminatory use of the criminal law would be put into the dustbin of history.

The Goss Government stands in the proud tradition of having introduced anti-discrimination laws so that freedom and equality could operate in this State. One should not be discriminated against on the basis of sex or race or age. These things need to be spelled out by our law, and they were. Similarly, for many years those Queenslanders who lived in de facto relationships had been the subject of neglect and prejudice. When I practised at the bar before coming in to Parliament, there were two different jurisdictions dealing with children depending on whether they were born inside or outside wedlock. One had to go to the Family Court in some cases or the Supreme Court in other cases, depending upon the accident of birth. What an inappropriate situation, and what a denial of the rights of those children and their families. That was reformed so that custody and access decisions in respect of ex-nuptial children could be dealt with all in the one place—in the Family Court. Before this Parliament we have a Bill to refer to the Commonwealth the power to make laws with respect to property disputes involving de facto couples, and one hopes that that sensible law reform will be supported by the incoming Government. Similarly, the rights of de factos to sue for wrongful death under the Common Law Practice Act have been introduced.

Despite all the rhetoric about law and order that we have heard from the former Opposition, it was the Goss Government that moved to introduce victims of crime legislation and to provide some basic support for the families of homicide victims. All we have heard from the coalition Government today in respect of its law and order policy is a proposal to increase imprisonment, as if it were borrowing from the eighteenth century thinking that produced the rotting hulks in the river Thames. The only solution offered by coalition

members to the problems of crime is more imprisonment. They have not spoken of attacking the causes of crime; they have not spoken of attacking poverty; they have not spoken of attacking inequality; they have not spoken of getting genuine about generating employment so as to divert people from a life of crime. Instead, they go back to the knee-jerk reaction of simply advocating further periods of imprisonment.

I join with the honourable member for Kurwongbah in pointing to one of the proudest achievements of the Goss Government, and I speak here of its efforts to recognise Aboriginal land rights. The two great legal traditions in this country, that of western Europe and of Aboriginal and Islander Australia, have at many times in their history been estranged from each other. They have been brought together through the great decision of the High Court in Mabo and through the efforts of legislators trying to chart a course through complex difficulties to establish a just basis for the recognition of Aboriginal land rights. It is by no means an easy issue, but it is of fundamental importance if we are to be a society here in Queensland which is open and honest towards its past and can therefore look to the future with confidence, with integrity and with a vision of what it wishes to become. No society which denies its history and denies the legal history of land rights can be a truly mature and a truly free society.

The reforms that have swept through this State over the past six and a half years have been very necessary. In other parts of the world—for example, in Britain—we have seen the consequences of Thatcher's policies, whereby tens of thousands of people are sleeping in the streets. Sure, that Government achieved micro-economic reform, but at what social cost? Sure, it achieved greater labour market flexibility, but at what profound social cost? How many families have to be torn apart and how many people have to sleep in the streets? The difference between that approach and the Labor Government's approach federally and at the State level in Australia, and particularly in Queensland, is that change occurs through cooperation and with compassion, and hence the importance of the reforms in the employment and training sector—bringing TAFE out of its past, where it was the poor country cousin, and giving proper recognition to its status in our system of training, about which my learned friend and colleague the member for Mount Coot-tha will speak a little later.

Nowhere have the reforms been of greater importance than in the arts. Through the efforts of Wayne Goss and Dean Wells, we have turned the corner. We have a vibrant film industry. The Brisbane Biennial is of international status. Warana has been changed to the Brisbane Festival. Members have witnessed a great surge in the number of jobs in the arts industry. One hopes that the framework of that policy will be supported: building local and going global; supporting cultural tourism and the indigenous arts. That element of arts policy involving peer assessment by other artists has helped produce a confidence and an enthusiasm. The improved climate for the arts has resulted in a lot more jobs, and that should be welcomed by all members of the House.

At the end of the day the question is whether or not this House has confidence in the Borbidge and Sheldon Government. To have that confidence it would be necessary to have confidence in the parties of privilege and reaction—the parties of radical opportunism. They have no mandate other than their campaign slogan to put Labor under pressure. The ALP stands proudly for social justice. The only defining thread in the histories of the National and Liberal Parties has been their consistent opposition to organised labour. They are bereft of ideas and policies. They are defined by only one political truth, namely, that they are opposed to the interests of ordinary working people expressed through organised labour.

**Mr MILLINER** (Ferry Grove) (3.34 p.m.): It is with a great deal of sadness that members are here today debating this motion seeking support for the minority Borbidge/Sheldon coalition Government. At the outset, there are a couple of people to whom I would like to pay tribute and thank. First of all, I would like to thank my family for the support that they have given me over the past six and a half years when I was a Minister in the former Government. It is probably fair to say that nobody could undertake the role of a Minister without the loyalty and dedication of one's family. I sincerely thank my wife Kay and my kids for the support that they have given me over that period.

Another group of people whom I would also like to thank are my personal staff. Again, one would not be able to do the job of a Minister without a very loyal and dedicated personal staff. I would like to thank my senior policy adviser, Mr Terry Kempnich, and all other staff who have been around me. They are a truly great group of people who work



very, very hard and were very, very dedicated to what they did. My sincere thanks go to them for the work that they did for me during that period.

The previous speaker, my very good friend and colleague the honourable member for Yeronga, outlined many of the reforms that have taken place in the justice system. I had the very great privilege of being appointed as Justice Minister when I first became a Minister. It is true to say that some wonderful reforms took place in the justice system. Although I was charged with the administrative side of the reforms, many very good things occurred which I believe laid the groundwork for a very good justice system. The Government has indicated that it is interested in going back to the past. I hope that that is not the case. I believe that what was able to be achieved in relation to cooperation with other States in terms of corporate law will go down as one of the greatest achievements of any Government in this nation.

In the past, Queensland had a fragmented system of administering company law. Through the cooperation of all States, the Labor Government was able to establish the Australian Securities Commission, which is now highly regarded among the business community as a very efficient organisation and a very effective way in which to administer company law. It is interesting to note that the previous National Party Government was vehemently opposed to any sort of a regime that would operate on a national basis. That Government had a thing about not relinquishing any power and that, no matter whether it was a good suggestion or a bad suggestion, it was agin it simply because it wanted to be against anything that might take some power away from it. I certainly hope that this Government does not go back to that sort of mentality. Whether we like it or not, we live in a nation and, more and more, we are living in a world. We cannot isolate and insulate ourselves and say, "We live in a little State called Queensland and we are going to shut out the rest of the world." We cannot do that, because we just would not survive. Any Government that believes that it can do so is in for a very rude shock indeed.

We are living in a global community, particularly when one considers global financing and the fact that information technology and the telecommunications industry have brought the world together virtually as one nation. So this Government had better be prepared to come to grips with the fact that there will need to be some greater cooperation with other States and

other countries to ensure that the standard of living of the citizens of this State continues to improve.

I have been very proud to be a member of the Goss Labor Government, which achieved so much. I can remember the bad old days—having spent some 12 years in Opposition under the Bjelke-Petersen National Party Government. The sorts of things that it did are legendary. One need only look at this institution, the institution of Parliament, to recognise the reforms that were introduced under the Goss Government. Those members who were here during the Bjelke-Petersen days would well remember things such as the Estimates debates, which were an absolute joke.

**Mr Schwarten:** Disgraceful.

**Mr MILLINER:** They were disgraceful; they really were.

Only nine of the 18 portfolios were selected for debate. Ministers would come in and give 20-minute speeches, which would be followed by other speeches. There was absolutely no scrutiny whatsoever of departments. I believe that the Estimates system has been overhauled for the better. Never before in the history of the Parliament has a backbench member of Parliament been given the opportunity to probe Ministers and departments and get to the bottom of their financial dealings. If that system has not worked it has been because previous Opposition members did very little work in preparing themselves for those Estimates hearings. I believe that those Estimates hearings, along with the other reforms that have taken place in this House, have truly made this a modern Parliament. I certainly hope that the incoming Government does not go back to those bad old days when members of Parliament might have come in here to make speeches but had very little opportunity to probe the workings of Government. I know that the Premier has indicated that he is going to further reform Parliament. I hope that those reforms are for the betterment of the Parliament and not a retrograde step. Tragically, I believe that the National Party will want to go back to the past.

The administration of Government during the period that we were in Government has improved dramatically. My good friend and colleague the member for Kedron outlined some of the achievements in Corrective Services. I also had the privilege of being the Corrective Services Minister. There is no doubt that that is one of the most difficult portfolios that anybody could administer. The former

Labor Government set out to implement Mr Kennedy's blueprint for reform in Corrective Services, and I believe that we really did achieve a lot. One only needs to read Mr Kennedy's report to see what a deplorable state the Queensland prison system was in. I give due credit to Mr Cooper. He initiated the Kennedy inquiry. It is unfortunate that, out of political expediency, the National Party has decided to abandon the principles of the Kennedy reforms. That is unfortunate, because the reforms being introduced into the Queensland prison system were working. There is no doubt about that.

One of the fundamental questions honourable members must ask themselves is: what is the role of a correctional system in a modern society? Is it just to imprison people, to lock them up, or does it exist to genuinely rehabilitate people so they can come out of the system better than they go into it, so that instead of being a drain on society, they can return to society and make a positive contribution? I believe that the Corrective Services Commission, through the work of people such as Mr Hamburger, Mr Macionis and other dedicated people in the Corrective Services Commission has much to be proud of because the results are there for all to see.

The reforms that they put in place are, in fact, working. One of the best indicators of that is the rate of return to prison. If one reads the Kennedy report, one learns that the return-to-imprisonment rate was 60 per cent. Under the reforms introduced by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, at one stage that rate had fallen below 50 per cent, which was the lowest in the country. That was a very clear indication that, because of the processes that they had in place, people were leaving correctional intuitions better than they entered them. I think that should be a fundamental objective of any correctional system. If it is doing that, it is working. I would hate to see Queensland return to the situation—and, tragically, I think that it will be the case—in which the only approach of the Government is to lock up offenders and inflict upon them very harsh treatment indeed. If that is the case, at the end of the day society will be the loser.

Over the past two and a half years, I have been very privileged indeed to be the Minister for Administrative Services. That has been a great experience and one that I will always treasure, because it is a tremendous department full of very dedicated people. It is a great achievement of the Goss Government that it took a very run-down department, refined it, redefined it, and produced a very modern arm of public administration. I believe

that the ASD has been one of the real success stories of this Government. It may not be one of the spectacular successes, but it has been a success story. When I consider what has been achieved in ASD, I am very proud to have been the Minister of that department.

Of course, technology has been at the forefront of ASD, which has been encouraging actively the IT and T industry in a number of ways. I believe that, generally, industry appreciates the role that ASD has played in helping to promote the industry throughout Queensland and, in particular, regional Queensland. One of the great successes in IT and T was the recent Info Express that travelled up the coast displaying to regional Queensland the latest in information technology and telecommunications, because all too often people in regional areas miss out on seeing the latest technology that is available.

I turn to the State Purchasing Council. Purchasing has been reformed to encourage the local business community to do business with the Government, and that has been an outstanding success. Each year, the Queensland Government spends approximately \$3.6 billion on goods and services, and it is incumbent upon departments of State to do everything they possibly can to encourage the local business community to come on board and do business with it. That cannot be the role of the Government only; it must also be the role of the private sector. The State purchasing sector was established with both public and private members, with a view to overseeing State purchasing.

I am very proud of the job creation that has taken place in ASD.

**Mr Foley:** Hear, hear!

**Mr MILLINER:** Thank you. It has been outstanding. Today, ASD employs 400-odd apprentices. It is the largest employer of apprentices in the construction industry in Queensland. The Goss Government had a very strong commitment to job training and we were very proud to ensure that each year 80 young people were given the opportunity to undertake training as apprentices in ASD. It has been one of the great successes of that department.

We are all aware of the need to ensure that we protect ourselves from the sun. Medical science is telling us daily of the dangers of too much sun. As a result, ASD took an active role in promoting sun safety throughout the State and also engaged in a

number of Make Shade projects at some of the schools throughout the State to ensure that they had an adequate amount of shade.

ASD is very proud of the way in which it has been able to deliver to education the schools that were required for the growth in population in this State. Over the past six years, ASD has built 45 new schools throughout the State. When hearing of the back-to-school stories that were told recently, I was very pleased to hear that only a couple of minor accommodation problems occurred at schools. The Queensland Government is acknowledged nationally as being the most efficient builder of public buildings both in time and cost. The ASD can be justifiably proud of that.

**Mr Quinn:** The standard is good.

**Mr MILLINER:** The standard is very high. I recently visited the new Robina State High School.

**Mr Quinn:** A very fine school.

**Mr MILLINER:** It is a very fine school. The principal commented that the school was equipped absolutely magnificently—

**Mr Quinn:** First-class.

**Mr MILLINER:**—and that it was first-class. That is great, because the students are the beneficiaries. People should not be playing politics with the future of kids' lives.

On coming to office, the Labor Government found that the previous Government had severely neglected public buildings and, in particular, school buildings. As a result, \$60m was allocated to the School Refurbishment Program, the aims of which were twofold. One aim was to address the effects of the neglect of public buildings over many years. The other aim was to encourage long-term unemployed people to become involved in working on worthwhile projects that would benefit the entire community. Although we spent some \$60m on the backlog maintenance program, tragically there is still work to be done. We were starting to address approximately \$20m worth of work, which resulted from the neglect of the previous coalition Government.

As I indicated, ASD has been set up as a very fine Government department administering quite a number of activities of Government. I am very pleased with the progress that has been made in ASD. One of the great successes of the Government was introducing the facilities management contract for telecommunications. In 1989, when the Goss Government took office, the threshold question was asked: what was the phone bill?

No-one could say what it was. Some 7,000 telephone accounts were sent to the Government. No-one had ever attempted to aggregate those telephone bills and no-one knew what the phone bill was. We were able to identify that some 4,000 telephone lines did not have telephones attached. The Government was paying \$1.2m rent on telephone lines that did not even have a telephone attached. In some cases, buildings had been knocked down and the Government was still paying rent on telephone lines. We were able to address that and make significant savings. The sum of \$100m over five years will be saved by using the telecommunications facilities manager, Pacific Star. In addition to those savings, the former Government created 230 jobs with the facilities manager, Pacific Star. That is one of the great success stories of the Labor Government.

**Mr W. K. Goss** interjected.

**Mr MILLINER:** Another success story relates to cars, and I am pleased that the former Premier interjected. In 1989, no-one knew how many vehicles the Government had. When a reconciliation was undertaken with the Main Roads Department, a discrepancy of some thousands of motor vehicles was discovered. Fortunately, those vehicles were tracked down, but that illustrates that absolutely no fleet management existed in the public sector.

**Mr De Lacy:** They weren't driving around in cars that weren't there, were they?

**Mr MILLINER:** I think some members of the National Party probably were. Labor put in place an efficient organisation, Q-Fleet, whose core responsibility was to manage the fleet. Q-Fleet now manages 10,000 vehicles on a commercial footing. As I said, Q-Fleet is a very successful organisation that has business fleet management as its core responsibility. Again, that was one of the successes of the previous Goss Labor Government.

Another success of the Goss Labor Government was the way in which CITEC has been able to foster the IT and T industry. CITEC is a very good organisation. It is a commercialised arm of the department and it has been involved very successfully in industry development.

The other commercialised units of the department, Goprint and Queensland Property Management, have been very successful areas of Government administration. The previous Goss Labor Government embarked on a number of major projects, which I hope the incoming Government continues. Of course, one of those projects is the Roma

Street development. If that development goes through to its final stage, it will be a magnificent asset for the people of Queensland. We have a very large tract of land at Roma Street, and something has to be done with it. I certainly hope that the incoming Government will honour the commitments given by the Labor Government for the Roma Street redevelopment. The people of Brisbane deserve such facilities that will improve their lifestyle in a rapidly developing city.

The Labor Government was also successful in getting rid of surplus Government property. It achieved maximum returns through the sale of some Government assets. When one considers the way in which the Cairns railway site was disposed of, one sees that it was a very professional operation. The members of the Labor Government would be very proud of the people who were engaged in that activity. They handled themselves in a very professional manner and achieved a very good result in the sale of the Cairns railway site.

**Mr De Lacy:** Very professional and very good for Cairns.

**Mr MILLINER:** It was very good for Cairns. The crowning glory of the previous Government was the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Last Friday, I attended the Motor Show, which was held at the centre. It really is a truly magnificent facility, and it is receiving accolades from around the world. At that show, one of the motor dealers introduced me to an international guest, who indicated to me that he believed that the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre was one of the best centres that he had visited around the world. That is a credit to everybody concerned. It really is a truly magnificent facility that is going to attract many, many thousands of people to Brisbane and Queensland. As well, it will inject an enormous amount of money into the economy of this State.

The previous Goss Labor Government can be justifiably proud of the six years it spent in Government. It really did a great job and there is no doubt that Queensland is the better for it.

**Mr HAYWARD (Kallangur) (3.54 p.m.):** It is a pleasure to have been part of a Labor Government. It was not just a Labor Government; the Government of which I was very proud to be a part was a great Labor Government. This afternoon, I will be speaking in support of the amendment to the motion which was moved this morning by the Leader of the Opposition. I think that the degree of

confidence that the people of Queensland can have in the coalition Government will be determined by the new administration's willingness to adopt and continue the broad range of strategies that were introduced by the Labor Government to assist industry and business in this State. The principal areas about which I speak are the strategies to assist small business, to stimulate industry research and development, to provide industry assistance to the manufacturing sector and, most importantly, to create an overall favourable economic climate for the State of Queensland.

It goes without saying that the Goss Government's record in this area has been impressive indeed. This morning, I took the opportunity to listen very closely to the points contained in the confidence motion that was moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier. I expected that, in their speeches, they would talk about the future and what they saw as the direction for Queensland. But what did we get from Mrs Sheldon? Two points. One of them was a standard point which, over the past few years, has always been made by an incoming Government. The first point she made was that she was going to have a commission of audit. So what do members reckon that means? Basically, it is a way of coming into this place and, by using the commission of audit process, saying, "We cannot undertake this program; we cannot undertake that program." All of us in this place should understand very clearly that when the incoming Government says that it is going to have a commission of audit process, that is simply a code for escaping from any commitments it has made over the past year. The incoming Government will just simply say, "We had the commission of audit and on that basis, we cannot do it."

But that will not be good enough and the people of Queensland and the people on this side of the Parliament will clearly understand and be able to demonstrate that that will not be good enough. One legacy among many legacies left by the Goss Labor Government—and it is now part of the modern political agenda in the State of Queensland—is that all programs that were undertaken by the Labor Government were fully funded. When we look at the future and think about what the Premier and the Deputy Premier were proposing today, there can be no argument that the programs that were put in place by this Opposition when it was in Government were, in fact, rock solid. But what do the Premier and the Deputy Premier signal

when they talk about the programs that they are going to introduce? They mean simply that if they introduce new programs, they are going to fund them by imposing new taxes, increasing taxes and by using borrowings. We have heard Mrs Sheldon equivocate on that. No doubt, we will see an attempt by the Government to borrow for the funding of social infrastructure. That is something that was never, ever undertaken by the Labor Government, but I am sure that activity will be undertaken by this Government. It will do that by simply postponing the debt that it will create in the next couple of years and imposing it on the families and the children of the future, or the Government could go the other way and fund any programs simply through asset sales. So I think over the next two years we can look forward to the possibility of three things—either, or, or the whole lot of them—that is, new taxes, increased taxes, borrowings or asset sales.

The other point that Mrs Sheldon made that concerned me is that she talked about the narrow base of the Queensland economy. I think one could argue legitimately that the Queensland economy does have a narrow base. However, make no mistake, over the past six years the Labor Government has moved determinedly to change that narrow base of the Queensland economy. In fact, later I will take the opportunity to talk about the rapidly expanding manufacturing industry that exists in this State. However, the Deputy Leader of the Coalition should not use this opportunity today to undersell the strength of the primary industries sector, the mining sector and the tourism sector in this State. It is a dangerous and risky proposal of the Treasurer to talk about the narrow base of the Queensland economy and immediately take an opportunity to rubbish those three great sectors of the Queensland economy. One cannot underestimate the great strength of those sectors and the part they play in the great success of the Queensland economy.

We heard the contributions from the Premier and the Deputy Premier. We have had no contributions from any other member of the Government. None of them have had anything to say to defend the confidence motion that they put forward today. Of course, we have heard a couple of interjections from Government members—usually about service delivery. Every Government is interested in service delivery. It is a motherhood statement to say that a Government is interested in service delivery. However, an interjection that occurred earlier today has really stuck in my mind. It was to do with some discussion

about whether or not—and we know the history—certain members of Parliament previously had gone to gaol. The interjection worried me. Someone interjected—and they know who they are—with something like, "Well, we can soon solve that." I think that is a very, very dangerous assumption or proposal, and I can see Mr Lester nodding. He knows who made the interjection. It is an outrage for someone, by interjection, to say, "We can soon solve that", making reference to whether or not members of Parliament should go to gaol.

I have talked about the lack of contribution of all members opposite, apart of course from the Premier and the Deputy Premier. However, what really surprised me today was the lack of contribution from the member for Gladstone, the person who has given us reason for being here today. I expected that the member for Gladstone would have some vision for the future, that she would tell us what she sees as the important role of a new Government in Queensland, and that she would speak strenuously to this confidence motion.

**Mr De Lacy:** Do you think it is strange that she reports to the media but not to Parliament?

**Mr HAYWARD:** I will go on to talk a little about that, because Mrs Cunningham, the member for Gladstone, has an opportunity this afternoon to put on record her reasons for supporting this confidence motion, and her reasons for bringing about the downfall of what I think was a great Labor Government. We have heard her say in the schoolyard or the park—or wherever it was—that she had some complaint about a leaky roof; that she had some complaint about a new site for a high school; and that she had some complaint about police numbers. However, she will not get up here and talk about what her real agenda is and what her real reasons for it are.

I think that the member for Gladstone represents what I call the culture of complaint in this State, which is simply a person who has been elected because that person is good at complaining. Many members of the present Government remained in Opposition on the same principle. They had no idea about the future, they had no programs and they had no plans. They functioned on the culture of complaint—the 10-second complaint on television or the whining complaint on talk-back radio, or whatever it was. They now come into Government by representing and being able to harness that culture of complaint. Very clearly, Mrs Cunningham, the member for

Gladstone, is the manifestation, the ultimate acknowledgment or the representation of that culture of complaint. What worries me about Government members simply representing a culture of complaint is that they do not want to solve any problems and they simply do not have any plans for or ideas about finding solutions.

In the area of small business advice and assistance, for example, our Government introduced a range of new programs to provide the sort of practical assistance to small business which for years was lacking under previous administrations in this State. We introduced programs such as Marketing Plus, Business Plus, Your Silent Partner and, of course, Your First Step, just to name a few. Last year I indicated that early this year I would be releasing a small business statement. Of course, I have not had the opportunity of releasing that statement, which was to be the Goss Government's blueprint for the future development of assistance and advice programs to continue the consistent growth of small business in Queensland which has occurred during the past few years. I only hope that the new Government will have the commonsense to set politics aside and pick up the thrust of what I was trying to do for the good of small business in this State. I hope that it will pick up the elements of that small business statement and bring them through. Even in draft form, I believe that the statement will be a lasting legacy to the efforts of the Labor Government in assisting small business and, very simply, it will be a benchmark against which the coalition will be judged by everybody in Queensland.

That statement should become a focus, I think, of future small business policy development. I, for one, would certainly be pleased if the coalition Government took up the opportunities that that small business statement offers. It sets out how we intended to build on the significant achievements of the past six years and set the agenda for another five years of record small business growth in the State of Queensland. The Goss Government, as everybody knows, had an undisputed commitment to ensuring that small business operators received a fair go and had the greatest possible opportunity for success in this State.

Of course, the principal way in which many of the State Government programs delivered small business assistance was through the Queensland Small Business Corporation. State Government funding for the Queensland Small Business Corporation was increased by 40 per cent during the past three

years to nearly \$6m. New business corporation offices were opened in Mackay, the Sunshine Coast, Aspley, Springwood, Cairns, Toowoomba and, of course, the Gold Coast.

The small business sector is extremely important to the functioning of the State of Queensland. There are almost 143,000 small businesses in Queensland, and the sector accounts for nearly 98 per cent of all businesses in our State. It provides approximately 56 per cent of private sector employment. In addition, and very importantly, it generates approximately 35 per cent of the gross State product of Queensland. The numbers of small businesses in Queensland increased by almost 7 per cent between the financial years of 1991-92 and 1993-94. Importantly, of course, they increased while the national trend was in decline. That in itself is a very clear example of the assistance and the incentives provided by the Goss Government to Queensland small business operators to create an economic climate which is conducive to growth and success, and which has resulted in growth and success well above and beyond the rest of Australia. The coalition Government has a heavy responsibility to continue to foster that growth and to match the successes of the Goss Government during the past six years.

The small business statement that I have referred to foreshadowed some of the new measures to aid the development of the small business sector in Queensland. It focused on the establishment of a small business ombudsman to deal with small business complaints about problems and delays with Government agencies. It also focused on the introduction of a system of better business licensing to simplify the licensing requirements for small businesses, including the development of the three most commonly applied for State Government licences and permits in this State. The statement also talked about the formulation and the development of a small business management skill strategy, which was to be launched in July 1996. I hope that will go ahead. That skills strategy was to provide a framework for the development and delivery of management skills training to small businesses by both the public sector, through the Queensland Small Business Corporation, and the private sector, through organisations such as the Queensland Confederation of Industry and the chambers of commerce.

Part of the small business statement was an expansion of the Mainstreet program. I recently asked for applications for the Mainstreet expansion in Queensland. My

office was swamped with letters, particularly from people in rural communities and some inner city communities wishing to take advantage of the Mainstreet program in order to enhance their business performance.

Most importantly, the statement would have focused on the provision of Queensland research and innovation grants to boost the funding available for final stage research and development in Queensland. This morning, the Deputy Premier, Mrs Sheldon, spoke about the narrow base of the Queensland economy. The idea behind the Queensland research and innovation grants initiative was to ensure that we were able to expand the manufacturing base of the Queensland economy. The key to producing a product lies not just in research and development; once the research and development of a product is undertaken, we have to ensure that we have the development and marketing processes in place to sell it. Rapid changes in technology mean that there is about 18 months or two years in which to launch a particular product into the market before someone else produces another one. Research and innovation grants are about ensuring that we are able to improve and assist in the development of a particular product and also its marketing. Innovation means doing things in a smarter way, be it in relation to manufacturing or the management of a manufacturing plant.

Again, I take the opportunity to reflect on the comments made by the Treasurer with regard to the narrow base of the Queensland economy. I place on record that I am very optimistic about the future of Queensland. It is important that we are all optimistic about the future of the State of Queensland. A great opportunity has been afforded by the former Goss Labor Government to change the culture of the State, an opportunity that is now there for the current Government to take up. We need to ensure that we focus on the development and enhancement of an enterprise culture in Queensland. We need to encourage Queensland and move it forward as the State of ideas in Australia.

Over the past six years, the Goss Labor Government has been able to work at developing Queensland as the State of ideas. That work can easily disappear, dissipate or be sacrificed. The challenge for the new Government is to work determinedly to ensure that it is able to foster the enterprise culture in Queensland and to provide leadership so that in the future Queensland will continue to be the State of ideas in Australia.

I am proud to have been a Minister in and a member of the Goss Labor Government. Over the past six and a half years, I have had the pleasure to serve with a great team of people. I am not just talking about other members of Parliament but also the staff, who were of great assistance to me.

**Mr McGRADY** (Mount Isa) (4.14 p.m.): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to oppose the motion moved by the Premier and to support the amendment so ably moved by the Leader of the Opposition. To serve one's community, whether it be as a local councillor or the mayor of one's local city, town or shire is certainly a great honour to any person, but to serve in the Parliament is a greater honour still. To have the opportunity to serve as a Minister under the leadership of the greatest Premier this State has seen is something of which to be very proud and something which I will carry with me to my grave.

Under the stewardship of Wayne Goss and Tom Burns, this State went from strength to strength. Today, my former ministerial colleagues have given an account of their stewardship over the past six years. Those of us who have been listening to the debate today would have to wonder why the member for Gladstone made the decision she did. This motion is also a criticism of and an attack on every Minister of the former Goss Government, because it is criticising and attacking the stewardship of their portfolios for the past six years. I wish to give a brief outline of some of the achievements in my former portfolio, including one about which over the past four years I received approximately four questions without notice, which should suggest that things were pretty good in the Minerals and Energy portfolio.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr McGRADY:** If any Government members wish to speak, there is a list on which they can put their names. There is plenty of time. They should not be shy or quiet.

One of the first recommendations that I took to the Cabinet after I became a Minister was that which released vast tracts of land in the Bowen Basin for future coalmining. This is known as the RA55. Prior to the Goss Government's decision, that area of land could be released only by the 18 Ministers sitting around the Cabinet table. We took the view that, if there was a market for our coal, people should be allowed to mine it and sell it on world markets. As a result of that decision, every single area of land, with one exception, has been taken up and coalmining has either

started or is in the process of starting. That means jobs for Queenslanders and billions of dollars of investment in our State. It means that Queensland is seen as the coalmining capital of the world. That is something on which Mr Gilmore, as he travels around this State, around Australia, and in particular around Asia, can reflect on with a great deal of pride. Queensland is regarded as a great coal State in a great coalmining nation. That is one of the great successes of our Government.

I refer to another great success which at the time people ignored. As members know, the former National/Liberal Party Government bled the mining industry through de facto royalties. It was not just a matter of charging the industry a high rate for freight—it did that—but it also bled the industry with de facto royalties. One of the first things that I initiated when I became a Minister was to at least have transparent rail freight rates so that the producers knew exactly what they were going to be charged and knew that there were no hidden taxes. Again, that decision was warmly welcomed by the industry and we received rave notices from everybody about it.

One of the greatest opportunities that this State has today is the development that is occurring in the Carpentaria/Mount Isa mineral province. That did not just happen. The Premier of the day, Wayne Goss, convened a meeting of the Queensland Government, the Federal Government, the Northern Territory Government and all of the mining companies which had some sort of an interest in the north west of Queensland. They worked as a team to determine what infrastructure was required. As a result of that work, we now have mines in the north west. Over \$2 billion will be invested in that part of the State. There will be between \$20 billion and \$30 billion worth of exports from that part of the State and about 6,000 jobs will be created, and that is all because the Goss Labor Government convened a meeting and got the Carpentaria/Mount Isa mineral province up and running. As I said before, it did not just happen. A tremendous amount of work went into ensuring that it became the success it is today.

Some of the mines in that region include the Osborne mine, the Cannington mine, the Ernest Henry mine and, very soon, the large Century mine. The Goss Government took many steps to ensure that the necessary infrastructure was in place. One of the last decisions we took as a Cabinet was in relation to the money which we hoped to raise from the sale of the State-owned gas pipeline. We have allocated \$100m to upgrading the

Townsville-Mount Isa rail line to ensure that the product will be able to be moved more speedily and efficiently across to the great port city of Townsville.

One step that I hoped to undertake before I left office was to sign the document which would bring gas into north-west Queensland and in particular into Mount Isa. I am convinced that that will happen very soon. I would ask at least for an invitation to that signing ceremony, because I believe that I deserve some recognition for the hours that were spent and the midnight oil that was burnt in ensuring that this project came to fruition.

As to other aspects of the portfolio—Korea Zinc represents a billion-dollar investment in the port city of Townsville. Over the last couple of weeks, I have heard certain members of this Chamber take credit for attracting that project to Townsville. It was the Goss Labor Government which ensured that Korea Zinc went to Townsville. It was the incentives that we offered as a Government which finally swung that company around to seeing that Townsville was the place in which it should locate its operations. That project will mean thousands of jobs for the people of Townsville and a billion-dollar investment into that city. Mark my words: we will see more and more industry coming to the city of Townsville, all because of the steps that the Labor Government took to secure Korea Zinc for that port city.

I will now move away from the mining component to the Energy side of my former portfolio. I had to sit back and listen to the nonsense from members of the coalition as they paraded up and down this State and zigzagged across this State telling untruths about the position of the electricity industry. Since 1990, electricity prices have not been increased by more than half the level of the CPI. In the current financial year, there has been a freeze on domestic electricity prices and some of the industrial and commercial charges decreased by between 8 per cent and 10 per cent. Every single time that coalition members rose in this Parliament to criticise the energy industry, they forecast that the following year there would be massive increases in power prices. That simply did not happen under our stewardship. At the same time, we restructured the Queensland electricity industry, and today it is still recognised as one of the most efficient electricity industries not only in the Commonwealth but also around the world. That is a reputation of which I am proud, and I will be watching very closely to see that nobody destroys it.



Day after day after day, we had to sit back and listen to the former Opposition talk about the lights going out. Opposition members claimed that there was insufficient power-generating capacity to meet the future needs of the people of this State. That was an absolute nonsense, and they knew it. But through their actions, members of the coalition scared away billions of dollars worth of investment in this State. Some companies became afraid to invest here because of the nonsense which came from members of the former Opposition.

**Mr Gilmore:** Just tell us about one of those.

**Mr McGRADY:** As I said to the member's colleague, there is a speakers' list for this debate. If Mr Gilmore wants to make a contribution today, I invite him to do so.

We had a plan for the future generation of power in this State. When Mr Gilmore gets his briefings from the industry, he will discover that there are no problems whatsoever with the electricity supply industry and that it was in safe hands under the Labor Government. In talking about future plans for the electricity industry in this State, the Labor Government was talking also about alternative energy. We did not put all our eggs in the one basket, namely, building coal-fired power stations around this State. We felt that there were alternatives.

I established the Alternative Energy Advisory Group, which, under the chairmanship of my parliamentary colleague Rod Welford, did a tremendous amount of work in this area. Through the work of that group, we have started to change the way in which Queenslanders use electricity. In the dying days of our Government, we were receiving inquiries from all around the world as to what we were doing and how we were fast becoming one of the world leaders in employing alternative energy methods. That is something of which I am terribly proud. In years to come, people will look back and realise that it was the Goss Labor Government which introduced and worked on alternative energy methods in this State. I would hope that the incoming Government does not do anything to destroy or meddle with that process.

I gave a commitment on behalf of the Labor Government that the Collinsville Power Station would be reopened. The then Opposition said that it could not be done and that it would not be done, but we did it. Government members were the ones who closed that power station down; we were the

ones who opened it up again. I believe that in the not-too-distant future we will see that power station generating power for north Queensland.

My colleague Ken Hayward referred to the culture of complaint. In my four years as a Minister, I heard every complaint known to man. One of the greatest nonsenses that I encountered in those four years came from a small group of people in Cairns who objected to the route of the proposed power line corridor. I have heard about the intentions of the incoming Government in relation to that issue. I say this: if the incoming Government is prepared to spend an additional \$15m to change that route, I will go the length and breadth of this State and encourage people to do the same thing. This is merely a political exercise. The National Party organised a meeting which attracted an attendance of 500 people. I warn the Government now that if it changes that route, I will organise a meeting and I will guarantee the attendance of at least 1,000 people. I do not want to see the incoming Government waste \$15m to satisfy National Party supporters, and that is all that would be achieved. I give notice now that I will be monitoring that situation very closely.

Another issue about which I am extremely concerned is the promise by Mr Gilmore to bring reticulated power to the Daintree.

**Mr Gilmore:** Consider that done, too.

**Mr McGRADY:** Mr Gilmore said, "Consider that done, too." Mr Gilmore should consider this: he will have one hell of a battle on his hands. The Daintree is unique; the Daintree is something special. The proposal by the coalition Government will open the area to developers, resulting in the destruction of that beautiful region. At Christmas time, I received half a dozen Christmas cards from people I have never met saying, "Mr McGrady, thank you for saving the Daintree." I have had those cards framed. I believe that if the National Party destroys the Daintree, it will take it with it to its grave.

**Mr Bredhauer:** They'll have to put that one underground, too.

**Mr McGRADY:** Maybe.

But if that is done, this Government will be known as one of the greatest destroyers that Queensland has ever seen. It is an absolute disgrace.

**Mr De Lacy:** They started the destruction in 1988 and they're going to finish it off in 1996.

**Mr McGRADY:** Shame!

I want to say a few words about Eastlink. In the time that is allowed to me tonight, I ask the Government to explain something to me. Members opposite talk about a transmission line which goes from the New South Wales border into Queensland. The only reason that they are opposed to Eastlink is that it runs through some of their friends' properties. That is the only reason because, based on economics, they would have to go along with Eastlink. Based on their national policy, they would have to go along with Eastlink. Based on the policy of their own Federal colleagues, they would have to go along with Eastlink. I ask the Premier to explain the difference. He does not mind building a coal-fired power station in Brigalow or Wandoan or some other place, and he does not mind running transmission lines across the Darling Downs, so what is the difference between the people who own properties on the Darling Downs and some of his mates along the route from the New South Wales border into Queensland? The Premier is committing financial suicide because, if he destroys the plans that the previous Government made for Eastlink, he will owe the people of this State millions and millions of dollars, and he will live to regret that decision.

I place on record the pleasure I had in working under the leadership of both Wayne Goss and Tom Burns and, in particular, with Mrs Roisin Goss, who was the first lady in this State—a lady who went around Queensland and the rest of Australia with dignity. She is somebody of whom every single Queenslanders could be proud. She is a lady whom I believe we should all hold in high esteem, because to me she represents the perfect woman. I was delighted, proud and honoured to serve under the former Government. I have been a member of the Australian Labor Party for over 30 years. The last six years made me proud of the fact that I belong to that great party. Although we are in Opposition today, there is a determination amongst members on this side of the Parliament to be here only for a short space of time, and the whole of the Labor movement will get together to prove that the actions taken by the member for Gladstone were wrong and that very, very soon we will be restored to the Government benches in this State.

**Mr BARTON** (Waterford) (4.34 p.m.): I rise to put to this Parliament that the public of Queensland certainly cannot have confidence in the Borbidge/Sheldon minority Government, particularly when it comes to protecting Queensland's environment. Alternatively,

Queenslanders did have great confidence in the way the Goss Government delivered on the environment in all three of its terms and on ALP policies and commitments on the environment—all 254 of them—which were given before the July 1995 election and were systematically being put into place. Public confidence has been demonstrated, particularly by the many recent environmental achievements which involved agreement between very disparate community groups—groups as disparate as the cattlemen, one of the National Party's traditional bases, Aboriginal and Torres Strait traditional owners, the conservation movement and developers on issues as wide-ranging as tree-clearing guidelines—and the Cape York agreement, coastal protection and management legislation. That public confidence was built upon the record of achievement of the Goss Government between 1989 and 1996 in all of its three terms.

Queenslanders cannot have confidence in this minority Government that is sitting in this Chamber today. That is not just because of its disastrous track record when it was last in Government; it is also because its environment policies for the July 1995 election were weak and—as members saw as recently as five minutes ago in this Chamber from the member for Tablelands—because of recent statements by its Ministers-to-be, its current spokesperson on the Environment and the frontbencher who is tipped by the media to be the next Minister for the Environment. Members opposite lack a very clear commitment to the environment itself. At a time when they have taken the reigns of Government, they cannot even tell the Parliament who the Minister for the Environment and Heritage will be. Will it be the shadow spokesman of recent years, the member for Burnett, or somebody else?

**Mr Bredhauer:** He has gone out and sold his soul to the Greens, but he knows he can't deliver.

**Mr BARTON:** That is the very point that needs to be made.

I believe that this Parliament needs to be told the answer to that question. If the member for Burnett is not going to be the Minister for the Environment, after having been the Opposition's shadow Minister for a minimum of three or four years, is it that this Government wants to walk away from the very many commitments that it gave, particularly in the run-up to the July 1995 election, which were given by that spokesperson for the Environment to certain sections of the

conservation movement? Those commitments certainly do not sit very well with the traditional support base of the National Party in this State. I believe that it is a cynical move by this incoming minority Government to dud the conservation movement and to dud Queenslanders of the reforms that they need.

The environment of this State is far too important to be left in uncertainty. Queenslanders need certainty on what the Queensland Government will do with many areas, particularly the World Heritage areas and the national parks that they love. They need certainty about the environmental issues that they feel very strongly about—whether it is the Wet Tropics, the threat of the Tully/Millstream hydro-electric power station, threats to the coast, Cape York, Moreton Bay, Fraser Island, the Daintree, as was confirmed a few minutes ago, protection of the mahogany glider habitat in north Queensland, the cassowary in north Queensland or the koala, particularly in the Koala Coast region.

Queenslanders want to know that the environment that they love will be protected. They want to know that the environment, in terms of the places where they live and work, will be clean and safe. They want to know that they will have clean air, clean water and low noise levels. They want effective controls on waste management and waste treatment and disposal. Queenslanders want to know that industry and businesses in their towns and suburbs are cleaning up their act. That is something that is in line with emerging and growing community expectations. Things that people have accepted in the past, they no longer will. It has certainly been demonstrated that this minority Government cannot give them that certainty today. They did have that certainty with the Goss Government until yesterday, but they certainly do not have a clear perspective on it now.

While members ponder who will be the next Minister for the Environment, Queenslanders will demand to know what this minority Government's views are on those crucial environment and conservation issues. I shall mention a few of them briefly. People want to know about Cape York. In the past week the member for Burnett said that that will be put on hold. That is very contrary to the position that has been put even by someone as infamous as little Johnny Howard in the past 48 hours. I refer to an article in yesterday's *Courier-Mail*, which stated—

"Mr Howard used the Liberal Party campaign launch to commit a coalition government to protecting the Cape."

The article continued—

" I have informed the incoming Queensland Premier, Rob Borbidge, that a federal coalition government will provide up to \$40 million to assist in protecting high conservation value areas in Cape York,' Mr Howard said.

Mr Howard said the coalition welcomed the recently signed Cape York heads of agreement and would support the facilitation of the relevant processes 'on the proviso that they involve all affected parties including local communities and are supported by the Queensland Government.' "

Again, a quote from Mr John Howard—

" 'Cape York is one of the last great wilderness areas in the world, and of course, the coalition will work with all interest groups to ensure it is appropriately managed and the high-conservation areas are fully protected,' he said."

John Howard's words, as quoted in the *Courier-Mail*, are very similar to the very words that Wayne Goss used in July 1995 when launching the campaign promise about the Cape York wilderness zone. We are entitled to ask, the public of Queensland is entitled to ask: where does this new minority Government stand on this issue? Their former environmental spokesperson has said that it will be put on hold. Traditional owners want the Cape York wilderness zone. The conservation movement wants it. The Cattlemen's Union on Cape York wants it. I am very proud of one of my major achievements during the short six and a half months that I was the relevant Minister, that is, that we were very close to finalising the purchase of all 11 properties on Cape York in that wilderness zone. The Government had purchased 54 per cent of the land area and negotiations were proceeding at such a satisfactory rate that, within another two or three short weeks, we would have purchased them all—not by compulsory acquisition but by a proper process of negotiation.

I congratulate the people involved in the historic agreement on the rest of Cape York: the Cattlemen's Union, the Cape York Land Council, the ACF and the Wilderness Society. My colleague Ken McElligott and I were very proud to have played a small role in the negotiations that achieved that agreement that was signed recently.

Another issue on which the public will want some very firm answers is what the

Government intends to do with the Daintree. Will it maintain the Daintree Rescue Program? Already we have heard them talk about power. I challenge the Premier and his team: will they honour the agreement reached by me and my department last Thursday to purchase all of Mr George Quaid's holdings in the Daintree as part of the Daintree Rescue Program? That contract would have gone to Cabinet and Executive Council this week had the Labor Government not been thrown out by that champion of the environment, the member for Gladstone. The public are entitled to know the answer to that question.

**Mr Bredhauer** interjected.

**Mr BARTON:** Yes, the member for Tablelands promised—"Consider it done"—to put power back into the Daintree. Of course, that is totally inconsistent with the conservation values of the Daintree Rescue Program. One of my proudest achievements, although I did not quite get there because the member for Gladstone intervened, was to purchase all property in the Daintree held by George Quaid and returning it to the national estate so that that great rainforest area can be forever protected.

Will the coalition Government honour the mahogany rescue plan, a plan announced several months ago by the Federal Minister John Faulkner and me, under which the State and Federal Governments each supply \$8m? The plan was finalised last week and would have been taken to Cabinet and Executive Council this week, except for intervention of that great champion of the environment, the member for Gladstone. I was disturbed because I did not know whether to believe the documentation that came to me. I signed a renewal of an interim conservation order on one recalcitrant land owner in the Tully area last week, which I understand had shrunk from 90 days to 30 days. Today, the newspaper says it was not renewed at all.

**Mr Borbidge:** It is 30 days. We will look at it at the end of that.

**Mr BARTON:** I am pleased to hear that answer, at least. I am disturbed that the members for Burnett and Hinchinbrook have been quoted in the Ingham press as saying that they want to make radical changes to the mahogany glider conservation plan. That glider is one of the world's rarest animals, with only approximately 600 of them remaining in an area that is under great pressure from cane farming expansion and increased aquaculture. We have to be very careful to ensure that that plan is put into place, but not put into place to pander to people who have cane farming

interests as opposed to the interests of a very rare animal.

All Queenslanders are entitled to know what the coalition Government will do with the Tully/Millstream. The incoming Minister for Minerals and Energy has promised that it will be built and Eastlink abandoned. I do not want to go too deeply into the arguments about Eastlink, because I think that was addressed by my colleague who spoke before me. What will be the cost of not having Eastlink? It will be at the cost of building the Tully/Millstream hydro-electric power station. That will flood sections of one of the world's greatest World Heritage areas, the Wet Tropics. That project will be the Franklin Dam all over again. I hope that the Government does not build that Tully/Millstream, because I am more concerned about the environment in that area than politics. It is an awful trade-off—to run some power lines over some open grazing and farming country compared with flooding a major area of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area.

Other statements that have been made by various Ministers-to-be that there are unreasonable restrictions on land-holders in the Wet Tropics World Heritage area lead me to believe that that area is at risk. It would be absolutely blatant vandalism if this incoming minority Government were to do that degree of damage to the World Heritage area. That would be a return to the values which Geoff Muntz espoused when he toured the world in the late 1980s opposing the listing of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. Have members' opposite changed? I suggest not. I also suggest that it will be very uncomfortable for the members for Barron River and Mulgrave when they try to attend future CAFNEC meetings in Cairns if the Government of which they are members goes ahead with that vandalism in that World Heritage area.

We should also explore some of the comments that have been made by the people who seem to be the frontrunners to become Minister for the Environment. Firstly, I will quote the member for Western Downs. As recently as four weeks ago, in the *Northern Downs News*, in a column titled "Local Member's Views" by Brian Littleproud MLA in regard to the environmental protection levy, he stated—

"The Environmental Protection levy is high on my list of priorities if the Coalition can seize government after the by-election in Mundingburra.

My own personal opinion is that polluters should be made to comply and

be fined if they do not. All others should not be asked to pay yet another tax to the State Government."

He has not changed his views since an article on 9 November 1994, in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* when he was quoted as saying—

". . . hefty levies are proposed to fund this green police force. Many people I have spoken to insist it is simply a new tax. They are also asking what service they can expect for the hefty new tax they will pay."

Not to be outdone, in the last week's *Sunday Mail*—and I believe everything that Pat Gillespie writes in the *Sunday Mail*, so it must be correct—the member for Burnett, the Opposition spokesman in recent years on this very important issue, expressed essentially the same view as the member for Western Downs. In an article headed "Reprieve from green levy", he stated—

"Small businesses may be given an 11th-hour reprieve from paying new 'green levies' under the Coalition's plan to review the controversial Environmental Protection Act.

Coalition environment spokesman Doug Slack said the approval and licence fees, levied against polluting industries, would be a priority for an Environment Protection Council, to be set up to assess the two-year-old Act."

Queenslanders do not just want polluters stopped, prosecuted and fined; they want their Government to be pro-active to stop pollution before it happens. They want their Government to identify industries and companies that are potential polluters under environmentally relevant activities and to work with them to achieve lower emissions and lower pollution and to ensure that those who have the potential to pollute improve, achieve good standards and are rewarded compared to those who do not. The Labor Government's EPA achieves that. The licence fees that were set were established by a committee that had very strong representation from the business community. I will not go into the full detail of that process, but the incoming minority Government is not proposing to not proceed to ensure that we have cleaner industries and cleaner businesses in our suburbs. The fees are modest, the cost to business is small and the gain for the community in having a better place in which to live and work is high.

One other little purler that I would like to speak about was put down by the member for Western Downs. I refer to the protection of the

koalas and the Koala Coast. There is no doubt about the views of the community in that region, as they were demonstrated at the election in July last year. But what does the possible Environment Minister think of this matter? I refer again to the "Local Member's Views" column in the *Northern Downs News* of 7 July 1994, in which the member stated—

"I spoke out recently at a meeting questioning the morality of such an expenditure when \$100 million would build 100 km of sealed road for people in rural Queensland. I had the Acacia Valley road in mind when I made that comment.

Why is this colony of koalas so important. There hasn't been an outcry about fauna in Queensland being killed by cars every night . . . I do believe the needs of people who don't have a sealed road should be placed before a desire to preserve a small pocket of the environment in the crowded south-east corner of this State."

I contrast that comment with the steps that were taken with regard to the Koala Coast by the Goss Government over the time that I was the Minister for the Environment. I will not detail all of what took place because it is on the record. Yet here we have a member who has been strongly tipped to be the Minister for the Environment in this illegitimate, minority Government, who does not believe in preserving the best-known, most significant koala habitat in Australia. But there is more. He has also said that he would close down Gurulmundi straightaway. That will have a disastrous effect on waste management in the south-east corner.

In rounding off, I want to place on the record how proud and privileged I have been to be a member of the Goss Government in its second term and a Minister in its third term. It has been a very great privilege to have been the Environment and Heritage Minister for a very short six and a half months. We had a great deal to do and we achieved a great deal. Of course, there is much more to be done and I am just sad that it looks like it may not be done in the manner that it should. This Parliament cannot have confidence in the Borbidge/Sheldon minority Government—a Government that cannot tell us who will be its Environment Minister, a Government that, in public statements, would flood a key part of the Wet Tropics, oppose the Cape York wilderness zone and weaken the mahogany glider rescue plan. Anybody who supports the environment certainly could not support this incoming Government.

**Mrs EDMOND** (Mount Coot-tha) (4.54 p.m.): I rise to speak against this motion and indicate my support for the amendment. The Labor movement's reason for existence is to improve the lot of working men and women. I am proud to have been a member of the Goss Labor Government, as it did just that. I have been proud to follow my predecessors in pursuing that goal while being a Minister in a portfolio that deals with workplaces and the people within them. What distinguishes the Labor Party from those opposite is that we have an overarching vision of a State, a nation and a world in which we wish to live and work—a place that we can bequeath with satisfaction to those who follow us, not just to have for short-term personal and political gain.

Unlike members opposite, I am proud to stand here to support the reforms the Labor Government made and to enunciate its policies and beliefs. However, I can understand the reluctance of members opposite to detail their intentions in this House of Parliament and to detail their history. I well understand their embarrassment. Again, what distinguishes members opposite is that Labor has had policies, plans and reform programs to lead us to that vision and proudly propose them rather than hiding our intentions and policies from the electorate. Perhaps the pursuit of that very vision has cost us in the short term while benefiting Queensland in the long term.

It is indeed a great concern and worry to me that vocational education, for example, did not rate a mention in State coalition policies—few as they were, hidden as they were—and in the Federal coalition, the only comment is, "TAFE will be retained." What a substantive policy!

**Mr Santoro** interjected.

**Mrs EDMOND:** If members opposite wish to speak in this House, they have every right to speak for 20 minutes. What is the Labor Party's vision? It is of a State with a high-skill, high-productivity economy competing at the quality end of the market with its Pacific Rim neighbours. Integral to those workplaces is every worker's right to safe and healthy conditions and fair compensation should he or she become ill or injured through work. The Labor Party seeks equity of access and an opportunity for every Queenslanders to fulfil his or her potential, to contribute to his or her community, whatever his or her geographic, economic, social or physical circumstances.

What is the alternative—a future as a second-rate survivor, battling away with strong

Asian competitors at the cheap end of the market, low skills, low wages, low productivity and a society in which the economically and socially disadvantaged are set adrift. That is not the future I want for my children or for other young Queenslanders, and that is not the legacy the Labor Government left those opposite. Unlike the exiting National Party in 1989, the Labor Government has not left the coalition with a State riddled with corruption, cronyism, inequity and a lack of opportunity for all but the privileged few in the know, with run-down health and education facilities and services, but lots of snouts in the trough.

The Labor Government has not left the coalition with an antiquated, underresourced public training system struggling and failing to meet the burgeoning demands of expanding business and industry sectors and the swelling labour market. When the national and international economic downturn squeezed the job markets around the nation, the Labor Government did not blame Canberra and leave the labour market to sort itself out because it had someone else to blame. No, the Labor Government had a vision, and it backed its vision with money, with action, and with the hard work of administrative and policy reform—reforms that may have cost it as a Government in Queensland while benefiting the State overall.

For the record, in vocational education and training, Queensland has been an active player in the national training reform agenda. As my friend and colleague the member for Yeronga said earlier, our major public training provider, TAFE Queensland, has gone from being the poor cousin of the National Training Scheme to the recognised premier public provider of vocational education and training in this country—and that at a time when vocational training generally is lifting its game across Australia. Queensland has gone from the back of the pack to the front row.

Under Labor in Queensland, TAFE enrolments have almost doubled, and this year funding has reached almost half a billion dollars—up by 70 per cent over five years. All 16 TAFE institutes and the TAFE State office have now received quality assurance certification in what I believe is a first worldwide for any nationally based vocational education and training network.

Curriculum consortia at institute level throughout the State ensure that TAFE education and training remain in constant touch and focus with industry demands. Since 1989, costs have decreased 15 per cent and currently Queensland is second only to New

South Wales in having the lowest cost per completion of a TAFE award.

I hasten to point out that those are recognised achievements published by the Australian Industries Commission and are on the public record. However, it is not just the dollars that count. More importantly, since 1989 TAFE Queensland has become an organisation driven by its clients, striving for absolute quality in its interaction with communities in every corner of the State. I know from the college within my own electorate of Mount Coot-tha in Brisbane that there are a lot of talented, well qualified and dedicated people in the TAFE system. They deserve every opportunity to prove that they have what it takes to compete in the open market. They are doing it very successfully, even though they are constantly denigrated by the member for Clayfield. They attempt to ignore that.

As a Government, the Labor Party had taken a number of steps to support TAFE Queensland in its strive for competitiveness. First was the formation of institutes—our 30-plus colleges are now 16 institutes with greater local autonomy and decision-making power, giving them more flexibility to respond to local needs.

Our society, lifestyles and industry demands are changing, and the public vocational education and training system must move with those changes. That means that we are training students to meet today's business and industry needs. That is, real training for real jobs; not merely what people felt comfortable with delivering and not merely shuffling young people off the unemployment statistics, as the ill-considered comment by the would-be Treasurer shows just how little she knows of what is happening in the training arena.

Modern communications technology also opens up myriad opportunities for flexible training. In the Goss Government's economic blueprint, *From Strength to Strength*, we committed over \$10m in a five-year program to broadband TAFE services. Existing learning resources will be converted so that they can be delivered on communication networks such as the so-called information superhighway. This will allow students to take self-directed and self-paced learning programs in the workplace or in the home, wherever that may be. Students will be able to dial into the TAFE Queensland modem and take programs such as word processing as and when it suits them. This will be invaluable to people in isolated, rural areas or in remote workplaces or

workplaces with specific requirements for training; for example, shift workers outside regular hours. It is our Government's social justice agenda which has seen TAFE increasingly reaching out to rural and remote areas and becoming more flexible and accessible to people with work and family responsibilities, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. Earlier today, the Government criticised Labor's commitment to the rural sector. Nothing could be further from the truth, and TAFE is just one example of that.

TAFE is also responding to the workplace. The majority of people in the work force will now be there in ten years' time, and that is where TAFE is directing its drive. These workers need to be able to reskill on the job to keep up with change and allow their workplaces to remain competitive. The TAFE curriculum needs to be more flexible and employment-oriented to meet their needs. This means reformatting diplomas and advanced diplomas to be delivered in conjunction with on-the-job experience. In this way, the products of the vocational education and training system will have the necessary job skills, properly supported by underpinning knowledge, to be attractive to employers and, of course, satisfying and satisfactory to employees. Employers complain that even graduates require additional training in the workplace in order to be productive. Many of those graduates are now seeking that training at TAFE colleges. Employers are paying top dollar from day one and they do not want to employ someone they have to train for four weeks.

In my view, Governments have a key role in maintaining minimum standards and ensuring the portability of workers' skills, not just cutting wages, cutting conditions and cheapening our work force the Reith/Howard way. However, regulation must not get in the way of the goal. Labor cleaned up a lot of the bureaucratic barriers in the administration of apprenticeships and traineeships. We gave staff modern resources and information technology to allow them to provide faster quality services to their clients, to apprentices, trainees and employers, particularly in the regional areas—the areas those opposite had always claimed to look after. Under Labor, training had been getting out of the institutions and into the workplace, where innovation, flexibility and efficiency are encouraged.

I believe that an integral element in Queensland industry's ability to compete both internationally and domestically in the next few years will depend on how well we manage the

expansion of our employment-based training system. None of these major achievements could have been notched up without the hard work and dedication of TAFE Queensland employees around the State. On behalf of those Ministers who served before me, and myself, I should like publicly to record my appreciation of their efforts. However, it is with sadness and trepidation that I have been forced to leave our training system, its people and its achievements in the hands of those who did so little for so long.

I remember the way the member for Clayfield has stood in this Chamber repeatedly reading out hit lists of anyone in public office who was considered friendly with the Labor Government, and his vows to get rid of them. That is all on public record. I also remember his underhand attacks on women appointed to senior positions, and I am concerned for those who have worked so hard and for so long in the public service, and particularly in DEVETIR, if he is to be the Minister. I would hope that the incoming Premier has more sense.

I can only challenge those opposite—and I put more faith in the Premier than I do in the member for Clayfield—not to turn back the clock. I look for some signs that they have learnt to acknowledge the vital importance of TAFE and vocational education, but I can only look at Western Australia and its TAFE privatisation under Liberal Premier Court and, of course, the wholesale sacking and pillaging of TAFE under Kennett in Victoria, which has earned the ire of the Australian National Training Authority.

I want to place on record the results of a daring and electorally dangerous step which Labor took in 1992, which was to present to the electorate a proposal to increase the tobacco licensing fee to fund the three-year, \$150m Jobs Plan. The political unpopularity of this move was countered by its significant benefits in providing funds for jobs, funds for rebuilding the health system—billions of dollars needed to make up for years of neglect—and also for refurbishing schools while providing jobs. This was a first for Queensland and it showed the difference between a conservative Government and a Labor Government, a Government which cares about the unemployed. Across the nation the economy was in a downturn and, although the policy settings were right for Queensland's economy in the longer term, something had to be done in the short term, especially for those facing extra disadvantages in cracking the labour market—the long-term unemployed, young people, mature aged people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The Jobs Plan helped more than 97,000 unemployed Queenslanders to get skills, jobs and improve their employment prospects—not only in the city but also, importantly, in the drought-stricken rural areas—and maintain wages and skills during this period of hardship.

I know the member for Clayfield has shown his complete ignorance of the Jobs Plan and his complete ignorance and disrespect for the drought-stricken rural areas. However, I come from the bush and I care about the bush, even though he does not. Many of these people were already stuck on the long-term unemployment treadmill or were facing that prospect. Queensland families feeling the pain of unemployment were this Government's number one priority. Under our \$100m community renewal program, 7,500 unemployed people would have been working within their local communities rebuilding and renewing local facilities.

Jobs are the fundamental example of social justice. I look forward to seeing where the member for Caloundra will find the funds she says she will use to create jobs, while she cuts land tax, payroll tax and considers cutting stamp duty on share transactions. The Liberal leader says we must follow Kennett's lead in Victoria. I remind her, and all who sit with her, that while this State has created more than 244,000 jobs since 1991, Victoria still has not reached the level of employment it had in 1991. Those unemployed include 44,970 sacked teachers, nurses and other public servants. The public servants who were sacked from the Victorian Treasury were faced with being escorted—can members imagine the indignity—by security guards, on 15 minutes notice to clear their desks. They were not even allowed to speak to their colleagues and bid them farewell. What a way to treat public servants! One can only presume that this is the direction the new Treasurer intends taking, following her frequent begging of advice from Mr Kennett.

One of the many difficult issues this Government faced, and dealt with, was the reform of the workers' compensation system. The reforms were intended to improve benefits for workers, maintain competitive premiums at the second lowest level in Australia and restore the long-term viability of the fund.

**Mr Elliott:** What about the surcharge?

**Mrs EDMOND:** That is including the surcharge. Including the surcharge, they are still at the second lowest level in Australia.

The reform measures were developed over nine weeks of intensive stakeholder



negotiations. I would like to record again, as I did in my second-reading speech, my appreciation to all stakeholders, as well as to department officers, for the time and professional effort they put into the finalisation of the package. The sad thing about this process was the lack of input from the Opposition of that time—now, of course, the Government. They said that, on one hand, common law rights had to be maintained, but they also said that they would not increase premiums. However, at no stage did they say what they would do. The most worrying thing about this is, and I beg the question: what will they do?

Will workers with only a 30 per cent whole-person impairment injury have access to common law as in Victoria, under a conservative Jeff Kennett? Will employers actually be able to get workers' compensation insurance? In Western Australia, as a result of the introduction of privatisation there, some employers cannot insure their employees. The only hint of what this illegitimate Government will do to workers' compensation is that it flags privatisation—and, presumably, to cut injured workers' benefits. Our reforms were designed to deliver Queensland workers, their families and employers sound, affordable insurance and compensation for workplace disease and injury and maintain the right of injured workers to pursue their common law rights while encouraging those with less serious injuries to choose improved statutory benefits.

In addition, a comprehensive review program was scheduled for this year. I challenge this backdoor Government to maintain that review program, including the implementation of the Tregillis reforms to the Division of Workplace Health and Safety and the Workers Compensation Board. Let us see the Government's public inquiry under way and see what solutions it has. Most of all, let us see how the Government will meet its phoney promise to maintain common law at the same time as removing the premium increases that we introduced.

The achievements of Labor in the portfolio of Employment and Training are achievements of which we are proud and achievements that in Opposition we shall ensure are not allowed to slide back to the neglect of the 1970s and 1980s. Unlike those opposite, I do not suffer from amnesia. I clearly remember the days under the National Party Government when Queensland teachers, nurses and police were the worst paid by far in this country of ours, when the roofs of the schools in my electorate dropped peeling paint on the children below, and when

the P & Cs went into hock to buy one computer per school to try to equip our children for this century let alone the next. I remember when they sweltered in tin sheds without fans let alone the airconditioning so cynically promised by those opposite, which was never to be achieved except by the exceptionally rich schools.

I remember when "disability" in State schools was such a dirty word that, when our P & C begged for handrails to help a young lad with muscular dystrophy, they arrived four years later when, tragically, he could no longer benefit as he had progressed to a wheelchair and left the school. I remember the contempt with which even safe Liberal electorates were treated, a contempt that encouraged the total lack of accountability that in turn led to ingrained corruption and a blurring of the lines between administration, justice and policing so that different standards applied depending on who or what one was and how much one paid. I faithfully promise this Parliament, the people of Queensland and the constituents of my electorate of Mount Coot-tha that, although others may forget, I will not and I will not allow the gains of the Goss Labor Government that enabled Queensland to hold its head with pride and dignity to slip so far behind again.

**Mr McELLIGOTT** (Thuringowa) (5.13 p.m.): As this House considers its confidence or otherwise in the incoming coalition Government, it is natural and logical to think about the performance of past National Party Governments, the last of which was only some six and a half years ago.

I recall that when I entered the office of the Minister for Health on the election of the Goss Labor Government in 1989, I found a bar stocked with every possible type of liquid refreshment that one could possibly want. I found a room within the Ministry of Health specifically set up for television interviews, featuring lighting and all of those specialist items that go with a media performer. I found the infamous hair-drying machine and I found evidence of all of the trappings that National Party Ministers of the day enjoyed. Today, I place on record that, when the incoming Minister for Lands enters what was my ministerial office, he will find 17 stubbies in the fridge, and I paid for those stubbies, not the taxpayers of Queensland. The Minister is welcome to them, but I paid for them.

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mr McELLIGOTT:** Exactly.

I wish to go through some of the initiatives of the Lands Department under the former Labor Government. I would have thought my

former portfolio area was one that the previous National Party would have serviced efficiently and effectively for the people that it claims to represent, given the glorious days of the old Country Party. However, it came as a great disappointment to me to find that that former National Party Government had neglected the bush to such an extent. I will go through some examples and, in doing so, as my colleagues have already done, I challenge the incoming coalition Government to continue the initiatives taken by the Goss Labor Government to support the people who live in the rural communities of this State.

The Goss Government successfully integrated the former Departments of Freehold Titles, Geographic Information, Lands and Valuer-General into the new Department of Lands. Officers now offer a wide range of advice and services on land-related matters to all Queenslanders. Thirty-four regional offices have been established, from Cairns to Mount Isa and to Warwick. The percentage of equivalent Department of Lands staff working outside Brisbane is now twice that under the previous Government. More effective communication with client groups has been created through the establishment of consultative committees in the fields of land use, land services and land information. Industry groups are regularly involved in the development of legislation.

The old 1962 Land Act has been reviewed and replaced with a new Act which provides a simpler, streamlined framework for the administration and management of State land. Queensland's more than 20 previous different types of tenure have been simplified into three broad groups. A new fairer leasehold land rental system based on unimproved capital value has been introduced. That was the result of a succession of inquiries over a long period and it removed the inequities and distortions in previous systems. Rents on pastoral leases have been set at a low percentage level, that is, 1.1 per cent of unimproved capital value, and have been frozen at that point as part of the Goss Government's drought response strategy, at least until 30 June 1996.

New initiatives for weed eradication have been undertaken, something upon which the former National Party Government about which I have spoken placed no importance at all. An annual allocation of \$2.1m in addition to normal budgets is supporting a strategic initiative against extensive weed infestations. This has been further boosted by the Goss Government's November 1995 economic package, with a further \$2.2m advance for

attacks on plant and animal pests in 1995-96. Programs include the eradication of chinese apple, mesquite, prickly acacia and rubber vine, realignment and reconstruction work on the dingo fence and an extension of the rabbit barrier in southern Queensland.

Another item which we would have assumed would have been a priority for the former National Party Government was the system of stock routes throughout this State. Nothing had been done—and I mean nothing—for at least 20 years prior to the election of the Goss Government. Some \$2.5m has been allocated over three years for the replacement and enhancement of watering facilities, fodder management programs, fencing and signage, which is so important in directing people using the system. Again, as I said, that is an initiative to benefit the rural community of this State.

The Goss Government was working with land-holders, local authorities and Landcare groups to combat the economic and environmental effects of weeds. The focus of Queensland land management has been redirected towards sustainable land use for present and future generations. For example, tree clearing on leasehold land is required to take account of the effect on the general environment, soil degradation and water courses.

The Aboriginal Land Tribunal has been established to adjudicate on land claims made under the Queensland Aboriginal Land Act, with a companion Act to provide for claims by Torres Strait Islanders. So far, 95,000 hectares have been transferred and 156 parcels of land totalling some 700,000 hectares have come under investigation for transfer to Aboriginal interests.

I have spoken in the House before about the automated titling system and the success of the initiatives taken by the Goss Government in that regard. The conversion of all freehold and State leasehold titles onto computer was completed in October 1995 after 18 months of work. The automated titling system has cut average handling time by half and has the capacity for handling well over 2,500 transactions per day. The system offers the security of an extensive backup system and will reduce lodgment and registration of documents from a nine-step to a two-step process. Similar radical advances have been made with digital imaging and the transfer of maps and other documents.

Draft State tree-clearing guidelines were released in March as a basis for the development of local guidelines. A ministerial

committee aided by a working party has since been undertaking the process of the establishment of those guidelines. Members are aware that agreement has been reached by the various parties involved in those consultations.

As I have previously reported to this House, in the light of growing concerns within the community about the proposed building units and group titles Act, it was decided that there would be a complete overhaul of this legislation and a new package developed. It is proposed that management of multiple dwellings be dealt with in three ways: titling issues will be dealt with through amendments to the existing Land Titles Act, and those amendments are well advanced in the drafting stages; all planning aspects will go under the proposed new planning, environment and development Act; and all management and dispute resolution issues will be covered by a new community land management Act, which is also fairly well advanced in the drafting stages.

Members would be aware of the response by the Lands Department to a number of plagues of pests throughout the State in recent times, including the mice plague last year and the more recent locust outbreak in central and south-west Queensland. The Government, as one of its last acts in power, allocated \$2m for the 1995-96 financial year to assist farmers to meet the cost of pesticides for treating that plague and a further \$1m for Lands Department officers to engage in strategic spraying as part of the response to that plague.

As the former Minister for Primary Industries mentioned in his speech this afternoon, the commitment by this Government to the rural community has the support and the applause of those communities. I have outlined some of the initiatives taken by the department as a challenge to the incoming Minister to continue and further develop. I assure the incoming Government that within the Queensland Department of Lands there is an efficient and dedicated group of people working under the director-general, Barry Smith. I am sure that if the incoming Government continues with the initiatives already in place, the rewards will be reaped.

I want to talk now about my area of Townsville, and in particular to express my sadness that an electorate within the Townsville region was lost to the Liberal Party in the recent by-election. Together with the actions of the member for Gladstone, that

ultimately led to the downfall of the Goss Government. I am disappointed about that, because I believe that Townsville has done very well under Labor. I was elected to the Townsville City Council as far back as March 1976, so I have been around a long time. I have seen the initiatives of and representation by Labor at the local, State and Federal Government levels bring considerable benefits to the Townsville community.

Members would be well aware of my very strong support for the amalgamation of Townsville and Thuringowa Cities. I believe that the decision taken not to amalgamate those two cities was incorrect. I am interested to note that the coalition is talking about giving those communities which have been amalgamated the opportunity to conduct a referendum on whether they now wish to return to their previous position. I assume that as part of that process the people of Townsville and Thuringowa will be given the opportunity to vote by referendum as to whether in fact they want to—

**Mr FitzGerald:** Will you be supporting the amalgamation when you get a chance to vote?

**Mr McELLIGOTT:** I strongly support the amalgamation, as the honourable member well knows.

The proud record of Labor in Townsville is probably best demonstrated by the contribution that Labor has made to the development of various sporting facilities which now have resulted in Townsville being represented in national league competitions. I guess it is fair to say that the highest profile of those sports are basketball and Rugby League. The Queensland State Government under a Labor administration provided \$7m for the construction of the entertainment centre in Townsville, which forms the home court for the Suns basketball team. In addition, we have recently announced a further \$1m support of basketball to enable the construction of three indoor courts for use by the Townsville Basketball Association. The Goss Labor Government has also recently announced \$320,000 to allow the Townsville Hockey Association to convert a dry sand-based hockey field to a wet synthetic surface to meet international standards and supply a first-class facility for use by the North Queensland Barras. Of course, the Cowboys Rugby League Club is operating out of what was previously an unused harness racing complex, again with very generous support by the Labor Government at State level and the Townsville and Thuringowa City Councils.

Education is another area in which the Labor Government provided enormous support to the Townsville community. Every school within the region received substantial upgrading as a result of the initiatives of the Labor Government. I am very proud indeed that on each occasion I visit the schools in my electorate I can point to improvements that have occurred as a direct result of the Labor Government's activities.

I think it is very sad, therefore, that the recent Mundingburra by-election was fought by the coalition parties on negative themes. It is a fact of record that the Liberal candidate who was finally successful in winning the seat campaigned on the basis of no policy initiatives whatsoever.

**Mr FitzGerald:** They didn't like yours.

**Mr McELLIGOTT:** I think the only commitment Mr Tanti made was to provide a car park at Heatley State High School, which while important is hardly the type of initiative to which I have referred that various Labor Governments have provided over the years. I hope that that negative position during the campaign will change now that, as an honourable member has said, the campaign was successful and we are to see a change of Government. I hope that the coalition will adopt a positive attitude to the Townsville region. I hope that it will continue to deliver on the vision to which so many hard-working people have contributed in the past.

Again on a negative note, I want to say how disappointed I have been—both prior to the July election and during the recent Mundingburra by-election campaign—in the blatantly biased reporting and journalism demonstrated by local 4TO talkback host Dave Harrison. All of us accept that, in politics, the media plays an important role. All of us expect that at the very least we will be given a fair go. In the case of Harrison's performance during both of those campaigns, his bias in favour of the coalition parties went beyond what reasonably could have been expected. As I said, I have been around a long time, and I can remember when Dave Harrison first came to Townsville. He is a man of very limited ability who has taken advantage of the actions by and the strength of commitment of the Townsville community in the fields that I have mentioned—basketball, Rugby League, hockey and so on. Dave Harrison has jumped on the bandwagon of those initiatives and, without giving recognition to the people who made those things possible, has done very well for himself. I am very disappointed that he has not been adult enough or man enough to

recognise the fact that Townsville has been good to Dave Harrison. I hope that, now that he has achieved his ambition of having a change of Government occur in this State, in future he will adopt a much more positive approach to the promotion of Townsville and the initiatives that are taking place in the region.

I wanted to deal at some length with the State health system. Unfortunately, I will not have time to do that. I appeal to the incoming Health Minister to think very carefully before he brings down what, in my view, is the very responsible structure of Queensland Health.

It is a fact of life that many people in this House would not be aware of the calamity and the catastrophe that was the Ward 10B affair at Townsville General Hospital. I believe that any responsible commentator who was aware of the situation that surrounded that drama would acknowledge that the old hospital board system contributed in a great way to the ineffectiveness of the Townsville Hospital Board and the Department of Health at that time in dealing with that situation. The structure, as it was established in the early days of the Goss Labor Government, had two things in mind: local decision making and single-point accountability. Had those two factors been in place, the Ward 10B affair would never have occurred. The fact is that nobody at the Townsville General Hospital took responsibility for Ward 10B and nobody within the centralised Department of Health took responsibility for Ward 10B. In the restructure under my early administration, we created a situation whereby at every point within the structure there was somebody who had responsibility and could be identified in the event that incidents like Ward 10B occurred again. In addition, one particular situation was eliminated, namely, that of three separate professional streams: nursing, medical and administration.

Under the previous system, from the very top of the structure down to the local hospital level, nobody was in charge. Nurses at a local hospital reported up the system to a chief nursing officer in Brisbane. Similarly, medical officers reported up the system to a chief health officer, and the administrators reported up the system to the under secretary. So it was government by committee, again with no single person in charge. In addition, community-based health services had no responsibility at a local level; they had responsibility to people in Brisbane, as did psychiatric hospitals throughout the State. The current structure eliminated all of those deficiencies so that there are now clearly

defined paths of responsibility and, as I said, localised decision making. I defy anybody in this House to tell me that his or her hospital and health facilities have not improved under this Government compared to what they were like in 1988.

I know that the incoming Health Minister will be anxious to stamp his own authority on the health system, but I urge him to think about what led to the establishment of the current structure before he moves to return us to those dim, dark ages that gave us Ward 10B.

Time expired.

**Mr BREDHAUER** (Cook) (5.33 p.m.): Obviously, I rise this evening to oppose the motion of confidence in the minority Borbidge coalition Government. Over the past few weeks, in common with most members in the House, I have had reason to pause and reflect on the current political events in Queensland and on their historical—indeed, unprecedented—significance. I have also looked back over the last six and a half years of the Wayne Goss Labor Government and of our many achievements during that time. In common with most members on this side of the House, I come to today's debate with mixed emotions. I have some bitterness, some anger and some disappointment at the shabby way in which our Government of six and a half years has been treated.

I also want to put on record tonight that I have been a member of the Australian Labor Party for 17 years. The position that I am in today and everything I am today I owe to the Labor movement and the Australian Labor Party. I believe that it would behove some other people, particularly one former member of this House, to remember that it is he who owes the Labor Party for what position in society he achieved, for the honour of representing an electorate in this House, and not the Labor Party which should be paying him out for some perceived injustice done to him.

I also come here, though, with a mixture of great pride and satisfaction over what our Government was able to do both for Queensland and, in my case, for the constituents of the Cook electorate. Whilst I recognise and appreciate that our decisions and actions in the Cook electorate, as elsewhere, have not received universal applause or support at all times, I believe that any fair assessment of the outcome of six and a half years of the Wayne Goss Labor Government in Queensland would bring down a resoundingly positive verdict both on a

Statewide and, in my case, an electorate-wide basis.

One of our crowning achievements, in my view, was our absolute and resolute commitment to improve infrastructure and services in rural and remote parts of the Cook electorate. It makes my blood boil to come in here and listen to members opposite talk about the way the Labor Government had been cutting services to rural and remote parts of Queensland. I could tell those members of their legacy, and I could provide them with a litany of stories of 32 years of neglect of the most remote electorate in the State of Queensland, namely, the Cook electorate.

You see, Mr Speaker, one of the ironies of 32 years of National Party Government was the abject neglect of the Cook electorate, in spite of its strong representation by well-respected and hardworking members for much of that period. It is no coincidence, in my view, that this significantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander constituency was largely ignored by decade after decade of conservative Governments in Queensland. Six and a half years of Labor Government went a long way towards remedying that neglect, and whilst there is still much more that needs to be done, our achievements over that time are well recognised in the Cook electorate. Nowhere is this better exemplified than by our efforts in respect of Health.

I want to pay a particular tribute to the four Health Ministers over the six and a half years of our Government—to the current leader, Peter Beattie; his predecessor, Jim Elder; his predecessor, Ken Hayward; and his predecessor, Ken McElligott. In Health in the Cook electorate we have the runs on the board. Virtually every health facility in Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait has been or is in the process of being rebuilt.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr BREDHAUER:** The member need not interject. He should have seen the hovels that people in the Torres Strait had to put up with for their health services. There were places with holes in the ceilings.

I heard a story about a leak in a hospital in Gladstone. The water used to pour through the ceilings of the Saibai and Boigu Island clinics like a sieve. The National Party Government left them as hollow shells. The walls were unsealed, the floors were bare, there were potholes all over the place and holes in the walls. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers used to report for work in those appalling conditions day after day after day for 32 years, and the former

Government did nothing about it. When the Labor Party got into Government, we got on with the job of fixing up the health facilities throughout the Cook electorate, not just in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities but throughout the Cook electorate. We dramatically increased staffing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, especially focusing on sectors such as nutrition, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and, more recently, working to help alleviate the potential for further outbreaks of Japanese encephalitis.

Most of the health problems of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities particularly are preventable diseases. There is no point in pouring all the funding into doctors and other curative services; we actually have to get out there and try to prevent the diseases. The reason that people in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are dying at such early ages is that they suffer unacceptably high levels of preventable diseases. The Labor Government got on with the job of trying to lay the foundations to help to improve those health statistics.

There are now visiting specialist services in most remote communities in a wide range of specialties which have been built up from the old system of thoracic and eye team visiting specialists which we inherited. Now, specialists in many different specialties travel around remote communities. They never did that in the National Party Government's day; people requiring treatment always had to go to Cairns, Townsville or Brisbane. Now they are obtaining those services in their home communities. Only when the basic procedures and other examinations cannot be provided in their own communities do those people have to travel further afield to obtain those services. I am proud of the fact that those people are able to obtain many of those services in their own communities.

The Labor Government also improved conditions for nurses, particularly by rebuilding their accommodation—starting from scratch—which is something that the National Party never did in 32 years in Government. We also provided them with a remote area nurses incentive package, which provided them with additional remuneration, better leave and better training. That is also something that the National Party never did in 32 years of Government—just like it never provided teachers with a remote area incentive scheme until, in the election campaign before it got thrown out in 1989, it promised \$25m for a scheme that it never intended to fund. The

Labor Government fostered and encouraged community ownership and community control of health programs through the establishment of health action councils, the Torres Strait Health Council, the State Tripartite Forum and, more recently, the Apunipima Cape York Health Council.

I might say that I was in negotiations with the outgoing Health Minister, now Labor leader, Peter Beattie, in relation to the future of the Bamaga Hospital which urgently needs attention. The Minister travelled with me to Bamaga just prior to Christmas to investigate the needs of that facility. Today I indicate that I will continue to vigorously pursue this much-needed facility for the five communities of the northern peninsula area.

As to law and order—we have seen new police stations constructed at Mossman, Cooktown, Aurukun, Normanton and Weipa. Major improvements have been made to facilities in other centres, including Port Douglas, and new watch-houses at Lockhart River and Kowanyama. A project to build a new police station at Horn Island is currently under way, moving the community at Horn Island one step closer to being independent in all of its Government services. We employed police liaison officers at Mossman, Normanton and Thursday Island, and increased police numbers throughout the Cook electorate. We improved information technology and civilianisation of the Police Service throughout the electorate. We provided better facilities for waterborne policing, especially in the Torres Strait, and we improved dramatically the cross-cultural training for police who deal with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We also provided for the relocation of the historic old Port Douglas Courthouse building to its original site on the current police reserve in Port Douglas. I give a commitment to the people of Port Douglas to continue my campaign to see the eventual relocation of police facilities in Port Douglas to what the community will regard as a more appropriate site.

We undertook a major program of improving roads throughout the Cook electorate, including and especially in rural and remote areas. Soon the Peninsula Development Road will be sealed all the way to Lakeland with the exception of the Byerstown Range, which is on the anticipated five-year plan. There is a program under way to seal almost 40 kilometres of the Gulf Development Road. The unsealed sections of that road have been substantially reduced over the term of the Labor Government.

We began providing road infrastructure and other transport-related infrastructure in remote communities, including the sealing of the road from Bamaga to the wharf at Seisia and a commitment to future funding for the Bamaga to Injinoo Road, and ultimately Bamaga to the airport road. We committed significant funds to upgrade the road from the airstrip to the wharf on Horn Island and for internal roadworks on Thursday Island.

We also provided resources for internal roadworks at a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities and recently announced the sealing of additional airstrips in the Torres Strait, including York Island. We made a commitment to fund the dredging of the Endeavour River Harbour at Cooktown, pending the outcome of the impact assessment statement, and I will be vigilant to ensure that this project continues.

Recently, we secured an agreement with the Commonwealth in respect of a multi-purpose service to provide aged care in Cooktown, and I am calling on the current State Government and the future Federal Government, whatever its political persuasion, to honour that commitment. Senior Ambulance Service officers in Cairns have also recently announced funding for the construction of an ambulance centre in Cooktown, which I will continue to vigorously pursue as I have done in the past.

The Mossman Indoor Sports Complex has been completed and I look forward to participating in the opening of that complex. In fact, my only sadness is that the outgoing Sports Minister, Tom Burns, and his predecessor, Bob Gibbs, may now not be present at that opening, but I can assure them both that they have the appreciation of the community for bringing that centre to fruition. Other significant improvements in the area of housing have occurred, particularly a program under which public housing has been built in towns where it previously was not provided. The members opposite used to tell people in towns such as Normanton, Georgetown, Horn Island and Thursday Island that they could not obtain any public housing because none was available. The Labor Government addressed that. While on the subject of housing, I should mention the great appreciation and respect that has been conveyed to me by the older residents of Port Douglas and Mossman for our efforts in funding and helping to construct facilities through the Douglas Shire Aged People's Home Committee. The Rural Living Infrastructure Program provided facilities to small communities throughout my electorate which would otherwise have been unable to

afford them, including people in the Ethridge Shire who are major beneficiaries of this program.

A considerable effort has been placed on improving water supply and sewerage throughout the Cook electorate. One lasting indictment of the former coalition Government will be its failure to deal with this most basic issue in many remote towns. Horn Island and Thursday Island water supplies are now complete. The Cooktown water supply has been completed. Funding for a major upgrading of the water supply at Laura and Coen, and of course the major project at—

**Mr Johnson:** What did you do about the Croydon water supply?

**Mr BREDHAUER:** We put \$2.6m into it; that is what we did.

**Mr Johnson:** What did you do about it?

**Mr BREDHAUER:** The members opposite did not do anything about it. They had people in that community drinking out of an old pit. The Labor Government allocated the money and built the new facility. We were also working on improving and upgrading the water supply throughout the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities. We were in the midst of a program to provide sewerage to Thursday Island at a cost of over \$5.5m.

Child-care centres have been built and/or funded in places such as Normanton, Karumba, Horn Island, recently at Thursday Island, Badu Island, and many other communities have benefited through the Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Program. I could go on at length listing the many achievements that have allowed constituents in the Cook electorate to catch up to the basic services and facilities that most of the rest of us take for granted, but time does not permit me to outline them all. Suffice it to say that the confidence of the people of Cook in the Labor Party over many years has been justified by our efforts over the last six and a half years.

Opposite me here today is another National Party-led coalition Government. I suspect that a Rob Borbidge coalition Government will probably—and the jury is still out—be better than previous coalition Governments in Queensland for two simple reasons. Firstly, they could not be any worse; and secondly, because Queensland is now fundamentally a better place for six years of Labor Government.

I ask people to remember the 1982 dismissed railway workers dispute. Cabinet approved a shorter working week deal for

Queensland Railway workers in Bjelke-Petersen's absence. On his return, the deal was rescinded and in the ensuing dispute approximately 280 railway workers were sacked. The coalition took away the jobs of 280 railway workers and in a very real, if not practical sense, when we repealed Queensland's anti-worker, anti-union legislation, the Australian Labor Party gave them their jobs back.

Who could forget the anti-street march demonstrations and myriad other protests when Brisbane streets became seas of blue uniforms brutally enforcing undemocratic laws? The coalition took away the right of decent, law-abiding citizens to lawful assembly and peaceful protest. The Australian Labor Party gave those rights back. For four decades in Queensland, teachers, nurses and police were the most poorly paid in their profession in any State in Australia. The coalition in Government took away the wage justice of teachers, nurses and police. When in our first term we delivered wage justice for the first time in three decades, the Australian Labor Party gave those wages back.

Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community lived for 30 years under one of the most repressive legislative regimes ever experienced by Australia's indigenous people. The coalition perpetuated a denial of their basic rights to their land and their culture. They took away the symbols of their Aboriginality. When this House debated the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Act and then became Australia's first State to mirror Commonwealth legislation with our own Native Title Act, the Australian Labor Party began to give Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders their land back, and with it we gave an opportunity to regain their dignity and their pride in their indigenous cultures.

What of Queensland's gay and lesbian community? The coalition took away the rights of gay and lesbian people to live their own lifestyles in the privacy of their own homes. When we reformed Queensland's gay laws, the Australian Labor Party gave those rights back. Honourable members can picture in their minds the scene in 1988 when Queensland's Environment Minister, probably dressed, no doubt, in terylene shorts and knee-high socks or possibly a safari suit, scoured the world looking for fellow travellers to oppose the World Heritage listing of Queensland's tropical rainforest. Honourable members can cast their minds back to the saga of Lindeman Island or the saga of the Bellevue Hotel. The coalition in Government took away the very birthright of

every woman, man and child in Queensland: our environment and our heritage. The Australian Labor Party gave it back.

Indelibly etched in the memory of every member on this side of the House is the debacle the coalition presided over during the SEQEB dispute. For no better reason than electoral favour and political expediency, the coalition provoked a bitter confrontation with the trade union movement. They deprived householders of domestic power supplies. They caused havoc with business and industry. They had protesters, priests, pensioners and politicians either bashed up or locked up. They sacked 1,000 workers and then, in a fit of spite, they stole their superannuation. They took money out of the pockets of 1,000 working men and women. They took the bread off their tables and the food out of the mouths of their families. The Australian Labor Party gave it back.

Worst of all, with corruption endemic in the Queensland Police Service, with four Ministers serving gaol terms for misconduct and with a Bjelke-Petersen handpicked Police Commissioner goaled for 14 years for official corruption, the coalition took away the integrity and the very fabric of Queensland society. Wayne Goss and the Australian Labor Party gave it back. We gave Queensland back decency and respectability.

Now we come to this—a Rob Borbidge/Joan Sheldon coalition Government assuming the Treasury benches. But do they come to this place fresh from victory at a general election that swept aside one Government and installed another? Do they come to this place with a clear mandate from the people of Queensland? Did they put up their policies for public scrutiny at the last general election to be judged by the people and to win the majority of the seats? No! They are not here today on the basis of receiving a mandate from the people; they are here because of a decision handed down in a courtroom and because of a press conference held on a vacant block somewhere in Gladstone.

I am reminded of a scene from a Monty Python movie. I visualise Rob Borbidge sweeping across the plains and past two field workers. A woman looks up and says, "Who are you?" He says, "I am Rob Borbidge, and I am your Premier." She says, "How did you get to be Premier? I did not vote for you." He says, "There was a decision handed down in a courtroom for a by-election and then subsequently there was a press conference held on a vacant lot in Gladstone." Then



Dennis says, "That is no basis for a system of Government—someone handing out didactics down in the courtroom. A real system of Government derives from a mandate from the masses. If I was to go around saying that I had to come to power in Queensland, that I was the Premier of Queensland because the Independent member for Gladstone stood in a parking lot handing out press releases, they would lock me up. They would say I was a loony."

Today will go down in history as the day the coalition stole into Government through the back door of the Queensland Parliament, aided and abetted by their accomplice from Gladstone. They have robbed Government from the people of Queensland. The Australian Labor Party will give it back.

**Mr ARDILL** (Archerfield) (5.52 p.m.): About a week ago I was going through a family album looking for some particular information, and I came across a photo. That photo is of three fairly young looking political hopefuls at the beginning of the Wayne Goss era. Along with the Mayor of Ipswich, the three other people in the photo were Wayne Goss, then a contender for the seat of Salisbury held by the Liberal Party; David Hamill, who was to become the member for Ipswich, the Transport Minister and up until now, the very efficient Education Minister of Queensland, who has done so much for education; and the third person was me. It brought my mind to the fact that I have seen a fair bit of history in my time in political life. I have seen the beginnings and ends of some eras. However, today we are not seeing the end of an era; we are seeing the beginning of a new Government that is a mere hiccup in the scheme of things similar to that which occurred between 1929 and 1932. I say to all members opposite that they are only part of a hiccup. They are on notice that they are a minority Government, that they have equal numbers with the members of the Labor Opposition, and that the Labor Party will be back. Members opposite are only a hiccup in the history of the Queensland Parliament.

I was a member of the Brisbane City Council during the end of the Clem Jones era. Clem Jones made Brisbane a city—a city of which people could be proud. I was a member of the council at the beginning of a new era when the usual things that other cities took for granted could only be looked forward to by the City of Brisbane. The Australian Labor Party, after the basis was formed by the Clem Jones era, developed Brisbane into what we have today. It brought the Commonwealth Games to Brisbane and it allowed the city to grow up.

As the photo proves, I was present for the beginning of the Wayne Goss era and the end of the Bjelke-Petersen era of corruption in Queensland. I am very proud to have been a part of the Wayne Goss Government. As I said, a temporary hiccup has occurred not because the public has voted in a new Government but because a so-called Independent member has decided to change her allegiance from being an Independent to the handmaiden of the conservative parties, which have taken Government today.

As a member of a political party, I make no bones about the fact that I am committed to the policies of the Labor Party. The other members of the Opposition are committed to the Labor Party. There is no way that anyone can claim to be an Independent and also commit themselves to support a Government—right or wrong, clever or foolish, honest or corrupt—for a period of two years to the end of the term of that Government and still claim to be an Independent. That the member for Gladstone cannot claim. Once she made the statement this morning that she was committed totally to supporting this Government for the next two years, she could no longer claim to be an Independent. She had the option of supporting the Government in the first vote on the floor of the House and also supporting the Government in money Bills, provided the Government continues to serve the people of Gladstone and the people of Queensland in a manner which she finds acceptable. But in committing herself to supporting the Government—right or wrong, honest or corrupt, intelligent or foolish—she is no longer an Independent. She has made a blunder that will be considered fully by the people of Gladstone now and over the next two years.

This morning, we saw something unprecedented happen in the gallery. When the former Premier finished his speech, the people in the gallery broke into spontaneous applause. That is not surprising. What is the reputation of the previous Premier of Queensland? A man who brought about the end of corruption; a man of integrity, honesty and basic decency. Nobody can take that away from him, certainly not the ragtag Government on your right, Mr Speaker. The former Premier brought about the end of discrimination against homosexuals and Aboriginals and many other minority groups in Queensland. He also brought about the end of discrimination against the majority of Queenslanders, which we saw occur under the previous Government. He oversaw electoral reform; he made possible the situation that

has occurred today. It is now possible for another party to be elected as the Government of this State other than the one that is in power.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I have been instructed by Mr Speaker to inform all honourable members that the House will resume at 7 p.m. and not 7.30 p.m.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7 p.m.

**Mr ARDILL:** Prior to the dinner break, I was speaking about the takeover by the new Government, in terms of it not having a mandate from the electorate to do so. The Deputy Premier said that the previous Government had no mandate as from 15 July, and that support was lacking for the Government at that time. That is absolute nonsense. In point of fact, there is no doubt, after a proper consideration of the figures, that the Opposition at that time ran a very successful campaign to convince people that they could issue a reprimand to the Government, but not vote it out of office. That was the whole strategy upon which they campaigned. Unfortunately, the opportunity to do that was taken at that time. A very vocal campaign was conducted in the south-eastern region, between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, which was reflected in a high swing against the then Government, which was also a blimp on the situation. Certainly there was then, and is now, no mandate for the National Party/Liberal Party/Independent coalition to take over the Government of this State.

In point of fact, if it had not been for an error of judgment—which at some stage must be corrected through the legal system—we would not have had a Mundingburra by-election. No Government can ignore the mistake made in the Mundingburra by-election. It is absolutely ridiculous to allow a situation in which somebody, who is required under the law to apply for a postal vote, is deemed to be entitled to a special postal vote allocated to people who live out in the country a long way from a polling booth. If that is allowed to continue without appeal to a higher court, no Government can ever look forward to having a clear mandate in this State. That situation has to be appealed at some time, and I doubt that this will be the time when it is done in view of the advantage achieved by the National/Liberal coalition following the results of that faulty judgement. At some time in the near future this has to be looked at, because it cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged. The law very clearly says that there are special categories of people who are entitled to a vote as long as they register as

permanent postal voters. It is quite wrong for the whole Government of this State to be put in jeopardy for a period of eight months because of that provision. I urge the Government to take steps to ensure that that faulty judgment is appealed and that the situation is brought back to normal.

The Budget brought down in May and June of last year, and which was discussed by the Estimates committees, was the sort of Budget that the Labor Party had been looking towards for the six years that we were in Government. At that stage, the then Treasurer announced that all of the net debt of this State had been paid off, which put the previous Government and this Government in the position of having no net debt to pay off. That enables a lot of work to be carried out in this State now and in the future. I was probably one of the harshest critics of the philosophy behind paying off the debt, for the simple reason that, as we have seen happen, the public was not prepared to wait for that debt to be paid off before the Labor Government started to deliver all of the infrastructure that people expected. However, it cannot be gainsaid that it was very effectively done by the Treasurer, Keith De Lacy. In 1989, the National Party bequeathed a debt of \$4,500m to us, yet Queensland is now net debt free. The Budget and election projections we put forward would have cost \$1.2 billion, all capable of being funded in last year's Budget through the growth that has been going on in this State. A great deal has been done to reduce the imposition of taxes in Queensland, so that we are now the lowest tax State in Australia and, at the same time, we have managed to deliver infinitely better Government than the National Party was able to.

Education funding was up by 28 per cent in that time, an increase of up to \$2.6 billion. Health funding was increased to \$2.7 billion. The Police Service received a massively increased budget. The Budget allocation for the environment was increased by up to \$160m, which puts every National Party Budget allocation for the environment behind the eight ball. For transport, we budgeted \$526m to upgrade the main rail lines. In every way we were working assiduously to bring Queensland out of the era when it had the lowest service standards in Australia to being the equal of any of the other States. If we had remained in Government, we would have seen this State's infrastructure infinitely better than that of any other State in Australia. We rescued the environment from the vandals, the ghouls, the Quaid's and all the other

despoilers who ran rampant during the years of the National Party Government. We constructed public housing in Brisbane for the first time in decades, and under Tom Burns we began a process of maintenance. It was the first time in decades that the people in my area had seen any maintenance done on public housing. Under Minister Mackenroth, we have integrated public housing into the general community. Great steps have been taken by this Government.

We have certainly delivered on transport, although not everything that I hoped to see and not everything that people in the transport industry had hoped to see has come about. The Taror report, brought down in the time of Russ Hinze, established how badly off roads in Queensland were, as were the roads in other States in Australia. That is no detriment to the memory of Russ Hinze; the problem was getting funds from the Premier and the Treasury of the day, just as our Transport Ministers had to get funding. The National Party Government closed railway lines and railway depots all over the State. The people that they put out of work did not receive any VER payments, unlike those that railway workers have received under the Labor Government. They were out on their own, with no alternative employment, and some of them have never been employed since.

Under the previous National Party Government, nurses were the lowest paid in Australia and waiting lists were monstrous. It always galls me to hear such hypocritical nonsense coming from the National Party about the situation while their Government was in power. The situation now is infinitely better, with thousands more people being treated in our hospitals every week than was the case under the former National Party Government. Outpatients and casualty wards were scenes of great queues of people who not only did not get treated on their first visit but also had to come back and wait a second and sometimes a third day. Hospitals were in a run-down condition, with peeling paint and out-of-date equipment. The whole hospital system was an utter disgrace under members opposite. I know; I suffered under it.

As to education—parents had to provide all of the basic materials, down to toilet paper and soap. All the equipment had to be replaced on a half-subsidy basis. Copiers, typewriters and so on were provided by the parents. Teachers' salaries were the lowest in Australia, something that teachers tend to forget today. Their salaries have been brought up to the same levels as are paid elsewhere in Australia. We have more teachers in schools

and more teachers assisting in the specialist treatment of some students. We have music teachers and even support for principals in teaching positions. The education system is infinitely better today than it was under the Nationals.

Corruption was rampant throughout the Police Service, which was an absolute disgrace, and that was well known around Australia. I remember the political activities of the police only too well. For example, if we did something at a polling booth that did not meet with the wishes of the local police sergeant who was in the pocket of the National Party, we were threatened with arrest, while the National Party supporters could do anything they wanted to. This State is infinitely better after six years of a Labor Government.

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton) (7.13 p.m.): Tonight, I rise with a degree of disappointment but also with a degree of pride in having served in the first Labor Government in this State in 32 years. I believe the commentators are now stating publicly the true facts. If honourable members read the *Courier-Mail* on Saturday, they would see that the Tony Koch column summed it up: the Labor Government was honest and decent. I suggest that Government members read today's *Australian*—if they are able to; it has a reading age higher than eight years. Its editorial also endorses what Labor members in this debate have said today, namely, that we have had a very solid Government in this State over the past six years. Let us contrast that position with the shambles that the former National Party Government left us with.

Over the past couple of years, the word "arrogance" has been ever upon the lips of members opposite. There is no greater arrogance than the coalition's claiming the right to occupy the Treasury benches with exactly the same numbers as had the Government of the day. There is no greater arrogance displayed to the people of Queensland than that. The born-to-rule attitude is alive and well. Again, nowhere is that more evident than in the Government's expectation that this side of the House will endorse a motion of confidence, given that we have a Hansel and Gretel Government for just a week—and then goodness knows what. We have a policy-free zone. The best we could get today was 40 minutes worth of contributions from the Government side of the House. How arrogant can the Government get! What do honourable members opposite expect Queenslanders to say about them after their disgraceful performance today? Not one of them had the intestinal fortitude to stand up to

their arrogant Premier, who stood over the top of them and said, "You can't speak today." They are all lilly-livered jellyfish floating in a sea of ignorance.

**Mr Mackenroth:** Just waiting till they get all the information.

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** Yes, they are just waiting till they get all of the information.

Whilst on the subject of arrogance, how arrogant was it for the member for Gladstone to assume that she could cast a vote on behalf of all of Queensland? How arrogant was it for her to turn her back on her electors, to refuse a referendum, to not listen to her constituents and to cast a vote on behalf of the people who are in my electorate? Talk about arrogance! That is the epitome of arrogance. What was the reason for that decision? So far we have come up with a leaky roof and a school that was in a place that she did not like. What was the other one?

**An honourable member:** Police.

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** Police—that is right. Obviously, the honourable member forgot to see the Police Minister about that problem, but so serious was the problem that she wanted to bring down an elected Government! Government members should not try to lecture us about arrogance. They invented the word. The word "arrogance" was put in the dictionary to help members opposite.

From the central Queensland perspective, my phone has run very hot from electors in Gladstone who feel very betrayed by the actions of their local member. They believe, and rightly so, that all the Government members could muster was about 12 per cent or 13 per cent of the vote and that there was no support for a coalition Government by the people of Gladstone, yet somehow the honourable member for Gladstone believed that was the case. I do not believe in the conspiracy theories that are being put forward. It was sheer coincidence that, for example, Mr Perrett put out statements saying that he was a Minister elect! Doug Slack was cleaning out his office, all with the expectation that the honourable member for Gladstone would support the coalition! That was very coincidental!

As I said, the phone in my office has been running very hot from people who are asking me questions that I cannot answer. I have a series of questions that one constituent has given to me. I do not subscribe to the view of just knocking people, and I think it only fair and reasonable, as a decent human being and a responsible

member of this House, to place these questions that were given to me on the record to enable the member for Gladstone to correct the record, if that can be done. The questions are: did the member for Gladstone accept a \$1,000 donation to her campaign from a local developer? Was that developer J & P Barr? Is this the same J & P Barr which developed tracts of land in the Calliope Shire while the member for Gladstone was the Mayor of Calliope? Is it true that these developments were carried out with no requirement to preserve vegetation or to provide land for community purposes? Is this the same J & P Barr which owns land adjacent to the member for Gladstone's preferred site for the new high school? Honourable members should remember that that is the reason that the Government had to come down. Is it the case that, should the site proceed, J & P Barr stands to make a considerable capital gain on its asset? I offer no suggestion on that. I leave it in the hands of the honourable member for Gladstone to answer it.

This morning, I heard a lecture, albeit short, from the Premier. I have a couple of questions to ask him. We have read recently, and he said again this morning, that there would be no Gulags under his Government, that it would treat public servants fairly and reasonably and that nobody's heads would be chopped off; he said that the Government was not like that. I want the Premier to confirm or deny to the House that he has the names of eight directors-general who are on a hit list of people whom he intends to sack and that there are some 130 other people whom he has identified for special treatment. I ask the Premier: is that true? Are those people on a hit list? Are there eight DGs out there whom he intends to get rid of? I would be quite interested to hear his response to that question.

Turning to my own electorate once again—

**An honourable member:** Pick another number.

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** I note that the Premier is not saying anything, so let us just wait and see.

**Mr Borbidge:** Do you want me to tell you about some of the contracts that you mob signed since Mundingburra was declared vacant?

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** Is the Premier confirming the fact that he intends to lop heads from directors-general and various other members of the public service? Is the Premier confirming that? He will not answer me. No

answer! Let the record reflect that the Premier refused to answer the question.

**An Opposition member:** Obviously true.

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** It is obviously true.

On behalf of the people of Rockhampton, I make it clear that I intend to fight tooth and nail to make sure that we do not return to the days of the National Party treating us with contempt. I have outlined in this House time and time again—and it is a matter of record—the way in which the people of Rockhampton were treated by the National Party. The fact is that when the Labor Party came to Government, Rockhampton was one of the most underserved provincial cities in this State. Upon its election, the Goss Government spent millions and millions of dollars in trying to bring Rockhampton up to scratch. For example, Rockhampton now has six times the amount of public housing that existed in 1989. There is now 250 per cent more accommodation for disabled people in Rockhampton than was made available under the National Party Government. Rockhampton now has modern railway workshops. Previously, those workshops were of Third World standard, and the conditions under which those people worked were absolutely disgraceful.

Rockhampton has a new Government building which cost \$15m and which houses most of the Government services in the city so that people no longer have to traverse the whole town to do business with the Government. Of course, we all remember the nice old rort that the former Government pulled by renting out National Party House in Quay Street in Rockhampton for \$900,000 a year of taxpayers' money. There is now also a Transport Department building. In the past, in order to register their trailers and so forth, people had to park in laneways and goodness knows where. That is no longer necessary. The Labor Government provided a million-dollar access to Glenmore State High School. That school was built by the National Party Government but, typical of its planning in those days, it was located next to a major thoroughfare with no access for the kids who attend it—most of whom come from the electorate of the member for Keppel. We built a million-dollar access to make life easier for those students.

Rockhampton now has a million-dollar cycleway across the Fitzroy River bridge. It has a \$5m psychiatric unit in which some of the coalition members might wind up one of these days! Those were the sorts of services that

were never provided under the National Party Government. I have to hand it to the lot opposite; they are not too bad. One of their local operatives in that area has been active. When he turned the first sod on that facility, my colleague Jim Pearce, the member for Fitzroy, had his press conference interrupted by my National Party opponent in the last State election, who indicated that it was just another fraud and that it would never happen. That psychiatric unit will be completed in the next couple of weeks. My National Party opponent agreed to apologise to Jim if the facility was ever built. It will be built, and it will be interesting to see whether that fellow apologises! Now the main psychiatrist in Rockhampton is claiming that he managed to secure that facility for the city, which is an amazing turn of events, when it was a Labor Government which provided the facility. That particular psychiatrist's politics are well to the right of Labor—and they are probably well to the right of some of the coalition members, if that is believable!

We also have under way now—and the incoming Government will not be able to do anything about this one, either—a \$5m community health building. Previously, the community health facilities in Rockhampton were located in a 110-year-old building which was totally unsuited to its purpose, but, according to the former National Party Government, that was good enough for the people of Rockhampton. Let me assure coalition members that that was not good enough for the people of Rockhampton. Any coalition Minister who seeks to take away any of the projects which are on line and for which funds have been allocated over the next couple of years will be hearing from me. Those projects include the \$25m redevelopment of the base hospital. There is also \$8.5m to be spent on upgrading Eventide. The Labor Government should not have had to do that but that was a grand rort that the National Party pulled in taking the money out of Eventide to prop up Mr Katter in Charters Towers in 1986. What a disgraceful crew the National Party is! There is an \$18m courthouse with a watch-house included, which will go to tender in June. I will be watching the papers to see that that occurs, and if it does not the Government will be hearing from me.

One very important project is a half-million-dollar post-school options program that the previous Minister for Community Services, Margaret Woodgate, promised to some of our people. I am pleased to see that Government members are showing their true colours in

laughing about people who are disabled. That is really lovely! That is the way they treat people who are disabled. Disability care received no funding and no support under the National Party Government—none whatsoever. We now offer some post-school options to those people. The former National Party Government either put such people into institutions or left them at home for people to look after them with no support whatsoever. I remind the House that the Federal coalition's policy is to abandon the carer's pension. Government members should not start bleating on about their support for people with disabilities. I assure the Government that if that half a million dollars is not available later this year, they will be in big strife, because there is a very strong and active group of carers in Rockhampton. I will be right with them in making the incoming Government live up to that promise. There is \$25,000 extra for the Kalka Shades hockey ground, a national park for Mount Archer and a \$500,000 diversionary centre to be built in Bolsover Street. Those are the projects that have been funded by the Labor Government. I will be ensuring that the coalition Government gets them off the ground.

Let us not forget the promises made by the coalition during the election campaign. I will make sure that the coalition lives up to those as well. I note that Mr Cooper is not in the Chamber. Last year, he visited Rockhampton and big-noted himself and promised that we would get a new \$50m prison. I will make sure that that happens. The coalition also promised \$1.5m for an emergency helicopter. I handed over \$400,000, which represented our Government's commitment to that project. I will be ensuring that the coalition lives up to what it promised.

**A Government member:** What about Mackay?

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** I am not the member for Mackay. The point is that \$1.5m was promised by the coalition for an emergency helicopter in Rockhampton and, by Jove, it had better live up to that promise. There are some pretty hard-nosed National Party people who support that promise, including the member for Keppel. We have kept the politics out of that particular project, and I am prepared to keep doing that, provided that the coalition Government lives up to its promise of \$1.5m.

We now expect that the new police station on the north side, for which the member for Keppel has been calling for a

number of years, will be built. We want an 11-bed intensive care unit at the base hospital. We expect the Government to spend another \$850,000 in providing training for anaesthetists at the base hospital. I expect the Spirit of the Outback train to run out to Winton. According to Vaughan Johnson, there is a great demand from the people of Rockhampton to travel to Winton on that train. One promise which I expect the Premier himself to live up to is to keep good his promise to the railway workers that under his Government they will not be working 11-hour shifts. I state here and now that if that does not turn out to be true, I will be badgering the Premier day after day after day to honour his promise. He sat in the Commonwealth Hotel big-noting himself, shouting beers and telling those rail workers that that is what he would do. A number of those people recall that promise, and I will ensure sure that the Premier does not forget it, either.

It must be acknowledged that this Parliament provides the ultimate judgement on what constitutes Government and what does not. I accept that and respect that. However, I do not believe that members opposite have much to be proud of. They do not have the confidence of the people of Queensland.

**Mr Littleproud:** Only 54 per cent.

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** The member says, "Only 54 per cent." That is a bit like the situation in 1983, when the National Party got 39 per cent of the vote and won 44 seats; the Labor Party got 44 per cent of the vote but it could win only 32 seats. What a lot of frauds! What a joke! With 44 per cent of the vote, the Labor Party got 32 seats, whereas the National Party got 39 per cent of the vote and won 44 seats. But its good coalition mates—its newfound Liberals—were the ones who really dipped out, because they got 14.8 per cent of the vote but they could win only eight seats. So members opposite should not try their fraudulent tactics in here. Their own revered and disgraced Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen said, "It doesn't matter about the number of votes you get, it's the number of seats you win." But you do not want to be associated with him any more. That was the situation in the days when he corrupted the system, and it was corrupt right to the very end. So you should not lecture the people of my electorate about those sorts of rorts. I would be less than truthful if I wished the Government well.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. The member for Rockhampton

should address his comments through the Chair.

**Mr SCHWARTEN:** Members on the Government benches have a long road to hoe. They made a lot of promises to the people of Queensland that they did not expect to have to keep. Now the time has come to pay the piper. They are supposedly going to fix crime; they are going to provide more police in places such Rockhampton; they are going to make sure that people do not get out of gaol; they are going to make sure that everybody serves the maximum sentence; and they are going to fix it all up with the revision of a Criminal Code which they have claimed is inadequate. I wish them well in that regard. I know that they cannot deliver it; they secretly do, too. Their stomachs must be turning over. I would bet none is turning over more than the Premier's, who is desperately trying to find a way to dump a couple of people off his front bench. This is a dithering Government right from the start. Its first promise has been broken; it said that the House would not be sitting past half past seven.

**Mr NUNN** (Hervey Bay) (7.33 p.m.): I really am appalled to think that a Government can be brought down in the circumstances such as members are witnessing tonight. This is a form of self-praise in which the Opposition is indulging—rather, the coalition; I still regard them as being in Opposition, because they are not going to stay long; they should enjoy it while they are over there. It is a form of self-praise to move a vote of confidence in oneself. It borders perhaps on arrogance—something which members opposite have spoken long and boringly about for six and a half years. They seem to think that arrogance was somebody else's preserve, but they are pretty good at it themselves. I see this Government in its formative hours, and it is like witnessing some sort of a tragic joke—to see members opposite, who were such an abysmal Opposition, now pretending that they will survive, let alone deliver anything of value to the Queensland people.

Let us have a look at Health. I remember on three separate occasions asking members on the other side of the House to deny that, over a period of 20-odd years before the Labor Party gained power in 1989, they had purposely run down the public health system to favour their mates in the private health system. Three times I asked them to deny it, and three times they declined. So let us have a look at Health. I believe that the best place for me to look at Health is in my own

electorate and in the nearby electorate of Maryborough.

Who could forget that the people of Hervey Bay had to rely on the hospital in Maryborough to look after them? They had—and still have—a 40-bed hospital to look after a population of 40,000. Parts of the hospital in Maryborough were so old that they were built when Maryborough was still a part of New South Wales. In 35 years the National Party Government could not do a thing about it except close off verandas, cut rooms in half, turn it into a rabbit warren and exclude public patients from that public hospital. When the Labor Party gained power in 1989, it was impossible to get a public patient into that hospital; it was full of private patients, and the public patients could go to hell. So bad were the conditions in that hospital and in Wahroonga, the old people's home, that there had to be an inquiry into it. Do members remember the results of that inquiry? It was demonstrated that elderly people from Maryborough, Hervey Bay and surrounding districts were stripped naked, marched to the showers and hosed down, sometimes with hoses that carried such a force that they almost acted as an enema. Can those members opposite tell me that they are proud of their Health record? That report was an indictment on their whole philosophy of Health. And they ask us to support a vote of confidence in them! Under regionalisation, we achieved a distribution of health care in that area which has never been seen before. We treated more patients and looked after them properly.

**Mr Stephan:** Bigger waiting lists.

**Mr NUNN:** Let me talk about waiting lists.

I refer particularly to the waiting list in the dental clinic in Maryborough. Do members opposite realise that there was no waiting list during their Government? Do they know why? Because there was no dental clinic in Hervey Bay; there was not even a community health centre. There was nothing there except that 40-bed hospital, and stuck in one corner of the operating theatre was the anaesthetist's equipment, which had never been opened; it was obsolete before the guarantee on it ran out. So members opposite cannot talk to me about Health and what they did.

When I became a member of this House I inherited the Childers Hospital, which was falling down. The patients of Childers, which is a rural community—supposedly the people whom members opposite look after—had to eat outside the pan room, and the pan room had no door on it. Three successive Health

Ministers under the National Party Government promised the people of Childers and Isis a new hospital, and three successive Health Ministers failed to deliver. We promised it, and we delivered. It is there as a monument to Labor's philosophy on the delivery of health care. It is about time that members opposite began to think about the bush again. I do not know how many of them have been near the bush in recent times. I certainly have. One of the things that people in those areas dread, particularly in the south west, where I was recently, is the passing of regionalisation, because only just now are they starting to get a decent standard of health care.

**Mr Springborg:** Your Minister wanted to abolish it.

**Mr NUNN:** I am talking about what I found out the other day.

People in the south west are very critical of this Government and its Health policy. They also remember its failure to deliver over a long period anything that looked like a reasonable standard of health care.

I have talked about the lack of a hospital in Hervey Bay—40 beds for 40,000 people. Nice going, boys! When the Labor Party gained office it developed a plan to build a hospital, and it is being built—\$42m worth, and the first stage involves 130 beds. That is only the first stage. But guess what? When it was proposed, the coalition's shadow Health Minister—and it is sticking with him—turned up there to tell us that Hervey Bay did not need that hospital; that there was a perfectly good one, about a century and a half old, just up the road at Maryborough which would do us, simply because it was not a coalition or National Party seat any more. When the House rose last June, I remember quite a few members opposite saying, "Goodbye. You won't be back." I am here; I am back; and I am proud to be back. I will tell them something else: the people of Hervey Bay are proud to have me back here, too.

I return to the issue of the hospital. That building of that good hospital is on track. Next, it has to be staffed. Labor was planning to provide recurrent funding of \$17.2m or thereabouts to staff that hospital to base hospital standard. That was our promise to the people of Hervey Bay and it was a commitment we intended to meet.

I refer to the day when National Party policy was promulgated under a tree in Calliope. That very night at a venue that had been booked for a month, up turned a couple of members opposite to tell us how good they were. A member of the press asked Cooper

what was the coalition's intention with regard to funding of the staffing of that hospital. He was asked, "Are you committed to staffing that to base hospital standard?" A minder, who is a local and should be ashamed of himself, smothered the question and it never got answered. I am here to warn the coalition not be so courageous as to deny the people of Hervey Bay the use of a first-class hospital after all the trouble to which Labor has gone to give it to them. If the members opposite think that people do not want that hospital, they should ask the coalition's commerce graduate to add up the votes at the last election and tell me how the people of Hervey Bay voted. We have a mandate to staff that hospital and staff it we will.

Under the kingdom of Bethany, that was the blue-ribbon seat, and the members opposite are not pleased about how the people there voted. They voted that way because they have faith in a Labor Government—and they deserve to have that faith looked after.

I turn now to the state of the education system as it was left to me in Hervey Bay. It was full of over-sized classes. There was not a school in Hervey Bay which did not have more than 50 per cent of its classes over size. Those classes were not over size by one or two, they were over size by from six to 10. Not only were the classes over size but also the classrooms were inadequate. As to the old tinnies, the demountables—the members opposite promised to remove them but never did. It was left to us to remove them. The schools were crowded. There was a waiting list of 240 to get into the pre-schools. I have obliterated that by having built three schools in five years, two with pre-schools attached. Labor has reduced those waiting lists and made the class sizes acceptable. Every so often when I ring around, the teachers say that, the head teachers say it and the officers at the regional office say it. Now there is no more agitating to reduce the class sizes in Hervey Bay, because I have looked after my schools. I have lived with them since day one, and I have fixed the problem. The members opposite should have done that during the long years that they held office. Yet still they ask me to give a vote of confidence in them. Like hell I will! Those fellows opposite are as full of bulldust as a cat is of fleas. I knock up listening to the rubbish that they talk.

I turn now to roads. I was first elected the member for Hervey Bay just after the former National Party Government had built a piece road near Burrum Heads, and very proud of that road it was. It put on an opening shebang



that cost nearly as much as it did to build the road. Everybody and his brother was invited, so long as they had a green and gold ticket. It was a great thing that I was able to attend, because I was on the Hervey Bay City Council at the time; otherwise, I would not have got my backside onto one of those chairs. Since then, we have had a lot of fun building roads in Hervey Bay. This term, we promised a \$15m program which will go a very long way to fixing up the roads in that electorate. I do not wish to see that road program abandoned because the coalition Government has done away with the tollway on the north coast. I do not want to see the members opposite robbing Peter to pay Paul. They should get themselves busy, get a decent roads policy and build some decent roads in places that were neglected for 32 years under their Government. They thought they had a safe seat and they neglected it. Well, that will not wash.

As to law and order—I hear Mr Cooper saying that he is going to give us more police. I hope he does not increase them like he did between 1986 and 1989. In 1986, 16 police were stationed at Hervey Bay. In 1989, guess how many—15. That was a remarkable increase. If he continues with that record, I will have none by the time I leave Parliament. In early 1990, we had 18; we now have 36. I have doubled the numbers of police in my electorate. That only goes to show what can be done if you work hard, get your finger out and have a sympathetic Minister who will look after people.

Labor began building a new police station in my electorate. Successive police sergeants have told me that it was no use obtaining more police because they could not be fitted into the dingy accommodation that had been provided by the previous National Party Government. I made the commitment, along with the Minister for Police, that extensions to the police station would be provided. Labor allocated \$1.8m for that project and we made a commitment to supply more police officers when we had the accommodation for them. Some time later this year, we will have the accommodation and I will expect the extra police to be provided at that time. I am sure that the Premier will live up to the commitments that he is making because he tells me he is an honest man. Considering that the coalition has asked me for a vote of confidence, I would expect him to be an honest man.

I have been told that public housing will also be an issue in Hervey Bay, which in percentage terms is the fastest growing area in Queensland and has been since 1986. We

have consistently maintained a growth pattern of approximately 8.9 per cent. I hope that members opposite do not return to their old ways and provide public housing which is falling down and in which people would not want to live. Under the former National Party Government, empty houses were scattered all over Hervey Bay—they were empty because they were not up to standard. Labor provided a plethora of housing that people are proud to call their own. Those people enter into the gardening competitions with great enthusiasm. We have done our level best to say to them, "You might not have much money, but we are going to give you a reason to be proud of where you live. It will be a place where your kids will be pleased to bring home their mates and girlfriends to visit. It will not be some dingy, outmoded old joint with moss growing on the ceilings, doors falling off cupboards and stoves and hot water systems that do not work."

In all honesty, I must say that I cannot support the vote of confidence in the Government. They will have to get some of their own ilk to vote for them, because I cannot prostitute my vote and vote for them.

**Mr NUTTALL** (Sandgate) (7.48 p.m.): I rise this evening to support the amendment put forward by the Opposition and, of course, oppose the motion put forward by the new minority coalition Government in Queensland. I believe that it is incumbent upon the member for Gladstone to explain to the people of Queensland and to her community, as she so often calls her electorate, the reasons for her wanting to support this confidence motion. She has stated the reasons she wanted to bring down a Labor Government in Queensland. Those arguments have been debunked throughout the debate today and it is incumbent upon her to explain to the people of Queensland in this Parliament so the reasons she wants to support a minority National/Liberal Party Government are recorded in *Hansard*. She has an obligation. Her comment on television this afternoon that she will not be making a speech until she obtains more information is just not good enough. Not rising in this Chamber this evening to explain her position is simply a dereliction of her duty as the member for Gladstone and an abrogation of her responsibility to her constituents. One might say that maybe she is simply waiting for a speech to be written for her, but I do not say that. However, this evening, I put to the honourable member for Gladstone that she has an obligation to rise in this Chamber and explain her position. The honourable member

for Gladstone has been very good at using the media. Now, it is her responsibility this evening to stand in this place to give her reasons for voting for a Liberal/National Party Government.

Much has been said about the voting patterns of July 1995. The honourable member for Rockhampton touched on that in his speech and referred to the percentage of the vote. We live under a Westminster system, which simply requires the majority of votes in the majority of seats, and the seats are 44 all.

**Mr Littleproud:** Forty-five, 44 and you are down.

**Mr NUTTALL:** Is the member saying that the member for Gladstone—

**Mr Littleproud:** She can vote how she likes, just like you.

**Mr NUTTALL:** No. The member is claiming that his side has 45 seats. Is he saying that the member for Gladstone is one of his party?

**Mr Littleproud:** No, you are.

**Mr NUTTALL:** Is the member saying that the member for Gladstone is one of his party? No. It is acknowledged that the honourable member for Gladstone obtained 40 per cent of the first preference vote in her electorate. On my understanding, the National Party received 11.9 or around 12 per cent of the first preference vote. The honourable member for Gladstone received approximately 90 per cent of those preferences.

**Mrs Sheldon:** Very grubby politics.

**Mr NUTTALL:** I am simply pointing out some facts. The honourable member received 90 per cent of the preferences. Only 12 per cent of the electorate she represents supported a coalition Government. Therefore, I concur with the honourable member for Rockhampton, who said that if the honourable member for Gladstone believes that she is carrying out the wishes of her electorate, it would have been simple to hold some form of referendum of those people to obtain their views.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr NUTTALL:** That lot keep interjecting. They should get up and use their 20 minutes in which to speak. The members opposite have sat quiet all day. They have been gagged by the Premier and the Deputy Premier. They will not allow the members opposite to speak for fear of them contracting foot-and-mouth disease. If the members opposite really want to say something, they should talk to their leader and their deputy

leader, then stand up and have their two bob's worth and say what they want to say for 20 minutes. Let us hear why they believe they should be in Government.

We know that in 1983, in terms of first preference votes, the National Party received 38.9 per cent of the vote. But how did it form a Government? Two rats, Brian Austin and Don Lane, ran over to the National Party. So as has been said already, the members opposite are quite used to coming into Government via the back door.

**Mrs Woodgate:** Today is the Year of the Rat.

**Mr NUTTALL:** That is right, it is. Again, in 1986, the National Party received 39 per cent of the vote and 49 seats. So members opposite should not say that, because as a coalition they received 54 per cent of the vote, they have legitimacy as a Government. That does not stand up.

Earlier today, I interjected regarding a comment that was made in this Parliament. I asked the incoming Police Minister if he would give an undertaking that the Police Commissioner would retain his position. Bearing in mind what happened to a former National Party-appointed Police Commissioner, I think that that is a fair question. I would like to hear in this debate, either from the Premier, the Deputy Premier, or the future Police Minister, a commitment that the Police Commissioner will be retained. If the Government has nothing to fear, if it has no problems, if it is not on a witch-hunt—and that is what the Premier has said; that his will be a fair and honourable Government—I ask for a commitment in this Chamber tonight that the Police Commissioner will be retained.

I want to cover a couple of other matters. When the member for Gladstone indicated that she was going to support the Liberal/National Party in a confidence motion, my first concern was that, prior to 1989, pork-barrelling was an art form in National Party-held electorates. Those members who hold traditional Labor seats would understand quite clearly the meaning of the word "pork-barrelling". Under the National Party Government, facilities within my electorate were completely ignored and starved of funds. This morning, the Leader of the Opposition tabled in the Parliament the coalition's election promises. Bearing in mind what I have mentioned about pork-barrelling, I will outline some of those promises and give the people of Queensland an example of what is going to happen to facilities under this Government. The Goss Labor Government's distribution of

funds was fair and equitable. The people on the Sunshine Coast, and the people in most other electorates, received fair and equitable funding.

I refer to the coalition's promises. It has promised a new, major art gallery. Guess where that is going? Caloundra. New high schools have been promised for Toowoomba and Jimboomba. None of those electorates are Labor electorates.

**Ms Spence:** What about Mount Gravatt?

**Mr NUTTALL:** Nothing has been promised for Mount Gravatt. A new hospital has been promised for Noosa. Who holds Noosa? The Liberal Party. A new hospital has been promised for Robina. So we have one hospital at Noosa and one at Robina. The honourable member for Nicklin has a hospital in his electorate at Nambour. I do not know how the Government is going to keep funding the hospital in that electorate and also build new hospitals in Noosa and Robina. Guess where the Government is going to upgrade a hospital? Caloundra! A further 20 beds will be made available to the Caloundra Hospital. So the Caloundra electorate is going to have an art gallery and an upgraded hospital. The Government is going to build another new hospital at Beaudesert. Guess which electorates are going to get a new police station? Palm Beach and an electorate on the Sunshine Coast. Neither of those electorates is held by Labor.

I refer again to Caloundra. The Caloundra City Council is going to receive some money for the treatment of effluent. No other city council will receive such funding, just the Caloundra City Council. The Government is going to reintroduce an Upper House. It is planning to have 21 additional members of Parliament.

The Deputy Premier did not touch on the matter of the Sunshine Motorway toll in her speech, but she has made much of it. I would like to hear from her when the toll will be abolished. Is she prepared to allow one of the honourable members opposite from the Sunshine Coast to stand up in this debate and advise this House when that toll will be abolished? No. We are going to get a new rail link from Robina to Coolangatta. All that area between Robina and Coolangatta is safe National Party and Liberal Party territory.

North Queensland is going to get a new police academy. It is just like drunken sailors, is it not? The TAFE college at Ingham is going to be extended—a National Party seat. A TAFE annexe is going to be established at

Tully—National Party country. Secondary teaching facilities are going to operate from Charters Towers—a National Party seat as well. I do not mind that money is being spent in those areas. If that is where the money and facilities are needed, that is where the money should be spent. However, in the Government's policy document, why is it that 90 per cent of areas where money is to be spent are conservative seats? Where is the equity for the people of Queensland? It simply is not there.

**Mr Ardill:** The Liberals are certainly doing a lot better out of that program than they got out of the last National Party Government.

**Mr NUTTALL:** Time will tell.

**Mr Ardill:** There was nothing in their electorates.

**Mr NUTTALL:** The Liberals now have the Treasury portfolio. So that the Premier can have a holiday in winter, an office of the Premier's Department is going to be established in north Queensland. He can duck up there and have holidays in the winter.

What should be of concern to the people of Queensland, if the Premier is to be taken at his word that he will lead a fair and honest Government and that he will care for all the people of Queensland, is that why then, in that policy document, is money not being allocated to Labor-held seats? Are we to take it from that that they will go back to the days of old and pork-barrel National Party and Liberal Party seats? I hope that is not the case, but time will tell. When we were elected to Government last July—

**Mr Littleproud:** No you weren't. It was in dispute.

**Mr NUTTALL:** I thought we had 45 seats in July, and the Governor thought we had 45 seats, too. In that election we were given a mandate to govern, and we gave some undertakings to the people of Queensland. Indeed, some of those programs had commenced. I ask the Premier and the Deputy Premier, as I go through some of these commitments, whether they will give undertakings to the people of Queensland that these programs will be completed. One of those commitments, of course, was that community recreation centres were to be established in 50 areas. Another commitment was that suburban public parks in south-east Queensland would be developed for community recreation, and that the Roma Street site would be developed into a major inner city park. As I said, I am asking for a

commitment from both the Premier and the Deputy Premier that those promises will be upheld.

Even though the National and Liberal Parties and the future Education Minister have been critical of the administration of the school uniform allowance, will that school allowance continue for the benefit of families in Queensland? Will the Building Better Schools Program continue? When we were in Government we gave a commitment, through that program, to improving old schools. We had done a lot of work, in terms of the outside of school buildings, under the School Refurbishment Program, and the Building Better Schools Program was aimed at fixing up the inside of classrooms, making them bigger and better. Will the incoming Government give a commitment that the Building Better Schools Program will continue? Will the incoming Government give a commitment to provide an extra 490 teachers over the next three years? Will it give a commitment to employing an additional 800 nurses, and providing better training for nurses? Will it give a commitment to the creation of the Cape York wilderness zone? Will it give a commitment to a long-term plan to reclaim the coast, including the upgrading of all coastal sewage treatment plans, and not just that at Caloundra? Those are the questions that the people of Queensland have a right to ask of the incoming Government, and the incoming Government has a responsibility to the people of Queensland to answer those questions.

As I said earlier, my electorate was grossly ignored before we were elected in 1992, simply because it was an Opposition electorate.

**Mr Rowell** interjected.

**Mr NUTTALL:** I take umbrage at that. The former member for Sandgate, Nev Warburton, was a man of honour and a man who worked extremely hard for his electorate. He was starved of Government funds by a National Party Government.

**Mr Purcell:** All his political career.

**Mr NUTTALL:** All his political career. I turn now to the legacy of the Labor Government in my electorate. I have to say that I cannot take all the credit. A large proportion of my electorate is made up of senior and elderly people, and the Goss Labor Government introduced the Seniors Card to help those people. We increased the amount of public housing for seniors, but there is still a three-year waiting list for public housing. As we have heard before, every time we try to erect

public housing, people say that they do not want it in their back yards. However, the standard of the public housing that we have in Queensland today is second to none.

We have a new, fully-staffed, 24-hour police station in Sandgate, which has proper resources and increased personnel. The police station has computers, and not the manual typewriters that the former police station had. At Eventide, we are to have a new community health centre. That has already been announced and I am asking the incoming Government to ensure that it goes ahead. We also have a dialysis unit at Sandgate which needs to be moved to Eventide to allow more room for dental care in Sandgate. I have touched on our School Refurbishment Program. Some of the schools in my electorate have had pools repaired, and the largest high school has had a new pool installed. Large amounts of landscaping have been done, covered areas have been provided and, of course, computers have been installed.

All of those things are important to the people of my electorate. I am asking incoming Government members to ensure that they form a fair Government for the people of Queensland, and, simply, that the pork-barrelling which occurred prior to 1989 does not re-emerge. I ask that the people of Queensland, and particularly the people of my electorate, receive a fair and equitable share of Government spending.

**Mr T. B. SULLIVAN** (Chermside) (8.08 p.m.): I do not have confidence in the new National/Liberal Party minority Government. I do not support the incoming Premier's motion that this House show confidence in him, in Mrs Sheldon and in his yet to be appointed Ministry. The Premier's motion does not give any basis as to why we should support his Government, and no indication of the intended outcome of this motion.

It is reasonable to say that, because this minority Government was formed only yesterday, it is not fair to judge the Borbidge/Sheldon Government on its achievements. However, we are asked to have confidence in this untested, untried minority Government. That is like trying to mark a blank exam paper, hoping that the person under scrutiny will reach the required standard. The only way we can address this motion before the House is to judge the members of the incoming Government by their past words and actions, and their current policies. The recent words and actions of Premier Borbidge give no

cause for confidence. After telling the people of Queensland for seven months that he was ready for Government, the Premier comes into this House without his Ministry in place. The member for Surfers Paradise has had seven months to make a relatively simple decision to drop one person from the 19 people on his front bench. The people of Queensland can have no confidence in this indecisive Premier who has shown weakness by not making this relatively simple decision.

Today, we saw the incoming Premier and Deputy Premier give poor first performances in Parliament. Their speeches lacked direction, they lacked detail, and they lacked inspiration. Mrs Sheldon in particular was her old negative self. I must say that, on a personal level, I find Mrs Sheldon quite a pleasant person, but something happens to her when she speaks in this Chamber and stands before television cameras. In those circumstances, the Deputy Premier reverts to her old negative, whining mode.

Mrs Sheldon has been saying that the new Government will have its hand on the rudder. This is new terminology, and I fear that she may be the victim of a communication mix-up. I fear that she may have heard some of the old National Party troglodytes speaking. She thought they said, "Our Government will have its hand on the tiller." They actually said, "Our Government will have its hands in the till." That is the way it used to be under Joh. That is the way it was under some people who hope to be on the front bench! However, that is not the way it can be now, because in the past six years Queensland has changed irreversibly for the better under the Goss Labor Government.

Today, Mrs Sheldon spoke about the recent elections and the numbers that resulted from them. The numbers are clear: 44 seats for the coalition, 44 seats for Labor, and one Independent. Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon now lead a minority coalition Government through the grace and favour of the member for Gladstone. Because of these delicately balanced numbers in the Chamber, the new Premier will have to bring his policies more frequently into the House to receive the support of the necessary 45 members of Parliament.

Mrs Sheldon also spoke about the public service and said that her two key words were "freedom" and "responsibility" in dealing with Queensland's public service, yet her leader, Mr Borbidge, was reported in the paper recently as seeking out the ALP operatives within the public service. This House and the people of

Queensland can have no confidence in a minority Government whose leader speaks in a tone that reeks of subterfuge and revenge while his deputy mouths platitudes about freedom and responsibility. It does not add up. It does not make sense. This House and the people of Queensland can have no confidence in the new Government.

The National Party leader says, "We are different from the Nationals of the Joh era", yet that is not the message that his party members are getting, and they know what is ahead. Some other members already know of one incident that occurred recently. The day after Mrs Cunningham made her announcement in the vacant lot to bring down an elected State Government, one senior member of the public service wore his National Party tie to the head office of a State Government department. This senior member of the senior executive service was so confident of the patronage and protection of the incoming National Party and of Mr Borbidge that he had no qualms in perpetrating this insensitive and blatantly political stunt. No party political tie had appeared in that office over the previous six years. That is an indication of the overtly political control exercised by the National/Liberal Party Governments in Queensland's public service. It is another reason why this House and the people of Queensland can have no confidence in the minority coalition Government.

If for one moment we thought that the new minority Government could change its ways, and if the new Government gave some indication that it would change its ways, this House may consider giving the Government the benefit of the doubt. However, that appears to be most unlikely. As a result of the reforms of the Goss Government, Queensland in the 1990s is confident, forward looking and a vital part of Australia, ready to face the twenty-first century as a mature society. The minority coalition Government presents none of those qualities and possesses none of those traits that will take us forward to the twenty-first century. Therefore, it can command no confidence from this House nor from the people of Queensland.

In my electorate of Chermside, and in my previous electorate of Nundah, I have seen services delivered to constituents by the Goss Government in ways that former coalition or National Party Governments never did. There is a lot of public housing within my electorate, and the maintenance of public housing residences was an absolute disgrace. I have visited many homes where the kitchens were

poorly outfitted, with sinks that had no drawers or storage underneath them. There was little or no storage space in the kitchen and inadequate plumbing and shower facilities made life very difficult for the Department of Housing tenants. One thankful tenant in Mylne Street recently had his home repainted for the first time in 30 years. It went 30 years without a coat of paint under previous coalition Governments! He lives in an area which has consistently voted very strongly for Labor and which was ignored. Many Department of Housing tenants were too scared to complain because of the bad experiences they had had previously under Joh Bjelke-Petersen's iron-fisted rule over the Department of Housing.

The electorate of Chermside has the highest percentage of elderly residents of any electorate in Queensland. For people aged over 70 years, the State average is 9 per cent. The electorate of Chermside has 23 per cent of people in that category. Throughout Queensland, about 25 per cent of people are aged over 50 years. In the electorate of Chermside, 45 per cent of people are aged over 50 years. Therefore, there are particular needs for the elderly. The Home Help and Home Assist Programs introduced by the Goss Government and its support for the senior citizens at the Burnie Brae Day Respite Centre and the renovations to Meals on Wheels centres throughout the area are testimony to the practical and worthwhile programs introduced by the Labor Government. These are things which, in the past, the coalition never did. The coalition's policies that it has released do not give any indication that it will do those things for people in public housing. That is another reason why we can have no confidence in the incoming Government.

All of the things that I have mentioned with respect to housing, and in particular the construction of seniors' units and disability housing, have come as a result of Goss Labor Government initiatives, which looked after all citizens, but in particular those in greatest need. On its past record on public housing and on its current promises, this House can have no confidence in the minority Government.

With respect to Family and Community Services, we note that in 1989 the national average of Government expenditure throughout Australia was about \$65 per head. In Queensland, we were spending approximately \$18 per head on Family and Community Services. As a previous Government, we know that there was much to be done in Family and Community Services.

The trebling of the budget and the provision of services to people with a disability and with a whole range of needs was a major priority. It is absolutely hypocritical for incoming Government members to say, "Have confidence in us", when under previous coalition Governments Queensland had the lowest per capita spending on Family and Community Services—\$18 per head compared with a national average of \$65. It was a disgrace, and nothing has been said in the coalition's policies to indicate that it has changed. That is the record of members opposite.

Currently, the member for Beaudesert, Mr Lingard, a senior member of the incoming Government, has said that domestic violence orders should be harder for women to obtain. He made that statement at the very time that seven people in a family lay dead at the hands of a male member of that family, and yet he says that domestic violence orders should be harder to obtain. That shows how out of touch the Government and its leader are. Mr Lingard should have been brought into line and told that that was a totally unacceptable statement. That is why we can have no confidence in the incoming Government.

With respect to the coalition's proposed changes to adoption laws, the key question that a person asks himself or herself is, "Who am I?" If one does not know one's origin, if one does not know one's basic parentage, one is always left asking the question, "Who am I?" Yet the incoming Government is going back to the Joh days and is saying, "We don't care about the changes in society that say people have the right to know who they are." I do not know who Government members are trying to protect, but they are saying, "We are going to do something to take away the right of people to know their basic identity." That is why we can have no confidence in the incoming Government.

The old National Party dinosaurs and some of the yuppie Liberals who have spoken in the House in the past seven months have not said a positive, constructive word about supporting minority groups, such as Aboriginals and Islanders and other groups within our society. As well, with respect to youth, many of them have the Lawrie Kavanagh view of youth, that is, all kids with their baseball caps on backwards are just criminals waiting to get into some sort of trouble. Government members should come into the twentieth century. They should pretend we are approaching the twenty-first century and give kids the same leniency that

we were given by our parents many years ago. That is another reason why this House and the people of Queensland can have no confidence in the incoming Government. On past performance and on current policy, they command no confidence at all.

The Prince Charles Hospital is one of the key facilities within the electorate of Chermside. For decades, Queensland National/Liberal Party Governments consistently provided cardiac services at about half the national rate. As the Premier said this morning, the Goss Labor Government increased the funding for the sharp end of services. Open-heart surgery and bypass surgery represents the very sharp end of services. The Goss Government allocated the money for those extra procedures. We are not yet at the national average for providing cardiac services, but in previous decades the mob opposite provided less than half the national average in that service area. We started to bring it up somewhere near the average national level of service provision. It is hypocritical for coalition members to criticise our Government when former National Party and coalition Governments did nothing. On that basis alone, we can have no confidence in the incoming Government.

On a number of occasions I have been to Jacaranda Village at Prince Charles Hospital, which houses the aged who are dying. It is a very poor facility. It could have been rebuilt in the sixties or the seventies or the eighties. But under the Goss rebuilding plan—under the Labor plan—it will be totally rebuilt. Our elderly citizens who have the least support will be given a decent facility in which to spend their last days. The Winston Noble Unit, which in its time was an excellent facility to treat people who had mental health problems, has been allowed to run down to a degree that is disgraceful. Yet Opposition spokespeople had the temerity to criticise the outgoing Government, which spent a tremendous amount of money on trying to bring mental health facilities up to speed.

It was not under the Labor Party that Ward 10B occurred; it was not under us that the abuses in various other institutions occurred. We know that service provision is still lacking in some areas, but we have sought to do something about it. On the past performance of the coalition and on its proposed policies, this House and the people of Queensland can have no confidence in the incoming Government.

Schools within the Chermside electorate and other Labor electorates have received a

coat of paint, have had old toilet blocks replaced or have had classrooms refurbished for the first time in decades. They were seen as basic working-class schools and therefore did not receive the same treatment that schools in favoured Liberal and National Party electorates received.

I would hope that the incoming Minister for Transport will maintain the program to upgrade the Gympie Road/Rode Road intersection, which is a very dangerous intersection in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. Mr John Goss, the member for Aspley, and Mr Santoro, the member for Clayfield, will know that many of their constituents use that major intersection. I hope that the incoming Minister will keep that construction going. For a number of years, we have been working on a solution to the Nundah bottleneck problem. We have finally approved the cut-and-cover option, which, while being the most expensive option, will provide the best long-term benefit for the people of the north side of Brisbane. I hope that the incoming Government will maintain the Labor Government's commitment to fix that problem.

As to personal safety—there are Neighbourhood Watch programs throughout the Wavell Heights, Chermside and West Chermside areas. It was under Labor Police Ministers that communities were encouraged to have Neighbourhood Watch programs, to have the people work in cooperation with police.

Our police no longer act as the blue-and-white taxis. Our police no longer do what occurred under National Party Ministers, when the police would be taken off duty to drive senior officers home. That no longer occurs. We have been criticised because some of the senior sergeants now have to be out in patrol cars, whereas before they could spend the majority of their time seated in an office. I am glad that those officers are out on patrol. The most experienced sergeants should be out there with the younger troops, helping them catch the criminals. That is what we have intended to do.

I am disappointed and I am angry about the changeover of the Government and our changing positions in this House. I am disappointed because there are many positive plans unfulfilled by the Goss Labor Government—plans which were bringing significant benefits to the people of Queensland. I am angry because the campaign run by the coalition, especially by the Liberals, was a very negative one. Many

people say that we are following elements of American society that are bad for our society. One of the worst of those is the element of negative campaigning. The campaign in July and the campaign in Mundingburra were extremely negative. Mr Borbidge knows it; Mrs Sheldon knows it; the coalition's bunting had it; its literature had it. The coalition offered no positive policy, no positive plan, but just said, "Labor is not good enough. Do not trust them. Do not do this. Do not do that." Its campaign was so negative. It is a shame that our society is turning to the methodology of complaint, which is encouraged by that sort of terminology. I see the smile on the Premier's face and I know that he is thinking, "But it worked." Yes, it probably did, but did it work for the benefit of society?

I know that Mr Tanti is happy to be a member of this House, but I wonder what sort of society is being generated when the methodology of complaint is encouraged—you can never be satisfied. Unfortunately that is becoming the norm in our society. I am also very angry at the hypocrisy of certain journalists. As has already been pointed out, those people who wrote so glowingly about the achievements of the Goss Government the day after the Premier resigned had for seven months done nothing but publish criticisms.

I have been very surprised by the number of people whom I have come across previously in my electorate but who have never raised politics directly with me before. Those people have raised criticisms about the way in which we lost Government. They see a basic unfairness in the way that we went from the Treasury benches to Opposition. They do not see it as a fair fight as it would have been had there been a general election and we got knocked out—tough luck, we lost. There is a lot of anger in that regard.

In conclusion—I am proud to have served under Wayne Goss and the other Labor Ministers. I am proud also to continue to serve under the leadership of Peter Beattie and Jim Elder. I have learned a lot from the previous Labor Ministers, especially from the senior leadership of Wayne Goss and Tommy Burns. I will learn more from Peter Beattie and Jim Elder and my Labor colleagues, who have a commitment to social justice and to providing the best for the majority of people in Queensland. One great thing about the ALP is that it has survived and thrived for more than 100 years because it is able to regenerate. We are most dangerous when we are down, especially when we are down in a way that we should not be. That is why we will regather our

forces, we will get the support of our own people and of the people of Queensland, and we will come back into Government. I have confidence in my colleagues and I have confidence in the people of Queensland. I do not have confidence in the National/Liberal Borbidge/Sheldon minority Government. I oppose the motion.

**Mr D'ARCY** (Woodridge) (8.28 p.m.): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. As previous speakers have said, this is a minority Government, and that should be remembered. Each side holds 44 seats, and the coalition is holding on to Government by the thinnest of threads. The strength of this Government will be tested after the normal period of 100 days. We all wonder how the various promises that have been made by the coalition—the Christmas-box full of treasures that have been promised to Queenslanders—will be paid for. We wonder whether the Treasury will be plundered in the short term by this Government to fulfil its promises. I refer in particular to the economic measures such as reducing land tax and raising the threshold for payroll tax, which apart from Commonwealth funding are the major sources of revenue for the State.

One wonders how long it will be before we see an increase in the tobacco tax or the introduction of a fuel tax in this State. Such a move would be a disadvantage to the State as a whole and to business within the State. The imposition of a fuel tax was resisted by the Labor Government during its term, and the absence of such a tax represents a tremendous advantage to business and to Queensland as a whole over the other States and Territories. It is an advantage to business generally and to country areas in particular. One imagines that that will be one of the options that will be canvassed by this Government within a very short time in order to fund its promises.

Many criticisms have been levelled at the economic management of the Labor Government, but those words do not ring true when one examines the record of the former National Party Government. It has never been a party which sought to provide long-term, sustainable jobs in Queensland. In the past, it was much easier for National Party Governments—and I have spoken about this many times in the House—to give away jobs than to look at creating long-term, sustainable economic development. This goes particularly for our major sources of wealth, namely, mining and primary industries. There has never been any real attempt by National Party



Governments at value adding in any sense that would create jobs and long-term economic sustainability within this State. That is something that must be considered.

One particular area that I intend to discuss on an economic basis is Gladstone. I notice that the member for Gladstone is not in the House at the moment. The previous Labor Government made an attempt to get back to long-term economic development, particularly in the Gladstone area. Members started to witness the expansion of Comalco's Boyne Island smelter, and business was drifting back into Gladstone, which had been emasculated by years of National Party neglect in terms of planning. On many occasions in the House I have said that Gladstone was one area that was absolutely devastated by the previous National Party Government. I intend to quote some figures of which the member for Gladstone would be well aware. Those figures, which have been quoted not just by the various Mayors of Gladstone but also various Calliope Shire Chairmen, highlighted the tremendous expansion that was going to take place in Gladstone under the National Party Government. Those figures, which were published by the National Party Government through the Treasury, related to the proposed development of Gladstone in the sixties. One of the documents shows that, in the mid-sixties, the prediction was that by 1990 Gladstone's population would be 100,000. With that prediction and with the development that was supposed to take place in mind, many businesses and people moved to Gladstone. But what happened? A lot of those businesses went broke. When the member for Gladstone was in the House earlier, I asked her what is the current population of Gladstone, and she informed me that it is 24,000, which is far from the prediction based on the proposed economic expansion of that area.

Let us consider some of the projects that were proposed for Gladstone at that time. They were myriad, but under the National Party regime, none of them eventuated. What happened? In many cases, when the multinationals went to the National Party Government they were told that that Government did not want those facilities built in Gladstone. Those people could see Gladstone becoming the hub of the technical, business, commercial and industrial centres of central Queensland. So what did the National Party do when new coalmines came along? It fell for the multinational garbage and built railway lines to nowhere—to port facilities that had to be expanded and are still being paid

for. When the expansion in the coal industry took place during the seventies and eighties, three or four ships were waiting outside ports when Gladstone was the one port in central Queensland that could have housed the American fleet. Funding had gone into the infrastructure in Gladstone and the port authority but it was not used, because members of the National Party Government were frightened that Gladstone would become what they had predicted. They saw it becoming a very strong and large Labor stronghold. They also rejected the possibility of it becoming central Queensland's technical and industrial MFP, because Gladstone had the facilities, it would have naturally graduated that way. It had the right climate; it had the right transport access; it was in the right position; it was located in the best part of the Queensland coast; it had good local government and business support at that time; and it had the best harbour and transport facilities on the east coast of Queensland. But what did the National Party Government do? It built facilities that we are still paying off and which did not work. The fact is that, although Treasury estimated that by 1990 Gladstone's population would be 100,000, in 1996 its population is only 24,000. I ask members to consider the jobs that were lost to central Queensland because of the policies of the previous National Party Government.

The Labor Government started to keep the promises to Gladstone by rebuilding the jobs and rebuilding what could be Queensland's natural MFP in the technical and industrial sectors. As well, the value-adding capacity of areas such as Gladstone is being rebuilt. That opportunity should not be thrown away. I am amazed that the member for Gladstone, who is going to play such an important part in not only electing this Government but also keeping it in office, is not aware of some of the past promises made by the National Party to the Gladstone area. It was one of the focal areas of the sixties, but it was dumped by the National Party Government.

I turn now to Logan, which has been given a tremendous boost by the Labor Government. One aspect has already been mentioned, that is, the attention given to improving low socioeconomic areas of high-density Housing Commission homes, altering the mix to allow people in Housing Commission ghettos to get out of the ghetto area, and the refurbishment of Housing Commission homes. That was a tremendous bonus—something that had never been seen

during the years that I represented those areas when a National Party Government was in power.

Another aspect that surprises me is that we continually hear about low police numbers. The Fitzgerald report was scathing in its attack on the previous Government's record of police numbers in areas such as Beenleigh and Logan, to such an extent that the facilities were also blamed. I am talking about facilities that could have been supplied, but Labor electorates of low socioeconomic status were starved of those facilities. The police were operating out of demountables. Both the CIB and the major police station in Woodridge were operating out of demountables. There were practically no police cars in the area. The Labor Government remedied that problem by putting a police district there and building up a decent police presence. Police numbers in the area were doubled, but there are still some problems. However, the fact of life is that that particular area got nothing under the National Party.

I turn now to education, which was mentioned by the former Premier this morning, particularly in relation to the new university campus that has been mooted for Logan City, which is now the third-biggest city in Queensland. It has been terribly neglected. The TAFE college is within the existing boundaries of Logan City and in the electorate of my colleague the member for Waterford. It is one of the largest and one of the fastest-expanding TAFE colleges in Queensland. It has made a tremendous difference to the people of Logan, because until now they did not have those types of facilities. It makes them proud that those types of facilities are off the ground and running in that area. The campus has been well received not just by the council but by all residents of Logan City. As was pointed out this morning, I believe that a promise was made by the incoming Education Minister from the Gold Coast that that project was possibly going to be scrapped.

**Mr Quinn:** I didn't make that statement.

**Mr D'ARCY:** I am pleased to hear that. It was reported to me that the member did make that statement. That promise to the people of Logan is sacrosanct, and I think I have explained why.

**Mr Borbidge:** That was held over because there was a legal problem that required clarification.

**Mr D'ARCY:** I understand that from what the member said earlier. But I also understood that Mr Quinn had made that statement. I am glad to hear him refute that.

That was concerning all of us in that area from the mayor down. We do not have to start any sort of witch-hunt; we are most impressed with the Premier's promise to continue with that campus. I am pleased to be able to join this debate and support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and commend it to the House.

**Hon. G. N. SMITH** (Townsville) (8.40 p.m.): This incoming administration will have great difficulty being seen as an administration of any legitimacy. That occurs for two reasons: firstly, the nature of its temporary elevation to the Government benches; and secondly, it will be seen as a backdoor Government. That is a tag that it has rightly earned and it is a tag that will stick. It is appropriate and the members opposite will have to live with it.

I do not intend to focus tonight on the actions of the member for Gladstone, because history will judge her by her actions and she will have to come to terms with her own conscience. I believe that the member for Gladstone is an intelligent woman. As she matures politically, she will come to realise the enormity of what she has committed. As I said, history will be her judge. I think that she will probably suffer self-recriminations as the years roll on. In seeking the return of the Labor administration in 1998, members opposite should remember that we are in a very favourable position: we are one seat away from Government. The member for Gladstone is not a significant factor.

What is important is the hollowness of the rhetoric that has been put out by this new administration and its total lack of any fundamental will to address the problems of today and certainly the problems that will occur in the new millennium, which will be evidenced over the next couple of years. It lacks workable policy initiatives to ensure the continued growth of this State. Regardless of what anyone wants to say, this State has been growing, and growing well.

From what I have heard from the coalition leadership, it has pledged to put Queensland into hock. In fact, it seems to me that it is all the way with bankcard. It will probably be known as the plastic-backed Government. I find that quite frightening. However, on the other side of the coin, one must ask whether the deed is there to match the words. As someone remarked today, the National Party was to have the Gold Coast railway in place by Expo. We all know what happened to that. It did not even start the project. Then, of course, there is the old faithful. I can remember right

back to by-elections in Redcliffe when the National Party would dust off the promise of a Redcliffe line. I am absolutely amazed that the members opposite did not run that one out for 15 July. That is about the only promise that they did not run out. In regard to all these promises, it is a case of *Back to the Future*.

I will focus on some issues that are of particular interest to me, one of which is the promise to establish an Office of the Premier in Townsville. We have heard that before. In fact, during the eighties an office was set up and staffed by a man called Mr Len Johnson, who is quite a reasonable fellow. However, he had nothing to do except to hand out glossy brochures in competition with the then Minister for Northern Development, Bob Katter.

The only worthwhile initiative in regional Queensland of the previous administration was the establishment of Offices of the Coordinator General in various areas. Of course, that had a fundamental flaw: an expectation was created in the community and pressure was exerted on the Government to deliver. So that was axed. That was the only worthwhile initiative ever undertaken in regional Queensland by the members opposite, and because of the problems of delivery, they knocked it on the head.

I heard other speakers say today, and I think there is some truth in it, that to some extent this Government is a reincarnation of the Bjelke-Petersen regime because so many of its members are tainted by that association. It has been only a relatively short time since that regime was in power. I have not heard members of the coalition rise in this place and denounce some of the activities that occurred during that time. I know that many of them will do that privately, but I am waiting to see members opposite rise and denounce publicly what occurred during those years.

When Labor took office, it faced a massive task of modernising the administration of this State, because this State had slipped far behind administrations in other States, including conservative administrations and the Federal Government. Obviously, Labor had to take very significant actions that were not well received by everyone. When massive changes are made, inevitably they will be unpopular to some extent with some people. Equal opportunities were fine for those people who profited by equal opportunities, but those who felt that they were still in the queue and as long as they did not do anything of note to draw attention to themselves they would elevate to the top were not very happy. Merit selection was in place in

all other administrations throughout Australia but was treated with alarm in this State. It had to come, but, of course, some who were in line had to pay the price. It is the same old story: when one does good things, one gets very little credit for them. I am sure that every member can relate to that. The good things that one does are soon forgotten and any seen shortcomings are long remembered and certainly exaggerated. I think that that is what happened. The massive, worthwhile changes that brought this State in line with the rest of the country were very quickly forgotten and we were left with a carping cry from those people who felt that they had been disadvantaged.

We are left with those on the other side—not all, of course—who have a born-to-rule attitude. When I hear their leader talk about back to basics, I ask myself what it means. Does it mean returning to those horrible little National Party functionaries, with little boards all over the State, such as fire boards and hospital boards, stacked with members of the National Party and worth absolutely nothing? Are we going to see the reintroduction of the Special Branch? I hope not, but nobody has stood up and said that that will not happen. I would like to know about it.

I have mentioned it before, but I am going to give it another run tonight because I do not want the members opposite to ever forget what they did in the land sector. The greatest land rort in Australia was perpetrated in this State when the cotton industry was coming online. I think that it was in 1984 that the National Party decided that it would allow the freeholding of Government land throughout the State. Not only did it allow the freeholding, but it also allowed it at 1980 valuations, which were a fraction of the land's true value. In addition, they applied a 40 per cent discount for those who were prepared to pay up front. That was the greatest gift to the rural community that one could ever imagine. It was an absolute savaging of the State's assets, and the members opposite have to live with that. I have raised that issue quite a few times and people such as Robert Sparkes have kept their head down, and with very good reason. They were beneficiaries of such rorts. It might even be an embarrassment to some of the new members opposite who do not know about it. I see it as my obligation to remind honourable members of some of the activities that occurred in the past and why such a horror exists of some of the actions of the National Party regime.

Of course, in the same sector, we have the business of land rents. Controversy existed

around valuations and how land rents were to be applied, but honourable members should remember that the Land Court member who essentially established the new process was appointed by the former National Party Government. I remind members of how unfair the old system was. Certainly, some people paid the right rent. However, some people were paying \$1,000 a year for million-dollar properties. That is \$20 a week, which is less than one would pay for a block at the back of beyond. Those are the sorts of activities that went on. I have that affair very carefully documented and any time anyone wants to run that out, I will table that in the House and give a few examples of some of the luminaries who were beneficiaries of that scheme.

I want to take the "back to basics" a little further. Does that mean the end to professional staffing of the Fire Service and the Ambulance Service? Does it mean that ambulance officers have to go back to running raffles? Do we have to go back to relying on volunteer fire brigades? I do not know. However, I would like to hear a bit more about the "back to basics" because I have not heard any guarantee that those professional people who have been put in place will remain.

Recently, this State moved from the position of having the lowest number of people completing Year 12. We were down at seventh place—the lowest in the country. I think we are up to about third now. Certainly, Queensland's retention rate is as high as that of any other State.

The new Minister for Transport is not present in the Chamber, but I will refer to ports. The Labor Government corporatised the ports, and did so very effectively. Those ports are now operating very efficiently under professional boards comprised of people with the appropriate expertise. They are returning dividends to the Government. What did we hear from the Opposition? They were going to sell the ports. I have not heard much about that lately, but when the legislation that enabled the corporatisation of the ports was introduced, the coalition's policy was that it would sell the ports. If that is not the case, I say to them to come out and say so, because corporatisation has been very successful and I would be very interested to know if this Government is going to knock over that process.

I do not know whether the coalition said that it would sell the railways—it talked about selling just about everything else. In all honesty, I have to say that, in recent times, I have not heard the new Minister for Transport

say that. In recent times, there has been massive expenditure on Queensland Rail. The northern rail line has just about been rebuilt. All of those wooden bridges have gone. There has been huge investment in infrastructure, with the support of the Federal Government. For the first time in many, many years the railways are starting to become a viable alternative to road transport. Let us hope they stay that way. What about the Mount Isa line? The Labor Government had pledged to spend \$70m to rebuild that line. Mount Isa is a very important asset base for the Government. I have not heard any ringing endorsement of that decision.

**Mr McGrady:** About \$100m two weeks ago.

**Mr SMITH:** As I say, I have not heard any endorsement of that decision.

I refer also to the power interconnection with New South Wales, which was also contained in the portfolio of the member for Mount Isa. That proposal has been treated by the coalition as if it is somehow tainted. Does the new Government realise that every other State has interconnections? Victoria interconnects with South Australia and it also interconnects with New South Wales. Every engineer who has had anything to do with electricity supply—and I am one of those people—understands that huge economies can be gained by having interconnections. Of course, a fundamental cost of electricity is the cost of the capitalisation of the generating equipment. By simply having interconnections, one is able to shift peaks, reduce the amount of capital expenditure and keep the tariffs down. Quite frankly, the proposed action by this Government to not proceed with something that has been agreed to by the Federal Government and for which incentives have been granted is sabotage of the economy of this State for purely parochial reasons and to serve the interests of a very small section of the community. I have to say that I condemn it, and I condemn it wholeheartedly.

Not so long ago, I remember QIDC as being a Government instrumentality for providing finance for people, particularly in the rural sector, who could not obtain finance from other areas. That was what the QIDC was supposed to do. Its performance was absolutely terrible. When I went into the business-industry Ministry, I found out that the QIDC was structured in such a way that a genuine client, who had an industrial development proposal, had a better chance of ringing up the manager of the Commonwealth

Bank or Westpac and getting money for that project from the private sector than he or she could from the QIDC. Of course, all of that has changed, but that is the legacy that the Labor Government inherited. The coalition cannot walk away from that.

Today, I heard a member opposite talk about doing away with the training of young people and putting the money into more meaningful, more flexible programs. I do not know what the hell that means, because the training programs that have been taken on by the Goss Labor Government and the Federal Government have meant that people who would otherwise have been unemployed have found meaningful work. So many young people make mistakes during their school days. Therefore, they do not receive employment opportunities when they are adolescents, or even when they are in their early twenties. If they do not receive those employment opportunities, they are condemned to potential unemployment for life. I think that is a very heartless approach. It is a very unreal assessment of what needs to be done.

Mr Grice is not present in the Chamber. However, I will give members opposite some idea of how the new Opposition has such grave doubts about the attitude of this incoming Government. For example, the automatic titling system was condemned roundly—not so much by the Opposition spokesman at the time, I will grant him that—by Mr Grice and other coalition members who really condemned it hell, west and centre. The fact is that the old paper-based system could never have coped with the volume of titles that exists presently in Queensland. The Labor Government had to take the criticism and see the process through. The system is working well now. I do not think that anyone opposite says that it is not. In fact, the coalition will benefit from that process because the system has worked so well that other conservative Governments want to purchase the rights to use it. Plenty of coalition members really gave that system a bagging. That really shows just how little they know.

I want to mention something that I think is damned important, and that is the mean spiritedness of this incoming Government. From 1990 to 1992, Mr Bill Eaton was the Minister for Lands. I believe that, as a Minister, Mr Eaton was well liked by all people in this Parliament. Not only that, I do not think that anyone would ever say that he was a dishonest person. However, now we have the situation in which one Godfrey Mantle is taking

action against the Queensland Government in respect of a proposed development at Kangaroo Point. Of course, the Minister of the day is guided by the advice of his department. Very few Ministers are going to make decisions, or technical judgments, in their own right; they act on advice. Now we find that for some technical reason, Mr Eaton could be seen to be liable for some financial loss. I understand—and if I am wrong, I hope that the Premier can correct this—that the new Premier has said that he will do nothing to rectify the position in which the former Minister, Mr Eaton, might find himself.

If the Labor Government had taken that attitude, how many former National Party Ministers could have found themselves in exactly the same situation? It is atrocious! The tradition is that incoming Governments pick up the obligations of outgoing Governments. For the Premier to make that statement, if it has been reported correctly, is atrocious. If that statement is not incorrect, as the new leader in Queensland, the Premier would do well to retract it. I am not going to repeat it; members can read it in *Hansard*.

Because it received a bit of a blasting today, I refer to the discussion on the diversity of the Queensland economy. The fact is that, during the six years of the Goss Government, the Queensland economy has diversified immensely. In that all-important area of elaborately transformed manufactures, while the growth across Australia is something like 4 per cent, it is something like 22 per cent in Queensland. Admittedly, there was a very small base upon which to build but, if that had not happened, this State would have been much more reliant upon the rural sector during the drought. We experienced drought for almost the whole period that the Labor Government was in office. It is a credit to the technologically based industries in this State that they have done so well.

In terms of information technology, any Government in any country that does not have that activity in place today is condemning its people to poverty. Fortunately, Queenslanders stand in good stead in the area of information technology, particularly in Brisbane. We have started to develop the critical mass that we need. That has not happened accidentally; it has happened because those people have been given encouragement and support. One can see it, particularly if one drives along the riverside drive. We are holding our own with other States and we are doing particularly well. The coalition should never think that we can go back to what we had before.

**Mr CAMPBELL** (Bundaberg) (9 p.m.): On Friday, 1 December 1899, the first Labor Government in the world was formed in this Parliament. It was a very historic day when the Honourable Anderson Dawson, Premier and Chief Secretary, formed the first Labor Government. However, it was also a very sad and disappointing day for many Queenslanders, because on that same day, that first Labor Government in the world lost a motion of confidence on the floor. It had lasted seven days. What happened was that Independents and Ministerialists reneged on undertakings they gave to enable the Labor Government to be formed.

Today is also a very disappointing and sad day for many Queenslanders with the loss of the Labor Government, but the really grave disappointment here tonight is the shame that many members are bringing to this Chamber. The refusal or inability of one side of this House to debate a motion of confidence is a shame. It is a disgrace for democracy and a disgrace for the Westminster system to have representatives of the people of Queensland in this Chamber who will not debate, who will not speak on their behalf in this Chamber. This is especially so for the member for Gladstone. She precipitated this debate on a motion of confidence, and that she will not participate in this debate is really shameful.

The Premier and Deputy Premier said that the new Government, the one that the motion of confidence is directed towards supporting, would provide accountability to this Parliament. Government members are abrogating their responsibility by their tactics and strategies here tonight. At least in 1899 the members of this Parliament were prepared to debate a motion of confidence, but that is not the case today. They had dignity; at least they were prepared to stand up and say why there should have been a new Government, but that is not the case today. Government members dishonour this Chamber, they dishonour the Westminster system and, more importantly, they dishonour themselves. This criticism applies especially to the member for Gladstone, who has forced this debate but takes no responsibility to be here to speak on behalf of the people she represents.

I have pride in this Chamber, I have pride in Queensland, and I have pride in the achievements of this State—achievements made through members like us who, for over a century, have made decisions as representatives of the people of Queensland. I have pride in our pioneers, our sportsmen and women, the Sheffield Shield winners, and the State of Origin team members. They are all

Queenslanders, but I believe they, as voters, would expect more of their representatives. I believe they would expect them to be here properly representing them in this Chamber. Not participating today is an abrogation by Government members of their responsibilities—responsibilities that we expect to be accepted all Queenslanders.

The Labor Party has realised some great achievements. Workers' compensation was legislated for in this Chamber—the first time anywhere in the world. Sickness benefits were introduced by Queenslanders like ourselves. The sugar industry legislation basically dismantled an industry that depended on black labour and forced a successful transition to the use of high-cost white labour. That was done through legislation passed in this Parliament. The social justice initiatives of our Government include sexual harassment laws, anti-discrimination laws, the Seniors Card, and the dignity we bought to women, workers and their families. These are great achievements of which I am proud.

Speaking as an agricultural scientist, Landcare and integrated catchment management were two of the most significant initiatives that we have made for rural industries in decades. Those are initiatives that we can all be proud of, regardless of which party and which Government was responsible for those initiatives and policies. However, it is a shame that tonight Government members abrogate that responsibility to the people that they represent here.

Many achievements have been made in Bundaberg, including the Tallon bridge, a new police station under construction, the DPI building, the protection of Mon Repos, Kinkuna National Park, the university campus, the regional mental health unit and breast screening unit, and the renal dialysis unit. All these are great achievements. More importantly than that, is the achievement that we, and the members of this Parliament before us, have made in the social justice initiatives of which we are proud.

I want to say one thing: Government members will regret that they did not rise and support the motion of confidence in their Government. I believe the member for Gladstone will also find that it is thought disgraceful that she did not participate in this debate which she precipitated. It is a sad day when the Labor Government is not still in power, but it is one that we will live with. We will fight on to make sure that the achievements of Labor Governments over the decades are safeguarded and we will strive

towards even better and greater achievements in the future.

**Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay) (9.08 p.m.): I wish to speak in support of the amendment. On 15 July 1995, Mrs Cunningham was elected as the Independent member for Gladstone. The figures for that seat show that on first preference vote, Labor received 43.62 per cent, Mrs Cunningham received 40.06 per cent, the Greens received 3.93 per cent and the National Party received 12.39 per cent.

**Mr FitzGerald:** Tedious repetition.

**Mr MULHERIN:** Why does the member not speak in the debate?

**Mr FitzGerald:** It's repetition. That's all you are.

**Mr MULHERIN:** They are not allowed to speak; Joan will not let them! On 12 February 1996, the honourable member for Gladstone decided to side with the National/Liberal coalition and oust the Labor Government. In doing so, she thumbed her nose at her constituents who so clearly showed, by their July vote, that they wanted no part of a coalition Government by voting 12 per cent for the National Party candidate.

**Mr Stephan** interjected.

**Mr MULHERIN:** The member should speak in the debate. In the course of time, the people of Gladstone will pass judgment on her actions which brought down the reformist Goss Labor Government.

Prior to 1989, Queensland was the laughing stock of all the other States. Queensland spent the lowest per capita on education, health, social welfare, police and on infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, schools, hospitals and public housing. Outdated legislation restricted the development of our primary industries. Corruption was institutionalised and the people of Queensland had lost faith in the political process. This state of malaise was presided over by a National Party Government which used the police force as a tool of repression to silence its critics and in return allowed it to have free rein without checks and balances.

In the Mackay region, despite the fact that we had National Party ministerial representation continuously in the adjoining seats of Mirani and Whitsunday, the people were left with a legacy of the worst roads in Queensland; overcrowded schools, underpaid teachers and school buildings in a state of disrepair; underresourced police, and poorly designed and ill-equipped police stations; poorly designed and maintained public

housing; and plenty of talk about water resources projects but no action. In fact, it was a myth that the National/Liberal Parties looked after the bush. They only looked after people who lived within a three-hour drive from Brisbane.

In contrast, the Goss Government went about restoring people's faith in the political process, depoliticising and reforming the Police Service, and increasing expenditure on education, health and social welfare so as to bring these services up to or near the national average. The Labor Government has a proud record when it comes to rebuilding this State's infrastructure, which was allowed to decay under successive coalition Governments. Nearly \$1 billion has been spent upgrading the main railway line between Cairns and Brisbane. Old wooden bridges were replaced, large sections of the track were straightened and upgraded, and new rolling stock has been brought into service. In addition, major export ports have been upgraded and expanded, and record spending has seen dramatic improvement in our roads and highways.

In health, the Goss Government delivered a record \$2.7 billion budget for the 1995-96 financial year, representing a funding increase of \$1.045 billion, or 63.2 per cent, since the Goss Government came into office. This is in direct contrast to the coalition Government's management efficiency dividend, which will result in ripping off \$27m from the public health system. I remind the honourable member for Gladstone that this is equivalent to closing down the Gladstone Hospital or sacking 148 nurses. In addition to the record Health budget, \$1.725 billion will be spent on rebuilding hospitals throughout the State.

New schools have been opened and older schools upgraded under the Building Better Schools Program. The Goss Labor Government has increased public housing stock by 57 per cent, improved the design and upgraded older dwellings. In doing so, we have removed the stigma that has often been associated with public housing.

I have mentioned a few of the major achievements of the Goss Labor Government, but I have not mentioned what impact those achievements have had on Mackay and its region. Mackay and its people have prospered under Labor Governments. The Labor Governments of T. J. Ryan and Forgan Smith firmly established the sugar industry, and my predecessor, the Honourable Edmund Casey, as Primary Industries Minister in the Goss Labor Government, was responsible for the expansion and restructuring of Queensland's

sugar industry, which has reaped major economic benefits to Mackay and this State.

Possibly the most undervalued yet most significant resource is water. In 1993, the Goss Government provided \$31.7m towards the construction of the \$56.7m Teemburra Dam project in the Mirani electorate. This funding, together with \$10m through the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package and \$10m from the Mackay Sugar Cooperative and an undertaking for future irrigators to provide \$5m, has meant a considerable boost to water resource management in the Pioneer Valley. Teemburra Dam is a significant contribution to the future water needs of the Mackay district, but it is by no means sufficient. Water resource development in the Mackay district will remain a high priority. In addition to Teemburra Dam, the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package has enabled growers in the Plane Creek Mill growing area in conjunction with the mill to construct the south coast tram line, which has enabled expansion to continue.

As I mentioned earlier, the Goss Government has upgraded and expanded export port facilities. This is no more evidenced than by the commitment for the \$13m redevelopment of the Mackay port, which will ensure its commercial viability well into the twenty-first century, and the recent redevelopment and capital upgrade of the Harbours Corporation's Dalrymple Bay Coal Export Terminal at a cost of \$168m. This initiative has boosted the capacity of the port by 45 per cent. In addition, the \$50m upgrade of the Hay Point coal terminal by BHP and the \$6.4m Eungella water pipeline to the Bowen Basin coalfields will ensure the development of additional coalmines, such as the Burton Downs project, which was announced recently by the former Premier, the Honourable Wayne Goss.

Another significant achievement of the Goss Labor Government has been the rerouting of the railway line out of Mackay city streets and the building of a new railway station and goods yard. Mackay is the centre of a rich and vibrant region. It is an educational, medical and administrative centre. The Goss Labor Government has expanded the Mackay TAFE College at a cost of \$13m and established the Mackay campus of the University of Central Queensland, which will be invaluable to the development of research and higher education for the region. This type of growth will negate the need for Mackay students to travel to other institutions to attain their professional or trade qualifications, in turn keeping qualified professionals in Mackay.

In the term of the Forty-eighth Parliament, the Goss Government commenced construction of a new district police headquarters in Mackay and refurbished the present historic police station at a cost of \$8.4m. This includes a new watch-house facility and will mean that the people of Mackay will be served by the most up-to-date police facility in Australia.

In health, the Goss Government was committed to spending \$20m on redeveloping the Mackay Hospital. Initially, \$4.2m will be spent on upgrading the airconditioning system and the accident and emergency departments and refurbishing the obstetric and paediatric wards. In addition, well under way is the construction of the \$6m community health centre, which will also provide facilities for breast screening. Another initiative of the Goss Labor Government was the establishment of the North Queensland Medical School, which will ensure that we retain medical specialists in north Queensland. The development of the \$8.2m cardiac unit in Townsville and the \$20.3m radiation oncology unit will provide north Queensland residents with access to first-class facilities without having to travel to Brisbane. I urge the incoming Government to continue those excellent health initiatives.

There has been a substantial improvement in our roads. I remember that not so long ago a trip from Mackay to Bowen, a distance of 200 kilometres, would take three hours. Now, because of the significant upgrading of the highway between these centres, the trip takes only two hours. Likewise, we have seen major improvements in our local schools and public housing stocks.

Finally, I place on record how proud I am that I was a member of a Goss Labor Government, and I conclude by quoting an extract from the editorial in the Mackay *Daily Mercury* dated Saturday, 17 February 1996, which stated—

"Mr Goss is correct when he said yesterday he was resigning the Queensland premiership with clean hands. He is leaving his state and ALP party leadership positions with the satisfying knowledge that the economy of Queensland is soundly based and administered; that he took office during a turbulent political period following the Fitzgerald inquiry into corruption and the defeat of the National Party at the polls and ensured that the business of government was able to continue and develop according to the policies he had presented to the electors."



**Mrs BIRD** (Whitsunday) (9.18 p.m.): In rising to oppose this motion of confidence in the illegitimate minority Government, I express my gratitude to Wayne Goss for the opportunity to serve with him for the past six and a half years as a member of the best Government that Queensland has ever had. When I came to this place in 1989, I did so as someone from a long line of Labor supporters, a fact of which I am proud. That pride comes from the knowledge that in the years of the Goss Labor Government we changed Queensland into a much better and honest place for my children and my grandchildren.

I take this opportunity also to thank the previous Deputy Premier, Tom Burns, for his years of dedication to the Labor Party and the working people of this State. Some days ago, the Premier-in-waiting admitted to mistakes in the past. Mistakes? Are Government members saying that their jackboot approach—especially to supporting clergy—to street marches was just a mistake? Are they saying their treatment of Aborigines in terms of social and health justice was a mistake? Are they saying that the closing of the Collinsville Power Station was a mistake? Fuelled by blind hatred of unions and his obsession to reduce wages and working conditions, a former National Party Premier sacked 1,000 linesmen in SEQEB, putting families out of their homes and onto starvation street. That was a mistake?

The Government expects us, the people of Queensland, to have confidence that these mistakes will not happen again, even though the Premier was part of those mistakes, as were other members—the members for Callide, Crows Nest, Cunningham, Southport and Keppel. In fact, most of the new Cabinet will probably be Bjelke-Petersen clones—all part of mistakes of the past. How can they expect a vote of confidence when we know that they are just the ghosts of the past who admit mistakes but did nothing to condemn, denounce or prevent them? And what about those "nearly" mistakes, the ones that almost happened? I refer to the selling off of Lindeman Island; Horvath and the incredible steam car; Milan Brych, the shady convicted medical fraud; and Dr Oskar, oilseed millionaire. Mistakes?

Was it also a mistake that in 1989 in per capita terms the Mackay region was by far the most poorly funded health region in Queensland? This condition applied in relation to both total public hospital and total community services expenditure. In only one of eight community services—that is, alcohol and drug dependence services—was funding

at a level equal to that in other rural regions. The region with 3.9 per cent of the Queensland population received only 2.47 per cent of health services funding. This was a mistake? Mackay region residents were funded at \$160 per head less than other rural residents. The deficiencies compared with other rural regions was in the order of \$18.6m per annum. This was a mistake?

The main cause of poor funding was due to the political fact that the Honourable Edmund Casey, a Labor member of Parliament, was also the State Opposition Leader. Mackay was last in the queue for health services for political reasons and for no other reason. The extent of this underfunding would have worsened but for the intervention of the Goss Labor Government in 1989. For the record—public hospitals expenditure per head of population was \$236.41. For rural Queensland it was \$382.65, and for the rest of Queensland it was \$381.91—a further deficiency of \$17m. That was the magnitude of underfunding—and this was a mistake? How can people have confidence in this type of thinking from a previous National Party mistake-ridden Government?

The seat of Whitsunday was previously represented by a National Party Minister, Geoff Muntz. He was a former Welfare Minister, a former Tourism Minister and a former Heritage Minister. Yet Whitsunday was resplendent in its lack of services. The former National Party Government had become so arrogant in its approach to its so-called safe seat that, even though it had a Cabinet Minister and a tirade of hangers-on in the electorate, it did not deliver.

In 1988, I expressed my concern at the lack of welfare services in the fast-growing tourist centre of Cannonvale/Airlie Beach. The National Party's response was that the Government funded St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army and its responsibilities ceased at that point. Family and community services in 1989 were totally absent. That shows how out of touch the former National Party Government was. Many of its members are still in this place, and some are set to become members of the new Cabinet. How can we have confidence in this Government?

In six and a half years, the Labor Party established a neighbourhood and community centre in Bowen and one in Cannonvale. I recently had serious discussions with the Minister for Family Services for assistance for Proserpine. The Goss Government established crisis accommodation and crisis counselling and support services for the

disabled for Cannonvale and Proserpine. It also established domestic violence counselling for women and a major health centre—\$750,000 worth—for Cannonvale to assist in family health-related matters. The Goss Labor Government committed itself to a rebuild/refurbishment of the Proserpine Hospital, and consultant reports are now completed. At the July election, a commitment was given by the National Party to an immediate start on that hospital upon its election. This must not become another National Party "mistake".

Funding has been committed to two new police stations, one in Proserpine and one in Cannonvale. In 1989 when I inherited the electorate, female police officers were forced to use the male toilets because of the National Party's refusal to build a female toilet. To use those toilets, female police officers had to pass by urinals when entering the toilets and coughed very loudly when exiting. Can people understand why we cannot support a motion of confidence in this Government when my officers were also forced to work without airconditioning and facilities and to do their interviews beside the drug evidence cupboard in the back room?

How can we have confidence in the members of the coalition, who when in Government built a much-needed secondary school for the people of Collinsville and an abundance of housing commission homes prior to an election but then subsequently took away the jobs of the people of Collinsville by closing the power station after the election simply because they voted Labor? When those people continued to vote Labor, the National Party gerrymandered the Labor-voting areas of Collinsville and Bowen to save the hide of that failure of a National Party Minister, Geoff Muntz. The power station will open again. Despite the odds, our Ministers, especially Tony McGrady—to whom I will be ever grateful—have the power station to a stage at which we believe it will proceed despite this illegitimate minority Government, and despite the fact that the people of Collinsville continue to vote Labor.

Although the happenings of the last few days cannot be ignored and will be looked on by future generations as a moral abuse of the parliamentary system, I take this opportunity to welcome the new member for Mundingburra to this place—for however long he is here. I also congratulate the Premier and Deputy Premier on their election—for however long they are here. As to the member for Gladstone—I respect her right to make a decision. In her obvious naivety of the virtues

of the coalition Government, she has brought down a good Labor Government and failed the people of Queensland. If this situation had arisen 12 months down the track, I am sure that the member for Gladstone would have viewed things differently. I cannot support this ridiculous motion of confidence.

**Mr ROBERTSON** (Sunnybank) (9.27 p.m.): I rise in opposition to the motion of confidence in the Liberal and National Parties' tawdry grab for power in Queensland. Should this motion succeed, it will be a sad day for this great State of ours—

**Mr Santoro** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** If Mr Santoro had the guts, he would put his name on the speakers' list. This will be a day when Queensland reached a turning point along the path of respectability, when once again the risk of becoming the butt of jokes for the rest of Australia hangs over all of our heads.

**Mr Santoro** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** In the time that I have been a member of this House, there has been only one occasion on which Mr Santoro has had nothing to say, and that is to this motion of confidence in the Borbidge and Sheldon-led Government. Let that be on the record!

Mr Borbidge, in moving the motion of confidence earlier today, noted that the political landscape in Queensland had changed. Yes, it has changed, and it was the Goss Labor Government that changed it. So much has changed in Queensland over the past six years. I remember well the night of 2 December 1989 when the National Party Government in Queensland was finally swept from power. I remember well the collective sigh of relief that was heard throughout Queensland. It was a relief based on the feeling that the yoke of oppression had finally been lifted from around the necks of so many Queenslanders who had suffered in so many ways from the narrow-minded tunnel vision and outright thuggery of the previous National Party Government.

Now, six years on, we find that a National/Liberal/Independent coalition has snatched power from a legitimately elected Labor Government—a Labor Government which, for the people of my electorate of Sunnybank, has delivered so much.

**Mr Grice:** Ken Davies sends his regards!

**Mr ROBERTSON:** If the honourable member wants to interject, I invite him to put his name on the speakers' list. I get extremely angry—not because of pathetic interjections

from members who do not have the guts to put their name on the speakers' list but when members such as Mrs Sheldon, the member for Caloundra, rise in this place and accuse the Goss Labor Government of not delivering services, because that is simply not true. It was the Goss Labor Government which ensured that schools in my electorate benefited from capital works programs which built new assembly halls, classrooms and amenities blocks and refurbished existing facilities suffering from the gross neglect of the former National Party Government. It was the Goss Labor Government which committed itself to building community sports complexes such as the one under way at Runcorn State High School and which committed itself to protecting valuable areas of remnant bushland from future development.

I could spend all the time allocated to me outlining how my electorate has benefited from six years of Goss Labor Government. However, because today is Labor's first day on the road back to Government, I want to deal with some real concerns about the future under a coalition-led Government. One of my great concerns about the future of Queensland is the apparent lack of an expressed vision for this State by the Liberal and National Parties. Of particular concern is the absence of policies to cope with the continuing high population growth in south-east Queensland and in other centres around this State.

A perusal of the coalition's policy documents released prior to the July 1995 State election—and I notice that Government members have gone quiet because they are about to learn something—gives virtually no recognition to the very real problems faced by fast-growing communities throughout Queensland. The only reference that I could find to issues of growth and planning in south-east Queensland is to be found in the coalition's environment policy. That policy, which was released before the election, states—

"The Coalition recognises the need for a decentralised population to enhance the economic development capability of the state and to ensure a stable environment. The coalition's State Economic Development Strategy will provide incentives to encourage people to relocate away from the populous south east corner."

There it is in all its detailed, insightful and analytical glory—the coalition's planning policy for Queensland. There is the Liberal and

National Parties' answer to the population and development pressures currently being experienced in south-east Queensland, in suburbs in my electorate, such as Sunnybank, Sunnybank Hills, Runcorn, Kuraby, Underwood, Stretton and Calamvale. There is the coalition's answer to air quality problems, water quality problems, housing, bushland protection, the provision of sport and recreation facilities and the myriad other issues that need to be addressed in order that the quality of life which we all enjoy is protected.

The coalition's solution is purely to build a fence around the region and sit back and hope that people already living in the region move elsewhere. Quite simply, it is a pathetic response which alone justifies the defeat of this motion of confidence. Because—and I am pleased to see most of them in the Chamber tonight—if the members for Mansfield, Springwood, Redlands and Albert, to name but four, were for once honest with themselves, they would recognise here tonight that the interests of their constituents are not going to be well served by a Borbidge/Sheldon-led Government. Perhaps it is this point alone which explains their noted absence from the list of speakers in this debate. Clearly, they must be having second thoughts about whether to support this motion of confidence in a leadership team devoid of ideas, devoid of vision and devoid of policies.

I suspect that secretly those four members, among others, who represent electorates such as mine which are experiencing high rates of population growth and development are at the very least hoping that Labor retains power in Canberra, because under Howard and his Liberal/National Party mates, programs such as Labor's Better Cities Program will disappear and their last lifeline for policies and funding to protect the quality of life of their constituents will disappear along with them. Combine that with the disappearance of programs such as Better Cities and the announcement by Queensland's next Minister for Transport, Mr Johnson, that the South-east Queensland Transport Authority will be downgraded and, along with it, the focus on public transport options, and one can almost see members opesite squirm in their seats as they consider future career options.

**Mr Johnson:** You've got it wrong.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** If the member wants to say something, he should put his name on the list of speakers.

How could those four members—the members for Springwood, Mansfield,

Redlands and Albert—be so derelict in their responsibilities to their electorates by failing to stand up in the House today, voice their concerns and vote against this motion of confidence in the policy-free zone opposite? I suspect that this conundrum has not even occurred to those National and Liberal Party members—the very four members who stood back and allowed their party leaders to promote a policy to widen the South East Freeway and the Pacific Highway to eight lanes. I am extremely proud that I am one of the members in this place to have publicly opposed that disgraceful transport planning disaster and exposed it as the environmentally and socially destructive proposal that it is.

The people who live along the South East Freeway have not heard one word from the members for Mansfield, Springwood, Redlands and Albert. Clearly, those members do not care and, clearly, they are more interested in securing seats on the Government side of the House than in properly and effectively representing the interests of their electorates. The proof of their dereliction will be apparent when they vote in favour of this motion of confidence. When they do that, they will be voting for a widening of the South East Freeway from six to eight lanes. They will also be voting in favour of the accompanying social and environmental distress that the proposal will cause—not to mention the resumption of land and homes as the freeway moves ever closer to the kitchens and bedroom windows of residents in Underwood, Springwood, Slacks Creek, Shailer Park and other communities along the freeway.

As the roadwork commences along the South East Freeway and Pacific Highway, and as the bitumen is laid closer and closer to the backyards of families who live along the corridor through the electorates of Mansfield, Springwood, Albert, Redlands and my electorate of Sunnybank, Mr Johnson can be assured of one thing: that on every occasion—

**Mr Johnson:** You were there for six years, and what did you do about it? Nothing! You wouldn't make a decision. I'll give you the mail. We'll make a decision.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** The member should have the guts to put his name on the list of speakers.

The member can be assured that I will remind the people that it was the National/Liberal Party Government that did this with the support and knowledge of the member for Albert, the member for Redlands,

the member for Springwood and their mate in Mansfield, because the four of them will have to plead guilty for the environmental and social disaster that they are about to perpetrate on the people of those electorates.

**Mr Barton** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** I thank the member for that support.

Those four members do that in the full knowledge that their respective leaders are devoid of transport alternatives to encourage greater use of public transport—something that did not even rate a mention in the contribution from "the odd couple" who spoke this morning. They are devoid of transport alternatives to encourage greater use of public transport. They are devoid of alternatives for transport options, such as Labor's busways and bikeways programs.

**Mr Baumann** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** The member should have the guts to put his name on the list of speakers.

Those four electorates have become known as the south coast motorway seats. I predict that, within two years, after the next State election, they will have to be renamed, because there will be a few more coffins along the South East Freeway and Pacific Highway as a result of this Government's policies to widen it from six to eight lanes.

I return to the coalition's major planning policy for south-east Queensland, a policy which makes absolutely no reference to a continuing commitment to the SEQ 2001 project but simply wants to encourage people to move out of south-east Queensland and back to less populated centres, attracted by the prospect of newly created jobs arising from unspecified initiatives.

**Dr Watson** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** If the member for Moggill wants to comment, he should put his name on the list of speakers.

This hardly rates as a new policy. In fact, it hardly rates as a policy at all in comparison with the initiatives taken by the Goss Labor Government over the past six years. Regional development is a commonsense aim that was pursued by the Goss Government and the National Party Government before it. So in terms of assessing whether the coalition really has the answers to a major problem which is occurring right throughout the world, that is, a population drift from rural areas to cities, or whether the coalition is yet again just mouthing empty platitudes and motherhood

statements, let us consider its record prior to 1989, because it has a stated commitment to allegedly looking after rural areas.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, in 1966, 76.4 per cent of Queensland's population lived in Brisbane and other urban areas throughout Queensland. In 1986, after a further 20 years of coalition Government, that percentage had increased to 79 per cent. Why? Because the former National Party Government could not deliver the services and initiatives to keep people—particularly young people—in rural areas. The National/Liberal coalition does not have a solution to the problem. Its record indicates that it was a contributor to the problem.

I will be watching very closely how the coalition intends to address the problems arising from south-east Queensland's increasing population, and I will be very interested to see whether it remains committed to supporting Labor's initiative arising from the SEQ 2001 project. I will also be very interested to see if it will commit itself to embracing important local initiatives, such as the purchase of remnant bushland in areas such as Karawatha in my electorate. These will be important tests for the new Government in demonstrating whether it shares a real commitment to our environment or whether a massive confidence trick has been played on the people of Queensland.

This morning, the Leader of the National Party, Mr Borbidge, rose in this place and declared that his Government would be an inclusive Government, a Government that would consult. At the very same time that Mr Borbidge was standing in this place——

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Palaszczuk): Order! Honourable members on both sides of the House will come to order. The honourable member for Sunnybank can now continue.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** At the very same time that Mr Borbidge——

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** Is the Premier displaying a touch of arrogance?

**Mr Mackenroth:** No, it's not. I am asking a question. I am trying to get better conditions for the Opposition.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr ROBERTSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I just thought I saw a hint of arrogance coming through there, but I was mistaken.

At the very same time that Mr Borbidge was uttering those platitudes about openness, consultation and inclusiveness, his Federal leader, John Howard, was announcing the coalition's youth policy at Macgregor on Brisbane's south side. In a display of how paper thin is the Liberal's commitment to young people, the president of the National Union of Students, the organisation which represents hundreds of thousands of tertiary students through Australia, was not only not invited to the launch of the policy and denied entry to it but also he was denied access to a copy of the coalition's youth policy. Is this the style of leadership that Mr Borbidge wants to emulate: a style where inclusion means exclusion; a style where consultation and information sharing is by invitation only? His Federal leader did him no favours today because, although they both speak in similar tongues—albeit forked—Mr Howard demonstrated how thin is the veneer when it comes to a real commitment to inclusion and consultation. How short a time that commitment lasted.

In the time that is left to me, I must also place on record my profound disappointment that Queensland has not heard a contribution today from the member for Gladstone. I would go so far as to say that not justifying her decision to bring down the Goss Government today in Parliament during this debate represents a contempt of this Parliament, perhaps not in the technical sense but certainly in the moral sense.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** They bleat, but they do not have the guts to put their names on the list of speakers to support the odd couple. This is the place where the member for Gladstone should stand and, after hearing contributions——

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** If he wishes to speak, the honourable member should put his name on the list of speakers; otherwise, he should be quiet.

This is the place where the member for Gladstone should stand and, after hearing contributions by members from both sides of the House, justify to the people of Queensland why this motion of confidence should succeed. I do not believe for one moment that it is good enough that the fate of any Government be announced in a vacant lot in Gladstone, or in any other place in Queensland, and for the member responsible to then remain silent in this Chamber. The people and the Parliament of Queensland deserve a lot better than that.

Early last week, Queensland listened to the member for Gladstone's statement of support for a Borbidge/Sheldon-led State Government from a vacant lot in Gladstone. Queenslanders now have the opportunity to listen to former Ministers of the Goss Labor Government answer a range of concerns raised by the member for Gladstone. Queensland has a right to know the member for Gladstone's response to the issues raised by members of the former Labor Government, the Government that she has played such a pivotal role in bringing down. Surely Queensland has a right to know. This Parliament certainly has a right to know, and the people of Gladstone have a right to know—particularly the 60 per cent of people in Gladstone who did not want a coalition Government in this State.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** Government members can challenge me. The Electoral Commission carried out a notional distribution of preferences on the votes for the member for Gladstone and Labor Party support equalled 60 per cent. The Parliament has a right to know what the member for Gladstone thinks and the people of Gladstone also have a right to know, as I said, particularly the 60 per cent of people in Gladstone who did not want a coalition Government in this State.

It will be a moral contempt of this Parliament and the people of Queensland if the member for Gladstone remains silent in this place and then answers these challenges in the media after the motion, amended or not, is passed. I noted Mrs Cunningham's comments on the news tonight that she will respond when she obtains further information. What further information? Does she deny attending a public meeting with former Ministers Hamill and Milliner to discuss the new high school?

Time expired.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Before the honourable member for Mount Gravatt commences her contribution to this debate, I would ask all honourable members to extend some courtesies to members on their feet. The Chair has been very tolerant up until now. This could be the Chair's last day in this position, so watch it.

**Ms SPENCE** (Mount Gravatt) (9.47 p.m.): I rise to speak in opposition to this motion of confidence in this minority Government. On an occasion such as this, it is appropriate to stand back and reflect on some of the achievements of the six years of Labor Government and speculate on what this new

Government has to offer Queenslanders. Previous speakers have rightly said that we instituted reforms that have improved the very fabric of society in this State, reforms which this new Government will find very difficult to overturn because they have been embraced by the Queensland community.

Last Sunday night, one of the television stations ran a program called *The Brisbane Story*. The first 10 minutes of that program showed the street marches of the 1970s and 1980s. The horrific scenes that were shown of ordinary people exercising their democratic rights to protest against injustices, such as the Vietnam War and apartheid, being confronted by hundreds of police being used as stormtroopers to stop the marches brought back memories of the style of past National Party Governments. I suspect that many people have short memories and the generation of voters today do not remember the reign of oppression and victimisation meted out by the previous National Party Government. But the people on this side of the House remember. Labor voters, particularly in Labor electorates, remember the neglect of their schools, housing and communities.

Mr Borbidge is asking us and them to take a huge leap of faith if he wants us to believe that his Government will be different. Whatever else it has been, the Goss Labor Government has encouraged a degree of fairness and propriety previously unknown in this State. I will use capital works as an illustration. Having served as Chair of the Public Works Committee and as a member of that committee for two terms, I am in a good position to comment on the progress of capital works under the Goss Labor Government. Devoting almost one-third of every annual Budget to capital works expenditure, it built and rebuilt schools, hospitals, court houses, police stations, public housing, roads and community centres in every region of this State. There was no distinction about who would receive the new resources based on political grounds; the decisions were made on the basis of need. I do not believe that anyone in the Government can dispute that.

If coalition members have ever been frustrated that a project required in their electorates took longer than expected to become part of the Budget, I can assure them that many members on this side of the House felt the same way. I can only hope that the incoming Government will keep this method of decision making because people can accept waiting for something on the basis that the

need is greater elsewhere if they are confident that decisions are being made fairly.

The only capital works projects the Premier mentioned this morning were prisons. He criticised the Labor Government—and I use his words—for using prisons as a last resort. If they are not a last resort, I ask Mr Borbidge: what are they? That type of thinking sends frightening messages from this new Government.

Whilst I am on the issue of capital works, I want to spend a few minutes talking about public housing. After 32 years of neglect, one of the first priorities of the Labor Government was to improve the state of Queensland's public housing stock. Under Ministers Tom Burns and then Terry Mackenroth, a systematic program of upgrading ensued. Throughout the State, pensioners in units were given security screen doors and windows so that they could feel safe in their homes. Houses and units were given carports, floor coverings, new kitchens and bathrooms. Today, I travelled around the State housing areas in my electorate and I saw what six years of a Labor Government has done to improve the living conditions of State housing tenants. The units that have been built during that time have landscaping with private courtyards and clothes lines. The bathrooms are suitable for the disabled. The kitchens are modern and there are built-in cupboards and wardrobes and fans.

The Labor Government not only improved the standards of the accommodation but also changed the whole philosophy of the Department of Housing. When I was first elected in 1989, I took over from a National Party member of Parliament. Apparently, the practice in those days led people to believe that they had only to get the ear of their member of Parliament and they were moved up the waiting list for receiving a house or a transfer, thereby jumping the queue in front of people who had waited patiently for years. It has taken me years to talk to people about fairness. Tom Burns stopped the practice of queue jumping and changed the philosophy of the department to one that meant that tenants were to be regarded as valued clients, decision making was to be based on fairness and need, and the State's housing stock would be regarded as a valuable asset. It will be a challenge for this incoming Government to maintain and improve on this philosophy and keep up the expenditure on the provision of new housing stock because the waiting times are still long and the need for more public housing is a pressing one.

Today, Mr Connor interjected—and I believe that he is going to be the new Minister for Housing—and said, "People will not need public housing under a coalition Government because the economy will improve." To my mind, that shows his complete lack of understanding of public Housing Commission tenants in this State and the needs of those people. It also demonstrates the arrogance of members opposite who believe that they will not need to provide more public housing.

To my mind, one of the most important achievements of the Labor Government was the passing of the Weapons Bill in 1990, which, for the first time, brought decent gun control legislation to this State. Statements made by individual coalition members over the years reflect their desire to introduce again widespread gun ownership to the people of Queensland. That should act as a chilling reminder to all Queenslanders that the sensible social reforms introduced by the Labor Government over the last five years may indeed be fragile now that that simple-minded group of individuals opposite are being given the opportunity to govern this State again. In adopting a strategy of fear promotion, the coalition, when in Opposition, caused a reduction in the quality of life of groups in our communities, such as the elderly and women generally. The clear loser has been the general public, whose attitudes are shaped inappropriately by the images of crime that were fed to it by the coalition. That strategy will come back to haunt the coalition, because it knows that it cannot turn back the clock and make people feel safer just because they have a coalition Government in this State or because it has put a couple more police out in the community. That is not going to change things. That is not going to change the culture of fear that, over the last six years, the coalition has promoted in this State.

**Mr Santoro:** You are blaming them.

**Ms SPENCE:** I am not blaming them, I am blaming the coalition. I guess we always knew that the coalition was mad about guns but the most ridiculous, destructive and appalling of its policies was released during its July election campaign when it told the people that it was going to put policemen in high schools. A cop in every school. What for? To frisk kids when they come through the school gate? To find the chewing gum stuck behind the chairs or the cigarettes hidden in the school bag? Central to that idea is the coalition's idea that schools are a hotbed of crime and, as such, require a police presence. That is absolute rubbish! Are criminals to be found in school grounds? They are not. They

are out in the wider community breaking into houses, perpetuating domestic violence and drink-driving on the roads. If the coalition is going to waste its police resources by having them behind school gates, then the police are not going to be catching real criminals.

What sort of message does that send to our children—to have police officers guarding them at school as though school is a threatening place and they need prosecution? I want to know whether the coalition is going to station police officers in private schools as well, or do only State schools need guarding? I say to members opposite that I have not met a teacher who thinks that this proposal is a good idea.

What else is the coalition going to do for education? We have had five years of Bob Quinn criticising the Labor Government for its education policies, but we have heard little in the way of policies from him. I am very proud of the achievements that this Labor Government has made in education. The introduction of the Languages Other Than English program is the most comprehensive foreign language program in any State of Australia. That program is more than just about teaching a language; it is about changing the insular nature of our society to one that is outward looking and understanding of other countries and cultures and our place in the world. The Labor Government brought down class sizes to acceptable levels. The Labor Government paid teachers a decent wage to bring their wages up to a par with other teachers in Australia. The Labor Government has given primary school teachers preparation and correction time, that is, time away from the classrooms—something that the National Party Government would not even consider. Teachers would do well to remember the gains they have made under a Labor Government.

I am proud about the way in which the Labor Government spent money on the long neglected schools in Labor electorates that the National Party Government had ignored for 32 years. I mention one of the schools in my electorate, Seville Road Primary School, which has always been located in a Labor electorate, having moved from Chatsworth to the Mount Gravatt electorate. Under the Labor Government, it finally received some improvements.

The recent release of the Federal coalition's industrial relations policy promises, among other draconian measures, to look at introducing essential services legislation. Under essential services legislation, strikes

could be outlawed by a Federal coalition Government. Under John Howard's policies, nurses, police and waterfront workers could be restricted from striking. Memories of the bad old days of the National Party Government's confrontation with sacked SEQEB workers come flooding back. One of the first steps of the Goss Labor Government was to pay the sacked SEQEB workers their superannuation entitlements.

This morning in his speech, Premier Borbidge pleaded with us—and I use his words—to not paint them in the same light as the National Party Government of the 1970s and 1980s because the political landscape has changed. Obviously, he is desperate to disassociate himself from the Bjelke-Petersen style of Government. Unfortunately, he has plenty of the old Bjelke-Petersen style rednecks in his ranks, and they will be in his Cabinet pursuing their racist, intolerant, narrow-minded policies, whether they are in the areas of Aboriginal affairs, crime, domestic violence, education or industrial relations laws. The member for Beaudesert, who is set to become the new Family Services Minister, claims that one of his first aims is to make it harder for women to take out protection orders. He shows no understanding of the problem of domestic violence. The women of Queensland should place no faith in this coalition Government. The future Minister responsible for domestic violence trivialises this most serious problem by hinting that women exploit the use of protection orders.

We now have a Government whose members opposed our introduction of anti-discrimination legislation. They opposed a Bill which enshrined in law the rights of every person to have equal rights and opportunities and which made discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, sexuality, disability or marital status illegal. As a result of this most sensible law of the Goss Labor Government, landlords have been required to treat their tenants in a fair manner, employers have not been allowed to sack women who fall pregnant, restaurant owners have had to accept that it is a woman's right to breastfeed her child and Aborigines have had their right to equality enshrined in law.

This is the type of legislation the people now on the Government benches opposed in this House. Let us not forget that Mrs Sheldon, the new spokesperson on women's issues, opposed this anti-discrimination Bill. In fact, she declared in this House that she did not believe women in this State were discriminated against. Her arrogance and her sense of self-satisfaction have long been the



hallmark of her style of politics. I have always been worried that Mrs Sheldon suffers from the Queen Bee syndrome: "I have made it to the top, so all you other women can do so, too." I think that her privileged and fortunate life has excluded her from the problems and discrimination experienced by ordinary women in their everyday lives. I have no confidence in her or this National/Liberal coalition to deliver a better deal for women in this State.

I cannot support a vote of confidence in a Borbidge/Sheldon Government. This coalition, which the member for Gladstone has made the Government of Queensland, does not possess the legitimacy of a duly elected Government. They are usurpers of the Government benches, courtesy of the member for Gladstone—not through the will of the Queensland people, but by virtue of the acute political skills of the member for Gladstone who successfully led the people of Gladstone into believing that she was an Independent. It is becoming apparent to those people, and indeed to all Queenslanders, that the only way this coalition Government will succeed is by having the member for Gladstone vote with them on every piece of legislation, every vote of confidence and every matter of importance in this House. The whole question of her independence will be critically questioned on every vote in this place.

**Mr Hamill:** Did you see the cartoon in the *Courier-Mail* this morning?

**Ms SPENCE:** I thought that the cartoon in the *Courier-Mail* was excellent.

**Mr Hamill:** I thought she looked like she was in Mr Borbidge's pocket.

**Ms SPENCE:** Perhaps it is a bit cruel on the cartoonist to suggest that, but I know that many people out there have suggested that to me. I would not do so, though.

**Mr Hamill:** You are very charitable.

**Ms SPENCE:** I am charitable. Today, Labor voters are hurting and Labor supporters are hurting. The State Labor Government they had waited so long for, that they had worked so hard for, has been taken from them because one person decided that a leaky roof in a hospital and the delayed construction of a school should bring down the Government of this State.

**Mrs McCauley:** You want to stand up for women, but you only want to stand up for Labor women.

**Ms SPENCE:** I will stand up for all women in this State. I am not criticising the member for Gladstone because she is a woman, but because she is an Independent

member who did not make an independent decision. I am not frightened to criticise her because she is a woman, and I can accept criticism, too.

We stand here, secure in the knowledge that we are a strong Opposition, having left the people of Queensland in a better place for having been in Government for six years. We will continue to occupy a position of strength on the Queensland political scene.

**Mr PURCELL** (Bulimba) (10.04 p.m.): I rise to oppose the motion of confidence in the minority, back-door Government led by the member for Surfers Paradise. I have grave concerns for my constituents, and for the people of Queensland, that we will go back to the bad old days when, for 30-odd years, Labor electorates were wastelands under a National Party Government, when the needy and the less well-off were ignored, when schools had no priority, and when public housing tenants were not cared for or cared about. The Goss/Burns -ed Government of the past six and a half years has set high standards for future Queensland Governments to emulate. I hope that the member for Surfers Paradise—

**Mr Johnson:** The Premier, thank you.

**Mr PURCELL:** Did he cease to be the member for Surfers Paradise? I hope that the member for Surfers Paradise will honour the high standards and promises he has made in the press in the last week or so. Indeed, in today's *Courier-Mail* he made these further promises—

"Premier Rob Borbidge will impose strict standards on his National-Liberal Cabinet which will work under what he describes as Australia's toughest ministerial code of conduct. Mr Borbidge will continue the ban on ministerial credit cards, limit overseas travel and closely monitor staff appointments in ministers' offices.

"There will be a few more conditions—standards I will be pointing out to those who will be asked to sit in Cabinet," Mr Borbidge said yesterday."

We do not know who is going to be sitting in Cabinet yet. I think to have a confidence motion in a Government of two people is ridiculous. The *Courier-Mail* article continues—

"He was determined there would be no repeat of the abuses which contributed to the downfall in 1989 of the National Party government and the jailing of four ministers for misuse of public funds.

'I will make sure everyone behaves themselves', Mr Borbidge said."

I hope the Premier will keep that promise. I would like to see the direction of commitment started by the Labor Government continue in the electorate of Bulimba, and the Premier acting in a fair and even-handed manner, as, in the last week or so, he has been promising in the press.

In my electorate, the Goss Labor Government has been looking at the development of 100 acres at the old sale yards at Cannon Hill. This is probably the largest tract of land in any capital city of Australia within 10 minutes of the city centre.

**Mrs McCauley:** Good views?

**Mr PURCELL:** Good views, great electorate, great place to live. We were looking to develop that land with private enterprise, with about 80 per cent to be sold and 20 per cent allocated for public housing. We have already had consultations with the Murarrie Progress Association and the people of Cannon Hill, and that project is very close to starting. As a part of this project, the Goss/Burns Government was looking at building a community complex, including a swimming pool, and developing other projects that are sorely needed in the electorate of Bulimba.

**An Opposition member:** It was certainly neglected for 30 years by that crew over there.

**Mr PURCELL:** Yes.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr PURCELL:** If Government members want to speak, we will let them speak. I turn to address the remarks of the incoming Transport Minister, the member for Gregory.

**A Government member:** Is that right?

**Mr PURCELL:** Yes, that is right.

**Ms Spence:** They have dumped him.

**Mr PURCELL:** No, I do not think they have dumped him. They will not dump him. A four-lane highway has been planned to go through the heart of Hemmant, and an EIS is being prepared. There are alternative routes for that road. Hemmant is probably one of the oldest areas of Brisbane, and is located down near the port. If that four-lane highway goes ahead, it will lock the people of Hemmant between two major roads. They will have an 100 kilometres an hour freeway on one side and an 80 kilometres an hour road on the other side. There are alternative routes, and I issue an invitation to the incoming Transport Minister to take a look at the proposal. Also,

as an incoming Minister would realise, we have an extra track through my electorate, and commitments have been made for sound barriers, landscaping and upgrading of railway stations. I issue an invitation to the Minister to look at that project.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr PURCELL:** No, I will not be supporting any confidence motion.

Another project is going ahead in Bulimba, for which an EB is being prepared at the moment. It is before the council awaiting its approval. I refer to the plant to built by BHP at Murarrie. BHP has held meetings with community groups in the Murarrie and Cannon Hill areas, which back onto the proposed plant site. I think the people of Murarrie can put up with the plant that is going ahead at the moment. However, BHP is seeking to construct a further two stages, the third of which is a smelter, on that ground at Murarrie. As I said before, Murarrie is about 10 kilometres from town. The middle of a residential area is not the appropriate place for a smelter, and we will be seeking protection if that stage goes ahead.

Let us look at certain of the previous Government's commitments in my electorate. There was a commitment to swap seven hectares of land at the end of Colmslie Road at Colmslie, next to the meatworks, which runs along the river. We were going to give that land to the Brisbane City Council, with the intention that it be turned into a park which the council would look after for the residents of not only my electorate but also other electorates in Brisbane.

**Mr Santoro:** There is a lot happening in your electorate, isn't there?

**Mr PURCELL:** There is a lot happening in my electorate.

**Mr Santoro:** It almost sounds like the economic centre of Queensland.

**Mr PURCELL:** It will be shortly.

The incoming Police Minister, Mr Cooper, needs to do some tidying up with respect to the police station in my electorate. The National Party put up a shed on a water pipe about 22-odd years ago. It is still there. At the moment, 22 officers operate cheek by jowl out of that station. It is an unsafe workplace and it is certainly not conducive to good policing. We will be looking to upgrade that police station. Is the Minister listening? I knew that he was not listening.

**Mr Cooper:** What have you ever done for me?

**Mr PURCELL:** I might not have done anything for the Minister, but, as he well knows, at one stage I used to do a bit of contract ploughing for his father, who was a gentleman for whom I enjoyed working. I shared the odd bottle of rum with him, and he was one of the best payers I knew. When I pulled out of the paddock, he paid dead on the knocker.

Also, it has come to my attention that Telstra has sold off attractive land in Bulimba to a developer. It refused to sell it to the Queensland Government. Telstra wanted too much money for it, and I do not think that it got the money that it wanted for it. It has been in contact with the Lands Department. There are five or six metres of land along Bulimba Point that belongs to the Lands Department. I will be encouraging the incoming Minister for Lands not to allow Telstra to lease that land and, therefore, lease it back to the developer. That land belongs to the people of Bulimba. The council is negotiating for the developer to give up 10 per cent of his land so that that land can be made available to my constituents and anybody who comes down to Bulimba Point. If honourable members have not been down to Bulimba Point, they should have a bit of a bo peep. It is a nice place to go. Most of the river along Bulimba is not accessible to the public; it is privately owned. That is one of the few areas from which the public will be able to gain access to the point.

I wish to remind the incoming Premier of his commitment to the people of Queensland to be even-handed in dealing with workers and unions, and I urge him to ensure that the privatisation of business units is not the means by which he funds any of the \$7m that he has promised since the last election. Rumours are rife at the moment in Q-Fleet, Q-Build and Go-Fleet that those Government enterprises will be sold off to fund the promises made by the Government. The Premier needs to make it plain to those workers that they will not be thrown on the scrapheap to fund election promises.

I noted earlier the Premier's comments that he will not go back to the bad old days of disbursing money to only those electorates that are of the same political persuasion but will lead a compassionate Government representing all Queenslanders. I offer the Premier the opportunity to support that statement by showing support for the aforementioned projects in the electorate of Bulimba.

**Mr DOLLIN** (Maryborough) (10.17 p.m.): I rise to speak against the motion of

confidence in the new Government and to express my concern that a good Government which has served Queensland well for six and a half years, as the Goss Labor Government has, can be dismissed not by the people of Queensland but by one person who was elected by the people of Gladstone as an Independent, not as a member of the coalition.

The Goss Labor Government has been a clean, honest Government—no corruption, no brown paper bags and none of the corruption that the Fitzgerald inquiry uncovered under the previous National Party Government. Also, there were no gerrymanders. I am proud to be able to say that the incoming Government will take over from a Government that has swept away all of those forms of corruption—the paper bags, the graft and the gerrymanders that were commonplace in the previous National Party Government.

The Goss Labor Government inherited a \$4.5 billion net debt in 1989. Today, we hand over a State which is net debt free with a AAA-plus world credit rating. With this sort of solid performance, one has to wonder why it was brought down by the vote of one supposedly Independent member. I take this opportunity to point out where and how the electorate of Maryborough has gained under the stewardship of the Goss Labor Government over the past six and a half years.

In 1989, Walkers Limited was at the crossroads and it looked more than likely that Maryborough would lose an engineering industry that had played a very major role in the early development and ongoing economy of the Maryborough district, as it still does today. In 1989, Walkers Limited was employing 350 workers. Today, Walkers Limited is employing 650 workers, and has in hand in excess of \$250m in forward orders. These orders include the prestigious \$65.5m tilt train for Queensland Rail, a project which I sincerely hope the incoming Government completes; \$100m for light rail cars for Kuala Lumpur; \$80m for trains for the Brisbane-Sunshine Coast rail link; sugar equipment for South East Asia and Mexico; as well as other rolling stock orders for Queensland Rail amounting to many millions of dollars. Again, I hope a continuation of this sort of support continues to Walkers Limited from the incoming Government.

I cite the financial report of EDI, the parent company of Maryborough Walkers Limited. It stated—

"Engineering group Evans Deakin Industries Ltd said it was poised for

another record year after announcing a record interim result yesterday. EDI Chairman Ron Paul said the group was going into the second half of the year with \$276.6 million orders on hand and the company was out beating the bushes for more contracts. The group yesterday posted an 11.1 per cent rise in net profit to \$6.05m on a 46.6 per cent hike in sales to \$133.77m. An unchanged fully franked interim dividend of 7.0 cents was declared. Mr Paul said the strong revenue growth had been generated by the electrical and instrumentation construction group Ralph M. Lee and railway rolling stock manufacturer Walkers Limited, with the balance coming from the new business acquired in 1995. Late last year, EDI launched an offer to takeover Bundaberg-based agricultural machinery manufacturer Austoft Holdings Limited."

If that is not a vote of confidence in the Goss Labor Government, then I have never heard one.

The timber industry is a very important one in our region and one which has been well supported by the Goss Labor Government. The industry has invested \$60m over the last few years in milling, processing and manufacturing equipment and a similar amount in harvesting equipment. No doubt most members of this House would be aware of the chip mill operating at Owanyilla which utilises the culls from the pine plantations in the region. This chip mill is earning the State \$12m per annum in exports and has created about 80 jobs. Queensland Rail hauls the chips to Gladstone in two specially built trains which work around the clock, earning approximately \$50m over the term of the 10-year contract. This is just another important industry initiated by the Goss Labor Government, and it is yet another industry which has registered a vote of confidence in the Goss Government by its huge investment.

The sugar industry in the Maryborough region has probably never been in a better position, having produced two record harvests. The Maryborough sugar mill has invested heavily in upgrading its equipment and expanding its area of cane production. The whole industry has been investing and responding with confidence. It could not be anything but satisfied with the Goss Labor Government.

The economy of the Wide Bay region has gone from stagnation six and a half years ago to being one of the fastest growing in the State. Tourism has trebled in business

turnover and investments, due to a large extent to the World Heritage listing of Fraser Island.

On what was a hole in the ground in 1989 at Nagel Street now stands a \$14m TAFE college. We also completed, at a cost of over \$2m, a new state-of-the-art police station at Maryborough. In 1989, Maryborough's transit centre was a couple of seats under a fig tree where people got pretty wet if it rained. The little-used railway station at that time was transformed into what has been described as one of the best transit facilities outside Brisbane. A \$3m new Government office on the corner of Alice and Lennox Streets, Maryborough houses regional offices of the Departments of Education and Environment and Heritage and is the first Government office space to be built in Maryborough in 50 years. Every school in the Maryborough electorate has been upgraded and has had additional classrooms established at a cost of \$40m-odd in capital works alone over the last six years. This does not include the installation of computers and sporting, play and gardening equipment.

I could go on and on, but I will now turn to a number of new projects planned or under construction by the Goss Government—projects and plans that the community of the Maryborough electorate has fought hard to win for the area. I refer to projects such as the completion of the almost-finished regional hospital laundry. I refer to the \$9m upgrading and refurbishment of the Maryborough Hospital now under way, which includes full airconditioning of the hospital before next summer. I hope that Mr Horan heard that and sticks to that commitment. Another project is the widening of the Granville bridge, planned to commence next month to make a dangerous crossing safe for Granville citizens. There is also the installation of traffic lights at Granville. Those projects are funded at over \$1m, and I ask that they go ahead as planned. There has been \$800,000 provided by the Goss Government for a long-awaited, much-needed ambulance station. Maryborough ambulance station officers have been operating out of an old hospital ward for the last 30 years or longer. Three extra ambulance officers have also been promised to Maryborough to provide a fully operational 24-hour service.

A high priority for the citizens of Tinana is a bus service for their area. This service should have been operating last September, but due to difficulties in the bus contractor and Queensland Transport departmental officers reaching an agreement, the much-needed

service to Tinana citizens has been put back to April. I ask the incoming Minister for Transport to ensure that this deadline is met, as Tinana is the fastest-growing suburb in Maryborough and is at present without any means of public transport whatsoever. Most importantly, I ask that a \$1m proposal for the planned extension of the Maryborough community regional recreation centre, being financed from the Goss Labor Government's youth services development grant, be approved.

I ask the incoming Minister for Transport to continue with the freeing up of Maryborough's vacant Queensland Rail land for the development of a major shopping complex—something Maryborough citizens have desired for many years. There are two major developers plus others who are interested in developing this very centrally situated 40-acre site, which is something of an eyesore at the present time. I advise the incoming Minister for Transport that a response from Queensland Rail property management has either been returned to the office of Mr Elder, the former Minister for Transport, or will be this week. I ask that the incoming Minister for Transport give this matter his earliest attention. Are you listening, Vaughan?

**Mr Johnson:** I am.

**Mr DOLLIN:** The Maryborough community needs these projects and new facilities, and it would be a great disappointment to them if the new Government does not follow through on them.

I turn now to contracts given by the coalition at the last election campaign which I am sure the people of the Maryborough electorate will expect them to honour, as I do. One was a \$3m up-front grant promised by Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon towards a regional cultural centre to serve the Wide Bay region to be established in Walker Street, Maryborough. Another was a promise by Mr Cooper as shadow Minister for Police that under a coalition Government Maryborough would be granted six extra police officers and better watch-house management and facilities. In fact, the National Party candidate at the last election promised 60 more police, but I will settle for six! I would dearly like to see Maryborough schools be the first off the rank for airconditioning, as promised by Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon for all Queensland schools.

I ask that the incoming Government maintain the planned Gunalda Range roadworks that are planned to begin in 1997,

that it finish the two extra passing lanes under construction between Curra and Maryborough and that the improvements on the Bruce Highway at the turn-in to Curra Country, which have been approved and funded by the outgoing Government, be carried out as soon as possible. There is machinery presently working on a passing lane within a few hundred metres that could be utilised to do this job before moving on.

The incoming Government will go down in history as one of the very few Governments that was elected on the will of one person. There have in the past been two Governors-General who dismissed two Labor Governments without an election, but to my knowledge this is the first time that an Independent member of Parliament has changed a Government with one vote. This is a back-door Government. It has come to power through the tradesmen's entrance. Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon knocked on the back door of the House and the member for Gladstone let them in through that door without asking the owners of the House, the citizens of Gladstone, for permission. The two Governors-General who sacked Labor leaders in the past have not been very highly respected in hindsight or in history. I hope that the member for Gladstone will not be judged by history as harshly as they were.

I take this opportunity to thank the former Premier, Wayne Goss, for leading the Labor Party out of the political wilderness six and a half years ago and for all of the great things that he achieved for our State in his term as Premier. There is no doubt that he will go down as one of the great Labor Premiers of this State. I deem it a great honour to have been able to have served with him. I thank also that old Maryborough boy, Tom Burns, for his great contribution to the Australian Labor Party and for his input over the term of the Goss Government. I thank also Keith De Lacy—no doubt the greatest Treasurer this State has had in a long time. Keith brought this State into the black and kept it there when all other Australian States were in debt for billions of dollars. I thank all of the Ministers who assisted me in getting Maryborough up and going again and for the honest, even-handed way in which my electorate received its fair share of the State Budgets. I assure my constituents that I will be asking the new Government to do the same: to handle its Budgets fairly and even-handedly, irrespective of who holds various seats. I regret that I cannot support the motion of confidence in this Government.

**Mrs ROSE** (Currumbin) (10.31 p.m.): I rise to oppose the confidence motion in a coalition Government. I stand here before members with a sadness in the knowledge that a coalition of the National and Liberal Parties will once again form Government in the State of Queensland—a coalition which, during the 1995 State election, never believed that it could form a Government. It was this belief that led to its promising a whole range of policy stances aimed squarely at attracting the vote of an increasingly weary electorate.

As the member for Currumbin, it is my duty and my honour to represent the interests of my constituency. It is because of this that I implore the incoming Government to have the interests of my electorate at heart. It is also my duty to help ensure that those people who placed their faith and trust in the Borbidge-led coalition were not simply taken for a ride. I fully expect that the coalition now endeavours to deliver on its promises—the very promises it now says provided it with a mandate to govern.

Perhaps the most pressing problem that exists in the perception of many minds is the state of Queensland's public health system. During the last election, the coalition promised a wide range of goals in relation to this policy sector. These included: more hospital beds, maintenance of the free hospital system, community input into hospital requirements, access to hospital care when needed, prioritising patient care, increased emphasis on service delivery, increased hospital staffing levels and a reduction in hospital waiting lists. I am sure that all members would welcome these objectives. However, my concern and, I believe, the concern of many in the community, is that the coalition has not explained in any detailed manner how it proposes to achieve these admirable outcomes. Quite simply, it never thought that it would have to. It is a bit like Howard's promise to spend over \$1 billion on the environment. It is no policy; it is just a tactic to try to achieve the privatisation of Telstra. He has made that promise knowing full well that the odds are against his having to deliver it. Of course, if he does have to, then it would be merely a small price to pay for the greater objective of selling off our national phone company.

Likewise, members opposite, now finding themselves forming a minority Government, made their promises in the belief that they would never be in a position to have to deliver on them. In other words, it was only a tactic to convince many to put Labor under pressure in a cynical attempt to sneak into office. Unfortunately for Queenslanders, it appears to

have worked. We now have a minority Government with no idea of how to go about what it wants to achieve. In fact, I am informed that the only detailed policy draft that the coalition Government has is a 15-page document relating to industrial relations. We all eagerly await the outcome of that policy.

I return to the issue of health. I and my Labor colleagues have worked extremely hard on the establishment of a community health centre at Palm Beach. That centre will provide services to the beach-side communities, which include sizeable populations of aged and socially disadvantaged persons. In addition, access to services would also be improved for the growing inland population. This is something that the South Coast Regional Health Authority identified as a crucial need in its regional services plan.

The community health centre, as planned by the previous Labor administration, is to include a whole range of services. In addition to a dental clinic, those services will include: podiatry, psychology, home care, speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, social work, aged care, family and child health, community health, health promotion, youth health and women's health. On the basis of its need, I certainly hope that that is one Labor commitment that a Borbidge Government will honour. Unfortunately, I have my doubts. During the State election, the coalition claimed that any such dental clinic would not cut dental waiting lists in the area. Furthermore, while speaking of the proposed health centre, the then Liberal candidate stated clearly, "We don't want any more services in the area." Does this mean that now, while in a minority Government, it will cancel the project? I know that a large number of people in my electorate would be disappointed if that were the case—not least the more than 7,000 senior citizens in the area.

For years, the former National Party Government ignored the need for a community health centre at Palm Beach. The Labor Government, on the other hand, had committed itself to providing those health services so long ignored by the conservatives. In response to the provision of that centre by Labor, coalition members, knowing that it was an outrageous lie, said that the Government would be putting a needle exchange unit in that centre. It seems interesting to me that those rumours were rife not only during the State election but also the recent by-election in Mundingburra. The number of people suddenly contacting my office clearly indicates that an organised scare campaign had been

mounted to try to mislead not only southern Gold Coasters but Queenslanders Statewide about the Palm Beach health clinic. This was despite frequent denials from the then Minister for Health, the acting director of the regional health authority and, of course, myself. On that point, I take this opportunity to now request from the new Premier that this campaign of lies will come to an end and that the community health centre project at Palm Beach will be continued.

Another issue of concern to many southern Gold Coast residents is crime and the adequate provision of police resources in the area. I have worked long and hard to improve the number of police in the area and have recently been involved in discussions concerning the establishment of a Police Beat shopfront at the Pines Shopping Centre. The Police Beat program is something of which the Goss Government can be very proud. The Police Beat shopfront program was a joint police/Government initiative designed to increase the police presence in shopping centres and central business districts. It put police back on the street where most people are: in the shopping centres. I hope that a coalition Government will continue the Police Beat programs. The Police Beat shopfront at the Pines Shopping Centre was to be a temporary measure until a site had been finalised for the establishment of a second police station on the southern Gold Coast.

On that score, if coalition promises are anything to go by, we should have no problem. The coalition promised that adequate police and resources would be provided to ensure the safety of residents in the area. In fact, during the last election, the coalition claimed that they were committed to building a 24-hour police station on the Gold Coast Highway at Palm Beach, just south of Fifth Avenue. They also promised 20 extra police right in the heart of the action. In fact, in May of last year, Mr Cooper stated that—and I have a copy of his statement with me—the station would not only be fully staffed but also equipped with every modern crime-fighting aid. On that basis, I implore Mr Cooper to ensure that those commitments are kept and that work begins at the earliest possible time.

My constituency is composed of a very high aged population: approximately one-third of the electorate are 60 years of age and over. This was another group targeted by the coalition in the recent State election. In fact, constituents in my electorate were written to by the Liberal candidate claiming his belief that it was time for senior members of our community to be given a fair go. As part of

that objective, the coalition promised that independent retirees would be entitled to the same benefits that the Labor Government gave to those receiving a pension. Not only do I hope and argue that the coalition Government sticks to that promise but that it also embraces the previous Government's recent announcement concerning discounts for people aged 60 years and over. Under that scheme, people in that category are able to obtain a whole range of discounts from various participating businesses. That was a logical extension of the current Seniors Card scheme and is worthy of continued support.

Honourable members may have noticed that throughout my speech I have mentioned a variety of policy issues, all of which are of great importance to members of my electorate. Generally speaking, residents on the southern Gold Coast have the right to feel secure in their own homes and have access to quality health care and public transport. The Labor Government approved the establishment of a community health centre at Palm Beach, but that was only part of the plan to better serve the southern Gold Coast community. New and more frequent bus services have been put in place to ensure that people who rely on public transport are not disadvantaged by infrequent services.

The \$375m Gold Coast railway opens next week. Next Monday, 26 February, trains will operate between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. That is an example of a Labor Government providing public transport for Queenslanders. Nearly 400 Gold Coast train services will begin when that line opens on Monday. Details of the services were released today in a Gold Coast timetable. That comprehensive timetable involves 261 direct Gold Coast train services each week. On weekends, a total of 127 Gold Coast services will operate. The timetable has been designed to ensure fast, efficient services to regular commuters throughout the week and holiday-makers on the weekend. Services will run mostly half hourly, with weekday direct services starting at 5.42 a.m. from Central Station and at 5.39 a.m. from Helensvale. Services will conclude at 11.21 p.m. and 11.36 p.m. respectively.

**Mr Veivers** interjected.

**Mrs ROSE:** The member for Southport should be as happy about this as I am. Perhaps he shares the concern of some Gold Coasters. What do we say to Gold Coasters who say, "Well, if we are going to have a coalition Government in Queensland, what about our railway?" This is not the first time

that a rail link has been built between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. What happened to the other one? We built it. What did the members of the National Party do? They pulled it up. Labor has just spent \$375m putting it back. What is the coalition going to do? What will members of the coalition say to Gold Coasters who ask, "What are they going to do with the railway line? Are they going to rip it up again? Why did they do that to it last time?"

**Mr Veivers:** I was not there, Merri.

**Mrs ROSE:** It was a National Party Government. Labor built it; the Nationals ripped it up. We have built another; the members opposite had better not rip it up. I think the new coalition Premier, a Gold Coast resident, should reassure Gold Coasters that he will not rip it up. That is what previous National Party Governments did to railway lines that Labor Governments built: they ripped them up.

I turn to another transport issue which is of major concern to southern Gold Coasters, that is, the Tugun bypass west of the Coolangatta airport. Much has been said about that bypass. I was really pleased that during the last State election campaign the Liberal candidate for Currumbin also expressed a grave concern about it. So concerned were he and the Federal shadow Minister for Regional Development, Senator Ian Macdonald, that they flew over that area. The former Labor Government in Queensland, the Goss Labor Government, had been keen to get that project moving and sought the cooperation of the New South Wales Government in conducting environmental and community impact studies into a bypass west of the Coolangatta airport. We need the bypass because of safety, noise and air pollution issues associated with the heavy volume of traffic on the Gold Coast Highway. Queensland Transport has identified a corridor for the Tugun bypass and has been very pro-active in negotiations with the Road Traffic Authority in New South Wales to ensure that the extension of the corridor south of the border is identified and preserved. It is particularly important that the project proceed because it will relieve pressure on the Gold Coast Highway from Tugun to Coolangatta and provide an alternative route for trucks and tankers carrying dangerous goods.

As the coalition should be aware, the present section of the Gold Coast Highway near the airport is becoming heavily congested.

**Mr Ardill** interjected.

**Mrs ROSE:** As the member for Archerfield pointed out, unfortunately some fatalities have occurred there over the past couple of years. Investigations show that that section of the highway cannot be satisfactorily upgraded to cater for the expected increases in traffic volumes. With that in mind, I call on members of the coalition and the incoming Minister for Transport to keep the commitment of the 1995 State election campaign to make the bypass a funding priority if it won Government. That commitment was made after the coalition candidate for Currumbin and the Federal Liberal Senator Ian Macdonald flew over a proposed route.

I wish to remind the Deputy Premier of her commitment to seek a joint funding arrangement from the Federal Government. Although the road is a State responsibility, it is a major project that will benefit not only locals but also through traffic. It is of national significance, and when the Federal Government recently made its commitment to upgrading the Pacific Highway, it also included a bypass west of the airport, up to the New South Wales/Queensland border, connecting with the Pacific Highway on the Queensland side. I also understand that the Federal coalition shadow Regional Development Minister, Senator Ian Macdonald, has also given an undertaking that, should the coalition form the next Federal Government, it will consider any proposal from the Queensland coalition Government. I now call on the coalition, should that be the case, to ensure that its commitment to this project is maintained.

Some of the other projects of which I was very proud to have been a part with the Goss Government were an increase in the number of teachers on the southern Gold Coast by 33 per cent, the tripling of school grants to \$4.2m for schools in the area, \$16.5m for beach restoration from Tugun to Kirra, \$620,000 towards buying computers, improving schools and helping P & Cs and the addition of 320 hectares to Springbrook National Park.

Time expired.

**Ms BLIGH** (South Brisbane) (10.51 p.m.): I rise tonight to oppose the motion before the House because, quite frankly, I lack confidence in those opposite to form a Government. I lack confidence in their commitment; I lack confidence in their effort; I lack confidence in their ability and I lack confidence in their policy strength. Why do I lack confidence in those areas? First and foremost, it is because of their absolute refusal to spell out any comprehensive platform for



their vision of the future for this State. They refused to do that at the 1995 election, and today in this House they have refused to do that in support of their own confidence motion. In the absence of any clear statement from them about how they will form Government and what they will do in Government, my colleagues and I have no choice but to rely on their record. What is their record? It is a shameful record of neglect of this State—one that I think has been documented amply today in speech after speech.

In terms of their ability, I look across from me and I see a number of members of the previous National Party Government, a number of members who brought us that shameful record of neglect. This morning, I heard Mr Borbidge say that the politics of 1996 are vastly different from those of a decade ago. But I ask myself: what has changed? We face the prospect of a front bench, a Cabinet, comprised of approximately one-third of the former Ministers and members of the previous National Party Government.

Quite frankly, I would categorise the things that we hear from those people opposite as what I call marching back to the future. What is one of their main platforms? A referendum on an Upper House in this State! If that is the way for us to enter the twenty-first century, then I dread to think what else members opposite have in store for us. I have to say that when I walked into this place this morning and saw the dead sheep back in this Parliament, I thought to myself, "If that is not a symbol of what we have in store for us, what is?" I can only take it from that that we can all look forward in breathless anticipation to the member for Nicklin appearing in similar garb in the very near future.

Indeed, why should I have confidence in the ability of the Borbidge and Sheldon team when the coalition team itself has given me no reason today to have such confidence? We have not heard one speaker from the front or the back bench to support their leadership. I ask myself: why do they not have any speakers? Then I remember that, of course, today we were on television; today we were broadcast live across the State. Indeed, why would the Borbidge and Sheldon team want to have on Statewide television people such as Mr Cooper, Mr Lingard, Mr Littleproud, Mr Lester and Mr FitzGerald? Why would they want those people standing up and supporting a motion of confidence?

**Mr Briskey:** They would be an embarrassment.

**Ms BLIGH:** Exactly. As my friend the member for Cleveland reminds me, they would be an absolute embarrassment. If Mr Borbidge and Mrs Sheldon could not use those people to support the motion of confidence, from where would their support come? From those people who have become new members of that team? From those people to my left, whom I have come to regard as the Chauncey Gardiner wing of this new Government? I doubt it.

This morning, we heard many members talk about policy and what it means to the Labor Party. Why is it so important to the Labor Party? As the member for Logan said this morning, the Labor Party believes in the power of policy to shape our lives and the lives of people in this State. The Labor Party believes that policy is the basis of action. One could see that in the many achievements that have been identified by successive speakers today.

This coalition Government was elected without any comprehensive vision for the future of this State. Today, it has tried to make the transition to Government without spelling out any program and without committing to anything more than platitudes. Even on those issues that have been identified as priorities—health and law and order—what details do we have? What details do the people of Queensland have? How many prison cells will there be? Where will they be? How much funding will be allocated to them? When will a new watch-house be delivered and where will it be constructed? How will waiting lists be cut? Will they be cut in the same way as housing waiting lists were cut in the past by those members opposite? What is the future of the regional health authorities and the staff that are employed there? All of this from a party that has jumped up and down for weeks calling for the Parliament to sit—a party that now presents itself to this House with two Ministers responsible for everything. I guess that is an advance on the previous National Party Government, which had really one Minister for everything.

In the absence of any Cabinet being announced today, how can I be certain? How can I tell my constituents that the member for Keppel will not be the Minister for Industrial Relations? How can the coalition tell us that we will not see the member for Keppel ruling over industrial relations in this State once again? How can I tell the people that I represent that we could have any confidence in that prospect?

Policy detail and policy strength is intrinsic to Labor in Government at any level because, in Government, Labor does things. What is clear to me is that at any level of government, what conservatives do is undo things. The hallmark of conservatism—and we have seen it today—is that constant harking back to a mythical golden age, a golden age that exists only in the coalition's nostalgic imagination. This morning, we heard the Premier say that he hopes to return to a time when the public received value for the money spent. I ask the Premier: which sections of the Queensland community received value for money in the mythical golden age of his imagination? Was it the underpaid teachers in overcrowded classrooms? Was it the people of rural and regional Queensland who had to travel to Brisbane for anything more than basic health care? Was it the Queensland families who saw no State spending on child care, after-school care or vacation care? Was it the victims of crime who received no court support programs, little or no counselling service and no compensation? Where was the value for money for those people?

Any analysis of what little coalition policy exists reveals that it rests principally on undoing and dismantling the progressive reforms of the Labor Government. In the absence of an ability to form a Government and the policy that it takes to underpin it, it was inevitable that, this morning, the coalition leaders had little more to rely on than image and empty rhetoric. What is the image that they are portraying to us? We see Mr Borbidge, not unlike his Federal colleagues, masquerading with very much similar rhetoric that one would expect from a Labor leader. I refer to some of the comments that I read in the *Sunday Mail* last Sunday that Mr Borbidge made to a National Party conference in Townsville last Saturday. He stated—

"The coalition that I lead will redefine the political process"—

and haven't we seen that redefinition this morning! He stated further that it will—

". . . create the mechanisms, end the bias, restore the balance that a fair and equitable society needs to grow and prosper."

He stated further—

". . . that everyone should receive equal treatment wherever they live and whatever they do."

We read words such as "equal", "equitable" and "fair", yet what did this group of people do in this House not two and a half years ago

when the anti-discrimination legislation was introduced by the Labor Government? They opposed that legislation. Who spoke against it? The Deputy Premier and three prospective members, I believe, of the front bench.

In that same speech, Mr Borbidge promised that the Government would not be conducting wholesale privatisations. As the member for Bulimba has alluded to—and I am sure the Premier is aware—currently a document is circulating throughout the public service. I do not know about its accuracy.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Ms BLIGH:** It purports to be a transition to Government document. It indicates that this Government will be doing wholesale privatisations of all of the business units. If, in fact, it is fraudulent, then I call on the Premier tonight to give an ironclad guarantee to the 10,000 public sector employees in those business units of the Administrative Services Department, and place it on the record of the House.

**Mr Borbidge:** It is done.

**Ms BLIGH:** Not in *Hansard*, I do not believe.

**Mr FitzGerald:** It is done once you accept the interjection.

**Ms BLIGH:** I thank the honourable member.

On a different note, I am sorry that the Deputy Premier is not here, because I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her on the position that she has achieved. I have a long history of promoting women in politics; I have a long history of promoting women within the Labor Party into Parliament. I congratulate Mrs Sheldon on the high position that she, as a woman in politics in Queensland, has achieved. I expect her to perform in that position and to be a credit to other women who aspire to similar positions, both in their workplaces and in the political realm of this State.

However, I call on Mrs Sheldon to recognise that the place of women in politics at this point in history is to play a watchdog role on the very many expectations that women in our community have of them. I call on her to give commitments that, in Government, she will protect the following achievements: that she will give a guarantee to maintain the current level of funding from the State Budget into child-care, after-school and vacation programs; that she will maintain the existing commitments and forward programs for women's services, such as the Working Women's Service, the Women's

Legal Service and the Women's Health Service; that she will maintain the level of funding for breast screening throughout this State, and all the forward projections for the expansion of that program; that she will retain the commitment made with public sector unions to implement paid maternity leave for public sector workers from 1 July this year; that she will work to protect the legislative protections that have been put in place through domestic violence legislation, anti-discrimination legislation and EEO legislation; and that she will maintain the very successful Women's Register and other similar services for women throughout this State.

I would like to return very briefly to the question of anti-discrimination legislation. In my electorate, which has many different cultures working and living harmoniously side by side, the need to foster tolerance is a constant one. This harmony is maintained because people are ever vigilant against racism and intolerance. In my view, the anti-discrimination legislation provides redress. The Human Rights Commission that administers that legislation conducts education programs, and programs such as the Community Justice Program assist in the implementation of those programs. The State and Commonwealth funding agreement for the Human Rights Commission is due for renegotiation by the end of this year. I call on the new Government to enter into those negotiations, regardless of who is in power at the Federal level, in a way that will maintain the current level of service, and hopefully work towards expanding it into regional centres throughout the State.

I would like to take this opportunity, as a number of my colleagues have, to express my disappointment that the member for Gladstone has remained silent throughout this debate. I acknowledge her right to make the decision that she made, although I dispute her rationale. Regardless of whether she is judged to be right or wrong, this is a momentous and historic day in Queensland politics and, in my view, she has an obligation to articulate, defend and record her decision in this, the House of the people, for future generations, for political historians and for the benefit of future Parliaments. In fact, if she had made a different decision and had decided to support the Labor Party Government, I would have had the same expectation of her. Either decision is one that I think requires some recognition in this House.

I would like to conclude by recording my personal debt of gratitude to Wayne Goss, Tom Burns, the Labor Ministry and my caucus

colleagues who, in the lead-up to the 1989 election, worked tirelessly to overturn a corrupt regime. In the six years before I entered this House, they committed themselves to bringing all of their energy, all of their skills, all of their political will and all of their integrity to the task of government in this State. I thank all of these people for having the courage and the foresight to make things happen, for using their time in Government to actually do something. I pledge myself to the vigorous protection of all that they have achieved against the inevitable ravages of the moribund minority who sit opposite. To those who do sit opposite, I say: they do not have my confidence, they do not have the confidence of the majority of the people whom I represent and I cannot believe that they expect the confidence of these people when they are not prepared to defend themselves.

**Mr PEARCE** (Fitzroy) (11.08 p.m.): Members opposite should not go away, because I have a bit for them.

I rise to support the members of the Labor Party who spoke against the motion of confidence in the Government led by Mr Borbidge, and to support the amendment before the House that there be no general election before 2 May 1998 without the express resolution of the Parliament. There has been strong debate as to why there should not be a vote of confidence in the Government, and I am certainly not going to rehash much of what has already been said. In considering the argument, I agree with the words of Fitzgerald who, in 1988, said—and members should listen to this—that a Government in our political system which achieves office by means other than fair elections lacks legitimate political authority over that system. The National Party did not have a legitimate Government then and it does not have a legitimate Government now.

In presenting my contribution to the House—and I am going to be honest about this from the start—on a number of occasions I will refer to Mrs Cunningham and her electorate. I want to make it very clear that I will not be attacking her integrity. I intend to link her—

**A Government member:** She is right behind you.

**Mr PEARCE:** I know, and it is unfortunate that she is behind me because I would like to be able to look her in the eye. However, that is the way the Parliament is set up and I cannot do anything about it. I will be linking her to issues that affect my electorate, because we are neighbours—her electorate

adjoins my electorate. She needs to understand how her support for the coalition may impact on the people of Gladstone, just as it may impact on the people of my electorate and people right across Queensland.

In speaking briefly to the amendment, much has been said today about the relationship between the member for Gladstone and the coalition. We have heard the Premier say that he is committed to running the full term of Parliament, which would mean an election around mid-1998. Mrs Cunningham has publicly stated that she wants to see Parliament proceed and that there should be no early election. If she is sincere about that, then she deserves the respect of the members of this place. However, having given this matter some thought, I would like to put forward the following scenario. Given that there is some concern in the community about Mrs Cunningham's true independence, over time I believe that there will be a need for her to make a strong stand for and on behalf of the people of Gladstone on an issue of significant importance to them, otherwise her credibility will be further undermined.

I put this to the House: why could not the Premier and Mrs Cunningham come to an agreement to develop an issue at the local level, or in some form of legislation, that would cause her to vigorously defend her electorate in Parliament, in the media, and in her electorate. That may in fact then be the trigger for an early election. No doubt there would be focus on her independence and, if handled properly, she would get recognition for maintaining her independence. The deal could be that she would, during an election campaign, have the full backing of the resources of the coalition and be guaranteed the preferences of the National Party, which assisted her in winning the seat of Gladstone last July, because it was with 91 per cent of National Party preferences that Mrs Cunningham became the member for Gladstone. Therefore, if no deals have been made and the member for Gladstone is genuine in her commitment about an election date, she should support the amendment before the House.

I am pleased to see Mr Gilmore in the Chamber, because I understand that he is the incoming Minister for Minerals and Energy. There are a few points that I would like to raise about the coal industry. Most people know that I am an old coalminer by trade, and I am quite proud of that fact.

In flicking through the unannounced policy document of the coalition, under the Minerals and Energy portfolio the first thing that I noticed was that there was no reference to the health and safety of mine workers. There were plenty of flowery words about national interest, taxation, royalties and relations with land-holders, but nothing about workplace health and safety for the State's mine workers. This is a real concern to me, as it shows that the attitude of the National Party has not changed since it was kicked out by the people of Queensland in 1989.

**Mr Gilmore** interjected.

**Mr PEARCE:** I want the honourable member to listen. I take the interjection. I hope that, by the end of tonight, the honourable member will ease a few of my concerns.

**Mr Gilmore:** I have already given you those privately.

**Mr PEARCE:** I will come to that point, too.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr PEARCE:** Mr Speaker, I plead for a bit of silence from the member; every time his mouth moves, he makes a noise that is quite disturbing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will endeavour to protect the honourable member.

**Mr PEARCE:** It is known that the coalitions at the State and Federal levels simply hate mine workers, because they know that mine workers are powerful and united against the conservative policies of the Liberal and National Parties. It is the same National Party as that which refused to provide funds to deliver on the recommendations of the report into the 1986 Moura disaster. People went to the Government and sought funding for those recommendations. I refer to research into friction ignition in coalmines and research into ignition by other underground apparatuses. The former National Party Government threw those recommendations away. I am going to make sure that that does not happen in relation to the most recent disaster.

Unlike the National Party, the Labor Government had a determination to deliver as soon as possible on the recommendations of the latest terrible, heart-wrenching disaster in the Queensland coal industry, the Moura No. 2 explosion on 7 August 1994, which cost the lives of 11 men. To the credit of Tony McGrady, he moved within hours of the report into the last disaster being handed down. He announced three committees in response to the report. One was to review the mining inspectorate, one to oversee the

recommendations of the report, and the third one was to review the legislation. Those committees have already started work, and I seek a public assurance from the incoming Minerals and Energy Minister that these committees will be allowed to continue their work. Do I get that assurance?

**Mr Gilmore** interjected.

**Mr PEARCE:** So the member is not giving us a commitment that those committees will be allowed to continue their work? That is what I am asking. It is pretty straightforward. Will those committees that have been set up and which have already started their work be allowed to finish their work? The Minister cannot give a commitment. I wonder why. I had faith in the honourable member, because I thought that he would allow those committees to continue their work. Obviously, if the honourable member cannot give that commitment he cannot give an assurance about those committees being properly funded. I am surprised that the honourable member is giving me the response that he is.

**Mr Gilmore:** Let me assure you that it will be done. Don't worry about it.

**Mr PEARCE:** Will those committees be allowed to continue their work? The member cannot give that assurance. I am very disappointed in the honourable member, because I had a bit more confidence in him. Mr McGrady also appointed me to the committee reviewing the mining inspectorate, an appointment that I accepted with great pride, as I have a genuine commitment as a former coalminer and representative of a coalmining based electorate to make sure that the recommendations of the Mining Warden, Frank Windridge, are put in place to the last detail. I am asking for a commitment from the honourable member that I will remain on that committee. The honourable member is the incoming Minister. I ask the Premier: will I be able to remain on that committee and see it through till the end?

**Mr Borbidge:** Write me a letter and I will consider it.

**Mr PEARCE:** I am very disappointed, because a spokesman who supposedly represented the Premier said that I could stay on that committee. The Premier should be well aware that I have the total support of every coalminer in Queensland to remain on that committee. I will fight to the last breath and I will use any method I can to make sure that I stay on that committee. I have the experience and I know what the problems are. I will not have any half-smart bureaucrat standing over

mine workers and implementing things that are not acceptable. The former National Party Government could not deliver on the recommendations of the last inquiry, and I am doubtful now whether this Government can deliver on these recommendations.

**Mr Stoneman:** You will get a reply.

**Mr PEARCE:** The Government will hear from me every bloody day of the week, because I am not going to have mine workers' lives threatened again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

**Mr PEARCE:** I withdraw. I know that I get a bit excited. I am an old coalminer; I cannot help it.

**An honourable member:** You are not that old.

**Mr PEARCE:** I am not that old, but I am getting there.

I also noticed that it was the coalition's policy to abolish the Queensland Coal Board and transfer its activities to the Department of Minerals and Energy. I know that I will not get a commitment from the honourable member on that point, because he cannot give me a commitment on anything else. This is a concern, as I believe the Coal Board, if allowed to operate as it should, could be the watchdog for maintaining and improving health standards in the coal industry. The Queensland Coal Association, which is a very good mate of the coalition, has never supported the Coal Board, just as it is a vocal proponent of deregulation and has in the past called for the abolition of union-appointed check inspectors in coalmines and the transfer of the function of the inspection of coalmines to individual mines.

I argue strongly that that would be a most unacceptable situation. Most mine site management are not committed to health and safety. There are some good mines and managers, but there are some cowboys who really need to be watched. We have to look only at what happened at Moura in 1994 to understand what can happen when management is left with the responsibility of looking after the welfare of mine workers. This is where I ask Mrs Cunningham to link in. She should look closely at what the coalition has planned for the mining industry. Mine workers have purchased homes in Gladstone, they have relatives and friends who live in Gladstone, and they expect Mrs Cunningham to work in their interests.

Another issue that causes me some real concerns is the coalition's industrial relations

policy. The people of the industrial city of Gladstone must be shaking in their boots at the thought of Mrs Cunningham supporting the introduction of legislation that will attack the wages and conditions of decent, hardworking men and women who have mortgages and young families and will attack the quality of life that was protected under a Labor Government. I say to members such as the member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, who is a decent, hardworking member, and other National Party members who have come off the land and who have employed people: I cannot understand that the coalition has in its policy that all awards relating to primary industry should be replaced by voluntary employment agreements.

Some decent graziers and farmers will do the right thing, but there are some who will take their workers for their last cent. Are we going back to the old days when farm workers got paid a billy of milk, half a sheep, a loaf of bread and got their electricity paid? Are we going back to those days? I certainly hope not, and I hope that Mrs Cunningham gives that a lot of thought before she supports that type of legislation in this place.

I also point out that under the coalition's industrial relations policy there is a provision to provide legally enforceable voluntary agreements available to all enterprises regardless of size, big or small. Voluntary agreements will see workers sign away conditions. If they do not, they will learn about those in the community who will undercut wages and conditions for their jobs. The sad thing about high unemployment is that it suits the coalition's type of politics. If there is high unemployment and the employer wants to screw workers, if the workers do not give in to the employer's demands, they are sacked and somebody else is put on.

As to the coalition's policy of abolishing the power to grant preference to union members—a lot of unions will be happy to hear about that. They knew it was there, but they will be happy to hear that Mrs Cunningham is going to be supporting the coalition to bring in that type of legislation.

Another coalition proposal is strengthened union deregistration procedures. Mrs Cunningham lives in the fastest growing industrial city in Queensland and, for that matter, Australia. I am sure that many of the workers in that city want to retain their union membership and would certainly not support that type of legislation.

Another coalition proposal is to review and reform the provisions relating to union

structures to promote direct employer/employee dealing at enterprise level. In my opinion, the impact of this proposal on young people looking for work would be catastrophic, because young workers entering the work force for the first time do not have an understanding of what the conditions are and what they are entitled to. I can see some smart employer sitting there and screwing the hell out of young people so that they finish up working for \$3 an hour, as has been mooted in the past by coalition leaders in this country.

Another proposal is to allow changes in wages and conditions to vary between firms and industries. Does this mean the end of award wages and conditions and the safety net which protects maternity leave and long service leave? These are serious matters which impact on the quality of life of workers and their families. I cannot understand how Mrs Cunningham has agreed to devote her support to a coalition which intends to bring in that type of legislation.

I turn to another interesting point. The document states—

"Members of the community are entitled to be assured of continued supply of essential services. This is particularly important in areas such as hospitals and nursing homes, where it is unacceptable for lives to be put at risk by irresponsible strike action or bans or limitations which can and have affected reliable power supplies. The Liberals and Nationals in Government will enact comprehensive essential services legislation to protect the community from interference with essential services."

This statement means that all those workers out there who currently have a right to stand up for what they believe in—their conditions and their wages—and who were not frightened to take on the Labor Government by going on strike will not have an opportunity to do so under the mob opposite. All of those rights have gone out the door. Given that Gladstone is a large industrial city which relies on the coal industry and people who work on the land, I believe that Mrs Cunningham has a lot of thinking to do.

I want to pursue now the matter of a high school in Gracemere. A lot of work has been put into preparing what is now recognised as one of the best ever submissions to go to the Education Department. David Hamill gave me a commitment that everything would be done to deliver a high school based on the contents of the submission. There is still a lot of work to do and a long way to go. The National Party

candidate at the last election suggested that she could deliver a high school to Gracemere if she was able to defeat me on 15 July. The commitment was there. The people of Gracemere and district have done the hard yards and proved their case. If the coalition believed that it could deliver a high school upon the election of a local National Party person, then it obviously believed in the need for that facility and it can deliver it—regardless of the party to which the elected member belongs.

I wish to bring a matter to the attention of the incoming Minister for Health, Mr Horan. If he is appointed as Minister, I ask him to make a clear public statement on whether or not he will honour Labor's commitment to provide an acute in-patient health facility at Woorabinda. I know that the member for Callide, the member for Keppel and other members of the National Party would like to turn their backs on the people of Woorabinda. We cannot forget that it was the National Party which rounded up some Aboriginals and dumped them in an isolated patch on the bank of a creek which was 17 kilometres away from a permanent water supply. In common with everybody else, we recognise that the people of Woorabinda should have access to a modern health facility. Women want to have their babies at Woorabinda. Sick people want to be close to their families. The other important factor that must be taken on board is that such a facility would ease the workload on the Rockhampton Hospital. We have already started the consultation process through a development plan. An amount of \$4.6m has been committed by the Labor Government to that facility. I would appreciate it if Mrs Cunningham chose to support the people of Woorabinda.

Time expired.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN** (Caboolture) (11.25 p.m.): Lest there be any doubt, I make it clear that I rise tonight to emphatically oppose the confidence motion before the House. In moving the motion this morning, the Premier, Mr Borbidge, gave many reassuring messages to the public servants of this State that they had nothing to fear from the incoming Government. Let me advise the House that this afternoon Mr Gerard Bradley, one of the most honourable, objective and impartial public servants this State has ever had, was summarily dismissed by the incoming Government. I am advised that he was called to Parliament House this afternoon and sacked by Mrs Sheldon. Mr Bradley—who, as I have said, is honourable,

objective and impartial—has had to go. I am told also that the locks on his office have been changed.

The irony of it is that for six years the members sitting opposite have accused us of cronyism. I well remember, as we would all remember, the litany of appointments read out in this Chamber every day by the member for Clayfield when he was the member for Merthyr. One has to admire his diligence in finding names of people to slur in this Parliament, but he did it, and he did it to accuse us of cronyism. While they were accusing us of cronyism, we brought about merit selection in the public service in this State. Yet in its first hours, the coalition Government has made a gaffe. It has removed a senior public servant to make way for a political mate.

**Mr Bredhauer:** They don't even have the confidence of the Parliament.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** Members opposite do not even have the confidence of the Parliament, and the senior public servants are on the way out.

There are rumours within the public service that a man named Doug McTaggart from Bond University—a man with little or no public sector experience—is to fill this sudden vacancy. There has been no advertising; there has been no merit test; there has not even been a test of who else might be available. This is cronyism at its worst. Despite what Mr Borbidge said to us this morning about this being a very different National/Liberal Party coalition Government, in its very first hours, without the confidence of the House, it is business as usual for this coalition Government. This is exactly what we saw in this State for 32 very, very dark years.

In her first hours in this place, Mrs Sheldon has smeared the State's credit rating and she has sacked a lifelong career public servant for no reason other than to install her own lackey, and that has to be in order for her to produce a shonky audit to further undermine the State's financial reputation so that those people opposite—those unmentionable types opposite—can justify breaking the election promises that they have made. This is a disgraceful politicisation of the public service and a move which is destroying morale in the public service even in the first days of this Government. The question for the people of Queensland is: how many public servants need not bother getting out of bed to come to work tomorrow because they will be receiving the same treatment? How many more are on this hit list that we were

guaranteed just some few short hours ago did not exist?

Confident in this incoming Government? No way! Let me outline a few of the reasons why people in my electorate will not be confident in this incoming Government. Let us talk about the Caboolture Hospital. The Caboolture Hospital was built by the Labor Government as a result of its election commitment in 1989. I freely admit that we did not quite make our timetable for the first three years, and the hospital was opened very shortly into our second term. That was not a bad effort when one considers that the people opposite, who now ask us to give them confidence, promised the people of the Caboolture area a hospital in the 1977 election, contested and won by Mr Frawley; in the 1980 election, contested and won by Mr Frawley; in the 1983 election, contested and won by Mr Frawley; and in the 1986 election, contested and won by Mr Newton. But by the time we came to power in 1989, 12 years after the then Government first made the commitment to the people of Caboolture, not a sod had been turned. Sure, they had bought a block of land and, sure, they had built a Community Health Centre which, by subterfuge, they called Stage 1 of the Caboolture Hospital. I defy any member to find a Community Health Centre as Stage 1 of a hospital anywhere else in the State. Of course, there is no confidence from the people of Caboolture or myself in this Government in terms of delivering health services to the people of Caboolture. Stage 2 of that hospital, which is well in train, is urgently needed because the people of my electorate have proved that the policies of the former Goss Government were correct: that we must build hospitals where people live—not big, central hospitals. The hospitals at Caboolture and Logan are excellent examples of that policy working and working well.

As to land management—why would we have confidence in this Government in terms of land management? Let me tell the Parliament the story of the Turnbull lease on Bribie Island. The Turnbull family had a permit to occupy an area of Bribie Island on which to graze cattle. Those members from the landed party would understand what a permit to occupy is, but for the benefit of those members who may not, I point out that it is the lowest form of land tenure in this State and can be cancelled at a month's notice. When that area was taken from the Turnbull family in order to form part of what is now Pumicestone National Park, it was suddenly decided that the Turnbull family needed to be given a grant

of a leasehold portion of Bribie Island, the reason being that they had held that permit to occupy. I ask members to bear in mind that that was the lowest form of land tenure. In order to justify the permit to occupy, the former Government invented out of nowhere something called an heirloom lease. Nobody has been able to tell me what an heirloom lease is, but the former member for that area was all over the newspapers saying, "They deserve it. It is an heirloom lease."

The recovery of that piece of valuable land for inclusion in the national park on Bribie Island cost the Goss Government a six-figure sum approaching the half-million-dollar mark. That land should never have been given to the Turnbull family. The device of an heirloom lease was a fraud, and they were not entitled to any compensation for the loss of a permit to occupy; it was simply a case of another National Party mate being given another National Party favour by another disgraced National Party Government. Why would members have any confidence that that will not happen again?

I turn now to the Ambulance Service. I do not see Mr Gilmore in the House, but Mr FitzGerald is here. During my first term in this place, I served on the ambulance committee, of which those two gentlemen were members. I believe that that committee brought down a very good report. It was also a unanimous report. I recognise that certain individuals on that committee—Mr FitzGerald and Mr Gilmore particularly—had to wrestle with some very difficult problems in coming to that conclusion. However, I believe that they did it honestly, and I believe that it was the right decision. Mr Gilmore and Mr FitzGerald were then subjected to a great deal of criticism from within their own party to the extent that Mr Gilmore said to me in the corridors of this place that he would never again serve on another committee, and I believe that he has not. Because of the treatment that he received, I do not believe that Mr Gilmore has served on another committee of this Parliament since the ambulance inquiry. The consequence of that ambulance inquiry report and the implementation of it, such as it has been by the Ambulance Service—

**Mr FitzGerald:** Such as it has been.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** I agree. Mr FitzGerald will have my full support if he wants to do an audit of the implementation of it.

The implementation of that report has raised the number of ambulance officers on Bribie Island from three to 14. Under the former system the ambulance officers on



Bribie Island did as many trips and treated as many patients as those officers operating from the centre in Caboolture, yet the imbalance of officers was three on Bribie Island and 11 in Caboolture. Since the Labor Government achieved Government, since that report and since the former National Party committee system was smashed, there has been an improvement in ambulance services on Bribie Island. The coalition's policy documents at the last election stated that a coalition Government would fund and introduce community police committees. Why should we be confident that it will not reintroduce a board system for the Ambulance Service and again take our Ambulance Service back to the dark old days? Of course we are not confident in the incoming Government.

**Mr Bredhauer:** And they don't even run chocolate wheels to pay for it.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** Absolutely, although I am sure that Mr FitzGerald would agree that in most cases it was found that the chocolate wheels were not to pay for the Ambulance Service but to keep recalcitrant officers in line. They were not really turning out much money. Before I slur everybody—I believe that the fundraising efforts of the ambulance centre at Biloela were very good and that they did make a lot of money from their fundraising, but very few ambulance centres anywhere else did.

Let me talk about Pumicestone Passage fishing. For five years I fought the fishing fraternity in this State, the Queensland Fish Management Authority and various primary industries people who seemed to block that proposal at every step. Finally, the ban was put in place after the election. I would have loved to have had it in place before the election, because I believe it would have reflected well in the number of votes that I received. And what do we have? We have the spectre of Mr Perrett standing in this place to move a disallowance motion on the closed waters declaration for Pumicestone Passage. Yet, last month, when I talked to members of Sunfish in Townsville, I was told that prior to their mass meeting of recreational fishermen in Townsville on, I think, 27 February, they received a private assurance from Mr Borbidge that, in the event that the coalition achieved the Government benches, it would not reverse the ban on fishing in Pumicestone Passage. So there is a commitment to the commercial fishermen and another to the recreational fishermen. I invite Mr Borbidge to stand up and deny that he gave them that assurance. I give him the opportunity to do so. The executive of Sunfish in Townsville told me that

the Premier had given them that assurance and they expect him to deliver on it. If he does not, so be it; I will be reminding him on every occasion possible.

**Mr Borbidge:** No. I will attend to it later in my summing-up.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** Fine. The Premier has given an assurance to recreational fishermen and another one to commercial fishermen. He certainly cannot deliver both.

**Mr Borbidge:** You are wrong. You are confused. You have this problem—you get very confused.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** I am not confused at all. I sat in that office above a fishing tackle shop and queried them on it. I said to them, "I hope you're right", and they said, "We're convinced." I said, "Why didn't you get it publicly?" They did not believe that they had to, because they believe that Mr Borbidge is their mate. Aren't they in for a shock!

Let me talk about Caboolture High School. Why would we have confidence in the incoming Government? When the Labor Party achieved Government, I won a seat from the National Party—a seat which required about an 11 per cent swing in order to do so. It was not a seat that one would expect to fall in ordinary circumstances. Admittedly, the circumstances in 1989 were extraordinary. What did we find? I am pleased to see the member for Cleveland sitting beside me. We found that, as our Administrative Services Minister was running around the schools, Caboolture High School was in the worst repair of any school he had seen in this State. A little later, he rang me and was quite pleased to be able to report to me that the Cleveland High School was worse, so I did not carry the banner of having the worst school in my electorate. Why should we have confidence in this Government? Even in the electorates that it holds by margins of 10 per cent or 11 per cent, it is not prepared to spend money.

Let me talk about the Caboolture Court House, which has just been built. I must admit that it is a brilliant courthouse. I give credit to the department because that building was built to take account of future needs—very unlike the lack of planning that was apparent when members opposite were in Government previously.

**Mr Foley:** It even has a spot for the Victims of Crime Association.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** Yes. I thank the honourable member for reminding me that he personally found a place within that building

for the Victims of Crime Association, led locally by Mrs Joyce McKechnie, from where it can run its offices. The Caboolture Court House was overcrowded years before we came to Government, and the people who worked in it worked in abysmal conditions. It took a Labor Government to give them good conditions. Why would we be confident that the members opposite would provide good Government for this State?

I am sure that the members opposite are all enjoying the thrill of attaining—however, they have attained them—the Government benches. I assure honourable members that Premier Borbidge, whose political career began as a 19-year-old in country Victoria, takes no satisfaction in the achievement. More than any other person on the benches opposite, perhaps with the possible exception of the member for Indooroopilly, the Premier is a complete political animal. Despite assurances that he has given the member for Gladstone, and despite the suggestion that the members opposite will support the Opposition Leader's amendment tonight, I doubt that any one of us or any of the many political commentators in this State seriously believe that this Parliament will run its full term. More than anybody, the Premier will feel deeply that lack of legitimacy of his administration—what has been dubbed today as a backdoor Government.

The members opposite did not win Government; it was given to them by the member for Gladstone.

**Mr Woolmer** interjected.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** The member for Springwood talks about the 54 per cent. I am pleased to hear that coming from a member of the Liberal Party. Just shut up, Luke, for a moment and you will get some information.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Palaszczuk): Order! I suggest that the honourable member withdraw the remark that he addressed to the honourable member.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** The remark is obviously withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member may continue.

**Mr J. H. SULLIVAN:** Members opposite, including the member for Springwood, chant that mantra, which has been popular with them for some months now, that is, the mantra of 54 per cent. That was their two-party preferred vote last July. That figure is true, but what does it mean? Firstly, the electoral system in this State, so unctuously supported during the EARC

process by both parties now represented on the benches opposite, recommends single-member constituencies. Despite the mantra that members opposite want to chant, they have not won a greater number of seats than we have won, even after the Mundingburra result. Secondly, if members of the coalition want to claim that their Government has a legitimacy because it received 54 per cent of the vote, they should apply their formula to the make-up of the coalition. At the 1995 election, the Liberal Party achieved 22.74 of the primary vote and won 14 seats. The National Party, with less than 4 per cent more of the vote, won more than double that number of the seats. So they cannot have it both ways. If they want to have a single-member constituency, let us have it and let us acknowledge that that requires a majority of the vote and a majority of the seats to form Government. If they want proportional representation, let us have it. I would bet the Premier does not want proportional representation. The Liberals would just about outnumber the National Party members on the benches on the other side of the Chamber now, let alone in the future when Liberal supporters would see that there might be some benefit in voting for the Liberal Party. The members opposite are not going to do that, so they should not carry on about it.

Plenty of comment has been made today about the member for Gladstone and I will make a very few additional comments. I have had to defend continually the member for Gladstone from comments made to me by people, particularly those within my party and also within the electorate who are not in the party, that she lacks intelligence. The truth is that Mrs Cunningham does not lack intelligence. From my observations of her when serving on a committee with her, she has a very sharp intellect. In my view, she does lack some political savvy, but she is not stupid. The actions that she took in sacking our Government were the deliberate actions of an intelligent person and can in no way be excused by any suggestion that they were the actions of an incompetent, no matter how great the temptation is to do so. If we are honest, I do not think that any one of us would like to be placed in the position in which she found herself. It is a lose-lose position. If she supports Labor, she loses the support of the Christian fundamental conservatives who have been her power base for a number of years. If she supports the coalition, she loses the Labor Party vote. Either way, it is goodbye to a political career for Mrs Cunningham. While I am disappointed in her actions and bitter,

what I really find repugnant is the fact that people think that she should not be criticised for it. Of course she can be criticised. She joins John Kerr, Sir Philip Game and Sitiveni Rabuka, who sacked the Labor Government at the point of a gun. She has committed an act of political savagery and deserves to be criticised for it.

Time expired.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members, the House will come to order.

**Mr BRISKEY** (Cleveland) (11.46 p.m.): The motion before the House today is a motion designed to advance Queensland backwards. As a result of the motion being passed by the National/Liberal coalition with the support of the member for Gladstone, Queensland will be taken back to the 1950s, *Women's Weekly* style of thinking of the previous National Party and coalition Governments.

The Queensland public should not be fooled by the line-up on the Government benches—all two of them today. When corruption was "so ingrained" in Queensland that Commissioner Tony Fitzgerald, QC, acknowledged that he could not hope to investigate all the matters before him, 16 of the 44 members opposite were sitting in this place at the time.

The Premier was there as a Minister of the Government of the day; so, too, were the members for Crows Nest, Keppel and Western Downs. They were all Ministers of a Government that allowed and even encouraged through lack of prohibition endemic corruption to grow and spread unheeded. The member for Beaudesert, the former Deputy Leader of the Opposition, was there also. What sort of a Minister will he make? On ABC radio last November he referred to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders as if they were recalcitrant children. He said—

"What we must realise with Aborigines and Islanders is that they're among the easiest people to control as long as there is good, strong discipline."

Nothing has changed in the National Party; they still talk about controlling Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. They also talk about women and their not needing domestic violence protection. That should send a shudder through the soul of every woman in Queensland. Those are disgusting attitudes and should not be tolerated by the Premier or

by his National/Liberal colleagues. However, they are tolerated. In other words, they accept the National Party Deputy Leader having such paternalistic, racist and misogynistic views.

Worse still, Bob Katter Junior, the Ren and Stimpy of the Federal Opposition, a Minister in the previous National Party Government enjoyed favour in that discredited Government and, of all things, was their Minister for Ethnic Affairs from December 1987. Those people on the Government benches want to come back into Government after today and promote someone just like Bob Katter Junior to the Ministry.

**Ms Spence:** The male racists in the National Party get saved, but one female Liberal woman gets dumped. It proves that they will not even protect the women in their—

**Mr BRISKEY:** That is right. It proves that nothing has changed. That made that bloke the Minister for Ethnic Affairs from December 1987. He is a person who should be drummed out of Federal Parliament for his racist comments. Imagine making someone who calls people "little slanty-eyed ideologues" the Minister for Ethnic Affairs in Queensland! This is what Queensland is in for after the motion before the House is passed. Australia's national anthem is "Advance Australia Fair". Queensland's anthem, after today, will become "Advance Queensland Backwards". Once again, 16 of the former members of that discredited era find themselves on the Government benches. Advance Queensland backwards! One wonders if the member for Crows Nest will replace the four cartons of Johnny Walker Black Label. One wonders also if he will pay the money for all the roses that he sent out from his ministerial office on Valentine's Day in 1989.

Advance Queensland backwards to an era when law-abiding Queenslanders could not gather in the streets and were not allowed to take part in protest marches. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when the police were there to do the Government's bidding. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when corruption was endemic. Advance Queensland back towards to a time when our police, nurses and teachers were the worst paid in Australia. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when protesters were beaten senseless by heavy-handed police officers who were encouraged and promoted by the Government of the day. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when Queensland had a police force rather than a Police Service. Advance Queensland

backwards to a time when the only way of doing business with the Government was by way of a political donation to the National Party.

**Mr Bredhauer:** Brown paper bags.

**Mr BRISKEY:** The member is correct—preferably by brown paper bag. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when complaints of wrongdoing by police or public servants were ignored.

Advance Queensland backwards to a time when it was not illegal to discriminate against Aborigines, women, homosexuals and minority groups within Queensland. Indeed, through the absence of legislation to the contrary, they effectively encouraged and allowed discrimination to continue. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when promotions and appointments within the public service were not in every instance made on the basis of merit. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when tendering for Government work was decided before the tenders were received and, surprise surprise, those who were successful were also big donors to the National Party. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when Government was not accountable to the people—when there was no consultation; just autocratic rule. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when Queenslanders had no trust in their Government.

Advance Queensland backwards to a time when World Heritage areas were ignored or, worse still, put under the bulldozer. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when historic buildings were demolished in the middle of the night. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when people such as George Quaid could freehold environmentally sensitive areas of Queensland for a song. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when only 2 per cent of Queensland was national park.

Advance Queensland backwards to a time when the Police Special Branch had thousands of files on ordinary people. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when Queenslanders had no right to know what information the Queensland Government held on them. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when Queenslanders could not understand the laws that governed them because legislation was not written in plain English.

Advance Queensland backwards to a time when electoral boundaries were drawn by members of the National Party so that there

were 7,000 electors in one electorate and 28,000 electors in another. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when the doctrine of the separation of powers was ignored by the Queensland Government.

**Ms Bligh:** They didn't even know what it was.

**Mr BRISKEY:** Exactly. "Ignored" is a kind word. When the incoming Police Minister was Premier, he did not even know what this cornerstone of Westminster democracy was. Advance Queensland backwards to a time when Queensland was the laughing-stock of Australia.

I cannot see how anyone could agree to a motion that this House expresses its confidence in the National/Liberal coalition Government. Let us face it: even Cheryl Kernot could not keep those bastards honest. How could anyone express confidence in the National Party and its coalition partners? They had 32 years in Government in Queensland. Look at their abysmal record and compare that with the record of achievements of the Goss Labor Government over six years. As Tony Koch said in Saturday's *Courier-Mail*, the Goss Government—

"Brought decency and honesty to Queensland's public administration."

Why should anyone support the motion before the House today, which will bring back a Government that will turn back the clock in Queensland and decency and honesty will go out the window?

The Goss Labor Government was and will go down in history as a good Government. Wayne Goss is an honest, hardworking and extremely intelligent person. His leadership of Queensland and the parliamentary Labor Party was outstanding. Tony Koch was right when he said in Saturday's *Courier-Mail*—

"Wayne Goss is a good bloke and a great family man. Queensland is the richer for having had his hand at the helm to sail it out of the storm."

Wayne Goss and the Labor Government made Queensland respectable again. Without doubt, Peter Beattie and Jim Elder will do it again.

There can be no doubt that the Borbidge Government will advance Queensland backwards. Around the Parliament today were many of those from those dark days before 2 December 1989. They are back and, therefore, Queensland, under the National/Liberal coalition Government, will return to those days.

I reiterate: how could anyone who wants Queensland to stay respectable vote in favour of the motion before the House today? Unfortunately, the member for Gladstone is not present in the Chamber. However, I particularly ask the member for Gladstone to look truly within her heart: the answer must be Labor.

**Mr ROBERTS** (Nudgee) (11.58 p.m.): I speak in support of the amendment proposed by the Opposition Leader and oppose the motion of confidence in this minority coalition Government. Firstly, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Wayne Goss and Tom Burns for their leadership of and contributions to the Labor movement and the people of Queensland. I was particularly proud to have been elected to this Parliament in July 1995 with both Wayne and Tom at the helm. They have served Queensland and the Labor movement well. Through their vision and strength, Queensland Labor has delivered many worthwhile reforms—reforms that have done what Wayne Goss desired: made Queensland a better place.

The extent of the reforms has been dealt with adequately so far in this debate. I intend to canvass only a few areas and also to highlight some of the benefits that have flowed to my constituents in the electorate of Nudgee. Before doing so, I also wish to thank other Goss Government Ministers and backbenchers for their dedication and contributions over the past six years in Government. Terry Mackenroth has outlined some of the achievements of Labor in the area of public housing. I have significant levels of public housing spread across my electorate, in particular in the Brisbane suburb of Zillmere. Some of the significant achievements in public housing in the electorate of Nudgee include, since 1991, over \$13m being spent on the provision of more houses and units and over \$3.3m being spent on maintenance of the current housing stock. As at December 1995, there were approximately 900 public dwellings in the Nudgee electorate and 35 new dwellings are planned for future construction in the district. One of the hallmarks of the Labor administration was to actively consult with public housing tenants and their representatives. Local community representatives had a meaningful opportunity to have a say on matters such as the design and the type of housing development.

One of the most active representatives of the interests of public housing tenants in my electorate is the Residents Action Group of Zillmere. This group sought and received

commitments from the Labor Government in relation to key issues such as security of tenure. Labor has said that in situations where a tenant's circumstances change—for example, their children have grown up and left home—they will not be forced to leave their homes. The question is, have these public housing tenants got the same guarantee of security of tenure under the incoming coalition Government?

Comments by the Federal coalition spokesman on housing, Senator Tambling, place grave doubts on this security of tenure issue. In relation to people's changing circumstances, Senator Tambling is quoted in the August 1994 edition of *Shelter* magazine as saying—

"In the private sector it happens naturally, because of the flexibility within the private sector. There is a problem in public housing tenancies that there is often a mindset of people locking themselves into public housing tenancies and that is why I say we need incentives, not social engineering. They are publicly subsidised, on very low rent, therefore their expenditure patterns have accepted that low rent, and they don't want to move out because it means an additional housing cost. However they are no longer technically public housing tenants. Their circumstances have generally improved in mid-age. They should move on, but won't because they enjoy going to bingo at the club, with more dough in their pocket (and) it is because of their cheap rent."

What a disgrace! Forget about family networks and friendships, forget about the links and involvement with their local community, forget about the pride and attachment these people, many of them elderly, have to their family home. If their circumstances changed, under the coalition Government they could be forced to move out. I call upon the coalition spokesman, Mr Connor, to give a clear commitment to public housing tenants in Queensland that he rejects Senator Tambling's position and guarantees public housing tenants the security of tenure they deserve in these circumstances.

**Mr Connor:** Write me a letter.

**Mr ROBERTS:** The member should give the commitment.

Labor has treated public housing as one of the most important planks in its social reform agenda. Unlike the coalition, we believe that the State has a legitimate role to play in providing safe and secure housing to those in need.

I turn now to industrial relations. The coalition says that unions and employees have nothing to fear from the incoming Government. Its past record and its policies belie this assertion. Under Labor, industrial relations have been conducted in a constructive and cooperative fashion. Dispute levels have dropped dramatically at both the State and Federal levels. Employers and employees have been actively working towards a rewriting of the award system and negotiating enterprise agreements in an environment fostered by the Industrial Relations Act and the goodwill of the participants. I pay tribute to the previous Ministers who have introduced and maintained this important piece of legislation over the past six years, particularly Nev Warburton.

This debate is about expressing confidence in a minority coalition Government. How can one support such a motion when, according to its policy position on industrial regulations, the new Government intends to launch a devastating attack on one of the most important institutions in the industrial relations system. Under coalition policy, the Industrial Relations Commission will be stripped of any real power to act as an independent umpire in disputes and matters requiring resolution between employers and employees. In its policy, released before the July 1995 election, the coalition outlined its intention to—

"... make access to the arbitration function of the Commission subject to all parties agreeing to submit to arbitration."

Therefore, there will be no power to require parties to appear before the commission to have matters arbitrated. The rule will be: if the boss does not agree the independent umpire will have no role to play. What protection will workers have under the coalition proposal? They will have next to no protection, other than the costly and time-consuming processes of common law or the Magistrates Courts. Under a coalition Government, workers can look forward to a Government that, firstly, wants to deny workers access to an independent umpire; secondly, does not support regular safety net wage increases to awards; and, thirdly, wants to tear apart Labor's unfair dismissal laws. The Government wants to make it easier for workers to get the sack. To make matters worse, it proposes to introduce a no-disadvantage test which pales into insignificance when compared with Labor's.

Under the Government's policy, the only award matters included in its minimum list of

conditions are a minimum hourly rate of pay, four weeks paid annual leave, eight days sick leave, maternity leave, parental leave and adoption leave, and 19 per cent loading for casual employees. That is all! Under Labor, the list includes all of those particular matters, plus every other condition in the award which covers the employee's employment.

I raise one final matter on the coalition's industrial relations policy: the Industrial Relations Commission is to be neutered and the only place left for workers to pursue claims will be through the civil courts. What does the worker-friendly coalition propose to do to help those workers who seek redress through the court system? In its policy it does have a section relating to legal aid, and it is worth reading that into the record because there is a catch. I quote from the coalition policy—

"All too often employees and employers have been unwilling to pursue their legal rights in the face of unreasonable union actions. Upholding of the rule of law in industrial relations is of fundamental importance, and we will support those who wish to exercise their legal rights. In appropriate cases, the Government of the day should be able to make specific grants of aid available to parties—employees or employers—to enable them to exercise their legal rights effectively."

What a sham! In practice, legal aid would be given only to those people who want to pursue the coalition's industrial relations agenda. If the Government was genuine, it would have ensured that such decisions about granting legal aid were removed from the political process and handled by an independent process.

Finally, I wish to highlight some of the benefits the electors of Nudgee have received from the Goss Labor Government after years of neglect by the coalition. In relation to education, since 1989 over \$2.3m in grants has been provided to schools in the Nudgee electorate. Since 1993, \$63,000 has been provided direct to schools to help P & Cs with the basics, including the provision of nine VCRs. Since May 1993, \$96,500 has been provided to schools in the Nudgee electorate as their share in the \$40m computer program, which was designed to ensure that every 10 upper primary and secondary school students had access to a computer. Since 1993, \$83,000 has been provided through the School Improvement Subsidy Scheme, which has meant that several schools in my electorate have been able to purchase items

such as shade structures and playground equipment and have been able to complete projects like irrigation systems. Since 1991, \$1.7m has been spent on capital works programs in schools throughout my electorate, including the building of a resource centre by conversion at the Banyo State High School.

In respect of police and corrective services, there has been an increase in established police numbers in the police district, taking in the Nudgee electorate, from 485 in 1989 under the National Party to 878 under Labor. That is an increase of over 80 per cent. Additionally, a police headquarters has been built at Boondall at a cost of \$6.1m, and a Police Beat shopfront has been established at Toombul Shopping Town.

In respect to rail transport—Northgate, Nundah, Toombul, Zillmere, Boondall, Geebung and now Banyo Railway Stations have been upgraded. Additionally, pedestrian level crossing protections have been provided at Geebung Railway Station and are in the process of being completed at Banyo and Sunshine.

Another important initiative, a new boat ramp, was completed at Nudgee Beach. That came to fruition after many years, and with the help of the former member for Nudgee, Ken Vaughan, and the current member for Lilley, Wayne Swan.

Other projects in the Nudgee electorate have included an upgrade of facilities, the modification of a science block, the restoration of fire damage, a new covered area, a new canteen and a resource centre at the Banyo State High School, the erection of a teaching block, covered games area, tuckshop and resource centre at Boondall State School, and the construction of a child-care centre at Toombul. Other recent initiatives include the provision of an access ramp to the Nudgee State Preschool, the repainting of the Geebung State School and a commitment to provide a paved courtyard for the Nudgee State Preschool, and also awnings around the administration block of the Nudgee State School.

The electors of Nudgee have been well served by the Goss Labor Government, and the people of Nudgee wanted the Goss Labor Government to remain in office. How can members therefore support a confidence motion in a two-person minority Government that has done nothing? When the member for Gladstone votes in this debate, she should consider carefully the policies to which she is giving her endorsement. Amongst other things, those policies will decimate the

Industrial Relations Commission and leave workers without adequate protection of their wages and conditions. The public housing policy, on the assessments I have outlined earlier, will threaten the security of tenure of public housing tenants. I support the amendment moved by the new Opposition Leader, Mr Beattie, and oppose the motion of confidence in the minority coalition Government.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE** (Ipswich West) (12.12 a.m.): Tonight, I support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I am very proud to have served in a Government led by Wayne Goss and Tom Burns and consisting of other Ministers and colleagues. It has been a great Government, and the people of Ipswich are very sorry to see it go. They are very sorry to see the mob opposite back in Government because they remember only too well what Ipswich received after 32 years of the previous National Party vindictive Government—absolutely nothing! Under the Goss Government, Ipswich has had its fair share of services, which have been distributed throughout the whole region of Ipswich so as to provide services to everyone.

Without a doubt, under the former National Party Government, Ipswich would have been the most underfunded city in Queensland. Early last year during the election campaign, I was surprised that the then Leader of the Opposition and now Premier and his offsider had the hide to come to Ipswich and speak about the lack of services. What a joke it was for them to speak about the lack of services in Ipswich after 32 years of giving us nothing! A headline read "Slum feared by Sheldon", and the accompanying article stated—

"South-east Queensland may end up a slum area because of the State Government's lack of planning, according to Queensland Liberal Party Leader Joan Sheldon. 'There has been no forward planning, there has been no forward infrastructure', she told a 160 strong audience at the Ipswich Leagues Club, attacking the policies of the Goss Government and speaking in relation to the lack of regional road networks, transport, education and health facilities."

What a joke! Let me address the health facilities in Ipswich. The incoming Minister for Health has been in Ipswich talking about health issues. At one stage, he was in Ipswich talking about the lack of car parking facilities at the Ipswich Hospital. Again, members opposite were in Government for 32 years, but

what did they do about it? We have put a plan in place. We have also seen the Liberal candidate for the seat of Ipswich, Steve Wilson, claiming, as did Mr Horan in earlier statements, that the \$30m that we promised at the last election was just a ploy. Mr Wilson went on to say—

"The people of Ipswich must be seriously considering whether the hospital will ever get the money promised by Labor."

They should be very concerned about whether they will ever get the money, and concerned for good reason. We promised \$30m during the election campaign. Just in recent weeks, there has been an announcement that that funding needs to be increased from \$30m to \$74.1m. We heard members opposite claiming that the reason for this sudden increase was just to try to stick it to the new Government to try to get a few extra dollars out of it. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There was a lot of planning and all of the consultation work has been done. When we said originally that the cost would be about \$30m, that was said in good faith. We were not to know at the time that the building that had been built in days gone by, certainly not under our Government, was not structurally sound, namely, a high-rise building in Ipswich. I hope to hell that the Government does not try to pull out the money; if we do not do something about it in the next couple of years, the damned thing will fall down. I appeal to the Government not to be vindictive towards Ipswich and to make sure that it gets its fair share.

Mr Horan spoke earlier in relation to a car park at Ipswich. A car park is also part of the plans. An car park for 800 cars will be built at a cost of \$2.46m. That is additional funding. I refer to the health plaza in Ipswich, to which the dental clinic will be moved at a cost of \$2.9m. Those facilities are certainly deserved by the people of Ipswich. We hope that under this new Government we will see some good signs for the residents of Ipswich.

The new Government, if we can call it that, has had the hide to run around this State talking about law and order. On this side of the House, we remember only too well the many millions of dollars that we have had to spend to try to make up for some of the neglect of the past. Unfortunately, in recent times we have seen the police union trying to get back into bed with the National Party with dishonest claims. One must ask: why? When the National/Liberal Party was in Government

before, what did it ever do for the Police Service in Queensland? We had the worst funded Police Service in Australia. It had the fewest members and the worst conditions, yet now it wants to get back into bed again. One can assume only that it would like to trade off conditions again, perhaps for political muscle.

In recent weeks, the police union circulated an article in the Ipswich area. It was good enough to put the names of three members of Parliament on it as well, mine being one of them. Interestingly, it starts off by saying, "It's time to tell the truth on policing." Isn't that lovely? Isn't it a shame that they did not tell the truth? They go on to say that in 1990 there were 6,363 police in Queensland. Further, they go on to say that in 1995 there were fewer police than there were in 1990. That is absolutely fabricated. In 1990, they added 839 to the figure so that they could fabricate it.

**Mr Cooper** interjected.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** It is good to see the incoming Minister agreeing with the police figures. Perhaps he was the one who gave them the rubbery figures, or did they fabricate them themselves? The residents of Queensland have an expectation that the police union would be honest. How many of us would like to have police testifying against us in court? The fact is that they fabricated the figures.

Let us look at the record of our friends opposite, and certainly that of our new Premier when he was a Minister in the Bjelke-Petersen Government, and also the incoming Police Minister. Back in 1987-88, for that entire year, the former National Party Government employed 13 police for all of Queensland. What a disgraceful record! Out of those 13 police, three of them went behind the desk and 10 of them actually became operational police. Yet the Government has the hide to come in here and talk about police numbers and this Government's record! What a joke!

Under the Goss Government, we employed 770 civilians from 1989 till just recently, and that released 440 police from behind desks back into operational duties. We employed a further 1,100 police since 1989 on operational duties. If we combine that with the percentage of police assigned to operational duties, from 78 per cent in 1989 to approximately 90 per cent in 1995, this represents an increase of 1,625 operational police. We should not forget the word "operational", because the incoming Minister always liked to fabricate the figures in relation to that category of police. Another 37 officers



are ready to graduate from the academy now. The Goss Government's Police budget of \$541m this financial year has made that possible. If one considers the Police budget of the National Party in 1989 of \$295m, it is easy to see why it did such a hopeless job in terms of providing adequate resources.

I will relate to the House the problems that I faced as a new member when I was elected in 1989. The Juvenile Aid Bureau in my electorate was a very small office about the same size as the Whip's office here. There were nine officers working from that office and it contained phones, fax machines and other equipment. At the same time as people walked in and out of the room, children were interviewed about sexual offences that had allegedly been committed on them. What a disgrace! We opened a new Juvenile Aid Bureau at a cost of approximately \$120,000. The North Ipswich Police Station in my electorate did not have a fax machine or a photocopier. The police used to come to my office if they needed to do any photocopying. That was the oldest station in Queensland. It did not even have a hot water supply. What an absolute joke!

In the *Queensland Times* of 12 January last year, the then Opposition Police spokesman—but, unfortunately, to my sorrow, I suppose he is about to become the Police Minister—made a certain statement. I want to remind coalition members of that statement, and I will keep it for a rainy day. In fact, I will frame it! The statement reads—

"Opposition police spokesman Russell Cooper said Ipswich needed 90 more police to increase the ratio of police to population to the State average."

We will remember that. There are now over 200 officers stationed in the region, and I suppose if we give the Government another six months or even till Christmas time we should have 300 police officers based in Ipswich. Mr Cooper has claimed that the region needs another 90 officers and, now that he is set to become the Minister, we will be only too happy to take those extra officers. I hope that Mr Cooper comes good and delivers those additional police, because the people of Ipswich will not forget that statement, and neither will I. We will keep at Mr Cooper on that issue.

Another cause for concern for the residents of Ipswich relates to the urban renewal program administered by Terry Mackenroth. He has done a wonderful job in that regard. Such a program is needed desperately in Ipswich. I hope that the

coalition Government has the decency to let it continue. The program was established in approximately 1994. In common with many other areas that were settled in the sixties, the facilities put in place in Ipswich were pathetic. The maintenance that went into the region was dreadful. In the year before it lost office, the previous National Party Government spent \$2.3m on maintenance in the region compared with figures in the high fifty millions spent under the Labor Government. We can only hope that the residents of that region do not once again receive the poor level of services provided by the National Party Government in the past.

Leichhardt is one of those locations which in the past has had poor public transport. Until recently no Neighbourhood Watch programs existed in that location. Welfare support centres were non-existent. There was poor access to banking, shopping, health and pharmaceutical supplies. There were no sporting facilities for young people, apart from a golf club. There was no swimming pool. Since the Labor Party came to Government, the electrification of the railway to Rosewood—which was made possible by David Hamill—at a cost of \$11.8m has taken electric trains into the suburb of Wulkuraka.

**Mr Santoro:** He knocked off my railway line from Eagle Junction.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** If the member opposite had the guts, he would get up and say a few words. But he is not game. He has been told by his boss that he is not allowed to speak. In those circumstances, he should just sit there and be quiet. The Police Beat is another service that we provided for the Leichhardt area, and it has been a tremendous benefit to those residents.

People are concerned about the future of another initiative of the Labor Government. For the last six or seven months, we have been negotiating with the Leichhardt regional community in relation to recreational centres. A couple of weeks ago, Tom Burns announced that a \$1.3m recreational centre is to be established in that region. The local police approached me about the tremendous need for such a facility. Representatives from the local council, the local community and the joint partners in the development in that area were also very keen to see the establishment of such a facility, so it has community support. The people of that community got up off their backsides and had plans drawn up depicting the sort of facility that they wanted. They came up with a comprehensive business plan on what they wanted. This is not something that

was dreamed up overnight; it has been worked on for a long period. We hope that the incoming Government has the decency to go through with that project.

One of the other projects that we have worked on—and I believe that it would be too late for the coalition Government to cancel it even if it wanted to—is the construction of a swimming pool at the Leichhardt school. It will be a community pool which will be open outside school hours to the rest of the community. That will certainly be of great benefit to the Ipswich region.

Another issue of major concern to the residents of Ipswich is the proposed university, which has received wide publicity in recent times. That university will create somewhere in the vicinity of 3,000 jobs for Ipswich. I can assure the House that those jobs are desperately needed. I am concerned about this Government taking away that facility or convincing the higher education people to come back and say, "Look, we do not want to go to Ipswich." It is a concern of mine that pressure will be put on those people to say, "We do not want to go there."

**Mr FitzGerald:** There has never been an indication that that would happen.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I hope that the member for Lockyer supports me in some of these matters. The university and the hospital to which I referred will service his electorate as well. One can only hope that the member plays a part in supporting those projects.

Not only does the university present the potential for job creation but there is also the possibility of another development that has been worked on for almost two years. In common with other regions, the business community of Ipswich has been struggling for a period of time. It desperately needs a boost. Developers have been negotiating with the Myer group of companies and are looking at the prospect of building a centre in Ipswich. That centre is by no means ready to roll. It is very much dependent on the university, because without that university going ahead there is no way in the world that a major department store will be constructed in the region. The developers have made that quite clear. We are talking about a \$100m development. I am quite happy to show any members opposite all the work that has already been done in relation to that proposal. We are talking about the creation of 1,500 permanent jobs and 1,000 casual jobs. I can assure the House that that is a boost that the Ipswich community needs badly. It will be possible only if this Government ensures that

the proposed university is located in Ipswich. All the work has been done. There is an expectation on the part of residents that the Government will do the right thing. I must say that some of us have reservations, because I do not think——

**Mr Santoro:** Now don't get nasty.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I do not believe that coalition members can change their spots. The member for Clayfield certainly cannot change his spots.

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr Santoro** interjected.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I am sorry, but I cannot hear the Premier; his mate has too big a mouth.

**Mr Borbidge:** Give us a chance to prove that you are wrong.

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I take the interjection from the Premier, who asked us to give the Government a chance to prove that we are wrong. I hope that that is the case, but I can assure him that if it is not and if some of these facilities are taken away from Ipswich, the Government will be in for a good fight.

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumba) (12.30 a.m.): Because of the lateness of the hour and because honourable members opposite have been so patient and sat there so quietly, I will be very brief. It is interesting, though, that honourable members opposite have sat there so quietly. Perhaps this is the first Government to have a no-speeches policy. Of course, making speeches—with or without microphones—is what honourable members opposite are paid to do, but if they choose not to then that is entirely up to them. However, I ask honourable members to ponder for a moment how ridiculous is the motion that the Premier wants us to support, because it is unique to constitutional history.

This is the first time that a Westminster Parliament has been asked to vote confidence in a Government, presumably to be of 18 people, when only two of them have been identified. The Premier told us in yesterday's newspaper that his Government would be open and accountable, but this is the most secretive Government in history. It is not even revealing its identities. Members are being asked to vote confidence in people not capable of being identified. When the emperor Caligula insisted that the Senate of Rome appoint his horse as a consul, at least the Senate knew in whom it was supposed to have confidence. Why is it that we do not have a Cabinet fronting this House today? We are told that the Government did not have

time to get one together—but would we please vote confidence in it, anyway. How much time has it had? It is a week since the Cunningham doctrine was enunciated in Gladstone.

**An Opposition member** interjected.

**Mr WELLS:** As the honourable member says, the Government has had time to sack a Treasury head.

It is three weeks since the Mundingburra by-election. It is six years since the coalition started putting shadow Ministries together in preparation for this very moment. Members opposite spent six years as Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, six years preparing for today, and they could get only two Ministers into the first meeting of this House. I worked it out mathematically. If it takes six years to get two Ministers into the Parliament, then they would have needed 54 years in Opposition to get a full Ministry together in time. Let me look at it another way. If this Parliament, to its discredit, votes confidence in this Government when it can furnish the Parliament with only two Ministers, think of the extent to which we would have to congratulate it if it did what every other Government in history has managed to achieve, namely, turning up to Parliament with a full Ministry.

One might wonder why the Government had this difficulty in getting a team together. Unlike members on this side of the House, it does not even have to have a party room election. All that has to happen is for the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Caloundra between them to ring 16 colleagues and tell them that they are appointed. But in order to do that they have to make a decision. So members are asked to express confidence in an anonymous Government led by two people who are so indecisive that they cannot work out between themselves which of their colleagues they want to work with. The bad news for them is that Government is often about making decisions, and this lot cannot even get to the very first base.

My colleagues have spoken very fully of the achievements of the former Government and I need add nothing to that score. Sadly, much more could have been achieved if the Labor Government had continued in office. The sadness that one feels in these circumstances should not obscure the fact that what this new Government is doing here is laughably absurd. I invite the honourable member for Gladstone to consider this: it is one thing to say that she would support a coalition Government; it is another thing

entirely to support an anonymous one. Unless someone changes his or her mind in a few minutes' time, a majority of the members of this House will vote for this absurd motion.

There are reasons, however, why the member for Gladstone should pause before she supports it. These reasons apply to the honourable member and do not detract from her undertaking to support a coalition Government, because her undertaking was not, she said, to come in here and just be another number for honourable members opposite. Surely a condition of her undertaking to support a coalition Government would have to be that it should first of all produce one. Secondly, she gave certain reasons relating to her own electorate for her decision to bring down a Labor Government. In this House yesterday and today, all those reasons relating to her own electorate have been dealt with by former Ministers. If what those Ministers have said is correct, then the reasons that the member for Gladstone gave for her undertaking to support the coalition do not apply. So is what the Ministers said correct? The member for Gladstone could perhaps tell us her opinion. One might think that not telling us what her opinion was on that subject was treating the Parliament with contempt. It is like this: the member for Gladstone ought to stand in this Chamber and tell us whether she accepts that what the former Ministers said about her reasons for bringing down the Government is correct. If it is, she should recommit her decision. If, however, she does not know, as she appeared to be saying on tonight's news, again she should recommit her decision.

Let me emphasise the uniqueness and the folly of the motion moved by the Premier. Members are asked to give a blank cheque to an anonymous Government whose members are not even prepared to speak in this debate and whose leaders are too indecisive to put together a team in time for the big game. I do not have confidence in this Government, and time will tell that the people of Queensland do not have confidence in it, either.

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (12.37 a.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate. I note the recent comments made by the former Premier, the honourable member for Logan, that he did not want this particular debate to be a funeral for his Government. I believe that his colleagues have given us the longest political wake in history. I start off by observing that this debate has proven one thing, that is, that the Labor

Party has made a very smooth transition to Opposition. It might have been six years, but it felt as if it was just yesterday that the Labor Party was on that side of the House.

I would, however, at this stage—and I neglected to do so earlier—congratulate the honourable member opposite on his election as Leader of the Opposition. I hope that it is a long tenure. I want to take a moment to respond to some of the claims raised earlier in the debate by the Leader of the Opposition. I believe that there are three words that stick in my mind: "We're not bitter." That set the scene for the debate that followed. For the hours that have followed, all we have had from the Opposition is a diatribe of whingeing, bitterness, recrimination and downright sour grapes topped off, of course, by the contribution of the member for Bundamba, the Labor Party President, who launched a personal attack on the member for Gladstone. My advice to the outgoing President of the Labor Party is that he did himself no favours. He did his party no favours whatsoever. It is not my job to defend the member for Gladstone, but I would say that the member's contribution was a disgrace, and the effort of the honourable member for Caboolture was no better. I would have thought that if the Leader of the Opposition is an honourable gentleman he would dissociate himself from the remarks of his party president.

Throughout the debate members have heard the repeated line from Opposition members that this is not a legitimate Government; that we had, in the words of the Leader of the Opposition, walked in through the backdoor. Let me take a moment to repeat some of the facts. On 15 July, the National and Liberal Parties achieved 53.4 per cent of the two-party preferred vote, 7 per cent higher than Labor's achievement. A total of 110,000 additional Queenslanders directed their first-preference votes to the Liberal and National Parties ahead of Labor. That is the equivalent of five State electorates. However, all we heard after 15 July was how the State election was an aberration; it was a protest vote. According to Labor, the people of Queensland did not really want to change the Government, they just wanted to kick them in the shins.

Then we had the Mundingburra by-election and Labor's half a million dollar Singleton campaign. The people of Mundingburra delivered another message to the Labor Party. Fully aware of the circumstances surrounding their vote, the people of Mundingburra delivered the coalition with the seat with a 3 per cent swing on top of

the 9.4 per cent swing that we received in July. That was a 3 per cent additional swing in a seat that has been held continuously by the Labor Party since the second decade of this century.

What does the coalition have to do to convince the Opposition that the people of Queensland no longer appreciated their style of Government and their performance when they sat on this side of the House? Why does the Opposition not accept the message of 15 July? Why does it not accept the verdict of the people? Why does it not accept the election result with grace and with dignity? Again, the reason comes down to arrogance.

The Leader of the Opposition spent a great deal of his time alleging that the policy platform of the coalition somehow could not be funded. In common with the member for Logan, he was pulling figures of some \$7 billion out of the air. Coalition policy costings were for \$1.6 billion of extra expenditure over three years, not \$7 billion. The planned-for surpluses of \$145m in 1995-96, \$152m in 1996-97, and \$276m in 1997-98 will be adversely affected by our not taking over in July 1995, a continuation of Labor's inefficient Government and unnecessary expenditure.

Full costings, as well Labor estimates of our costs, were examined by the Institute of Public Affairs, which issued a certificate of audit confirming that our costings were fair and reasonable. The IPA stated—

"It is reasonable to forecast that the Coalition's revenue and expenditure commitments can be met whilst achieving a Budget surplus in each of the three years."

If Opposition members do not want to believe the IPA, I refer them to Michael Knox of Morgan Stockbroking, who issued a comment on both parties' costings which stated—

". . . the Coalition's costings are quite reasonable."

Mr Knox described Labor's \$7 billion figure for coalition costings as "high comedy". If Opposition members do not want to believe the IPA or Michael Knox, they should have a talk with Marc Robinson, Associate Professor in Economics and Public Policy at QUT, who was given the opportunity to examine the complete coalition costings and confirmed that they included costings of our promises, "projections for Budget outcomes for the next three years" and "the maintenance of a Budget surplus."

The *Courier-Mail's* editorial of 14 July 1995 stated—

"Labor used the resources of the State Treasury to produce the \$7 billion sum, which it then claimed was the cost to the first term budgets that would be prepared by a coalition government."

Honourable members should remember that this is the newspaper that on election day backed the members opposite. The editorial continued—

"It did this on the basis of costing policies it simultaneously was telling the electorate the coalition had refused to release. It was trying to have its cake and eat it too."

What else did the *Courier-Mail* say about the same discredited line that the members opposite tried in this place today? The editorial continued—

"In fact it emerged yesterday, on the basis of an independent audit, that the coalition's announced programme would cost \$1.6 billion over three years and could be funded from within existing budgetary parameters. Labor has been caught out again, indulging in what are generally termed terminological inexactitudes when form, or the law, dictates caution with the use of the word lie."

Those are not my words; they are the words of the *Courier-Mail* editorial.

The new Leader of the Labor Party is peddling the same dishonesty as we saw during the 15 July election. I have quoted the IPA, Michael Knox, Marc Robinson and the editor of the *Courier-Mail*. I can understand: it takes a bit of getting used to over there, does it not?

I now turn to the curious amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Opposition members have spent all day and most of the night arguing that they have no confidence in this Government but they have moved an amendment asking us to stay until May 1998. What a technical masterpiece! What a strategic gem! They are saying, "We don't have confidence in you, but please stay in office until 1 May 1998." I welcome the expression of support for the coalition Government by the Leader of the Opposition. It is a curious strategy to say the least. However, let us not write the Leader of the Opposition off quite so quickly. I am not going to underestimate the abilities of the Leader of the Opposition, because I think that there is another reason behind this motion. I think that, if we look deeply enough, if we plough through the rhetoric and sift through the

whingeing and bitterness, we might find Peter's grand plan.

**A Government member:** The retirement clause.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The retirement clause. I am pleased to inform honourable members that I think I know why the Labor Party and the Leader of the Opposition do not want another election. You see, if the 3 per cent swing in Mundingburra a fortnight ago was reproduced in a State election, we would see the end of a number of Opposition members of Parliament. Let us apply the 3 per cent swing that we had in Mundingburra. If that was repeated in a general election, we would see, in alphabetical order, the following honourable members opposite leaving the Chamber: Ashgrove, Bundaberg, Caboolture, Cairns, Cleveland, Currumbin, Everton, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Mount Gravatt, Redcliffe, Sunnybank, Thuringowa, Townsville and Whitsunday. They would all be gone. No wonder they do not want a general election. What a mess it would be then. That would be a great old faction deal, would it not? If the swing in Mundingburra that occurred just over two weeks ago had been replicated at a general election, Labor would have lost another 15 seats in addition to those it lost in July. No wonder it does not want another election; no wonder it is running scared; no wonder it wanted to move a motion calling on this Government to stay in power at least until May 1998. It is not ready for an election. It does not want an election.

This amendment has been moved not because the Opposition has suddenly seen the light, not because it has had a Damascus-like conversion, but because it is scared stiff of the prospect of going to the polls and losing seats. Let us not be fooled. If this amendment was so worthwhile and the need for stability was so essential, why did the Labor Party not propose a similar amendment during its six years in power? It did not concern the former Premier. It did not concern honourable members opposite when the member for Logan went to the polls six months early in 1992. Nor did it concern the Leader of the Opposition when the former Premier went to the polls three months early in 1995.

Notwithstanding the clear political nature of this amendment, I am pleased to advise Opposition members in marginal seats that the Government is pleased to accept the amendment put forward by the Leader of the Opposition. As Premier and in my previous position opposite, I have said consistently that there is no need for another election. Today, I

sought legal advice in respect of this amendment, and I have been advised that the passing of this motion today will not impinge on the reserve powers of Her Excellency the Governor. However, I must point out that, obviously, by supporting and accepting this amendment the Government will, in fact, be enjoying the support of the Opposition because the motion as amended is exactly what the Opposition has been arguing for all day. I now anticipate the Opposition's support for the amended motion and its vote of confidence in the National/Liberal coalition Government; or are we about to witness the spectacle of the Leader of the Opposition voting against his own amendment? We will await the outcome of this division with a great deal of interest.

The only other honourable member to whom I wish to respond in some detail relates to certain comments made by the former Premier, the honourable member for Logan. I was pleased to see the member for Logan participate in the debate and to hear from him some of what he regards as the key achievements of his administration without the rancour associated with the contributions of some of his colleagues. Under all the circumstances and out of respect for his hard work throughout his tenure, I do not intend to be churlish in relation to his contribution, but some of what he said does deserve to be put in context.

I recognise that his Government did put in place a number of important accountability measures. I agree with his clear sentiment that they will be the core of the best memories associated with his Government. I take nothing away from those contributions, but I point out that all of the substantive accountability reforms that occurred in Queensland were a direct result of the Fitzgerald inquiry, which was set in train by the previous National Party Government. Core pieces of legislation concerning the Criminal Justice Commission and the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission were introduced by the previous National Party Government under Russell Cooper. Effectively, the very foundation of the entire Labor reform program of the early nineties was established well before 2 December 1989.

The member for Logan asked if anyone could remember any of the great reforms of the National Party and Liberal Party Governments from 1957 to 1989, to the considerable entertainment of colleagues on his side of the House. I suggest that the Fitzgerald inquiry, from which flowed Labor's reform agenda in which all it had to do was

connect the dots, was a great reform of the previous Government. But there were many others. Chief among them were reforms that paved the way for the public prosperity of this State to this very day. I refer to the development by the National Party and the Liberal Party Government of trust funds for those major public sector commitments such as public sector superannuation, third-party premiums and workers' compensation.

The moneys contributed to cover public sector superannuation, compensation and third party are held by that great reformist institution, the Queensland Treasury Corporation, established by the National Party in 1988, which now holds in trust funds in excess of \$12 billion. So when the former Treasurer or the former Premier boasts about the strong public economy of Queensland, they are saluting a chain of events in public sector management and reforms and achievements of previous Governments.

I say that, for the most part, Labor in Queensland in the nineties knew that to dismantle those great bulwarks of sound public economy would have been tantamount to a political death wish. They did not—I repeat, did not—do a particularly good job. In a quite disgraceful display of managerial incompetence, Labor allowed the workers' compensation scheme, one of the great cornerstones of the public economy of this State, to deteriorate over a number of years, and despite repeated warnings, to a shocking unfunded deficit that is now in the order of \$150m. The people threatened with suffering because of that were the workers. The coalition will protect them.

**An Opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The Labor Party broke the scheme and the coalition is going to have to fix it. This Labor Party has destroyed the legacy of T. J. Ryan and the coalition is going to have to restore it. Similarly, the third-party scheme has slumped to such a degree that, under Labor, Queensland motorists are facing very significant increases in third-party costs to keep that fund adequate to the task. Part of the problem for both of those funds was that Labor raided them for recurrent expenditure across the Budget. If it had left them alone, they would be in great shape today.

So there most certainly were massive reforms under the previous National Party Government, which underpin the public prosperity of this State, despite mismanagement by the Labor Party, and which underpin the very program of reform, which the member for Logan takes

substantially out of context in claiming for his own.

I must say that the member for Logan also stretches the credibility of his regime when he talks about a number of matters as if he has somehow rediscovered the wheel, or brought to Queensland unqualified improvements in certain areas. Appointments solely on merit, which is one of the phrases that rings in everybody's ears about the former Government, and which is claimed as one of its great achievements, is a very hollow claim. Last night, I called for the contracts. They will make very interesting reading. They provide a new definition of the word "cronyism". The day before the Mundingburra by-election, a card-carrying member of the Labor Party was appointed on a five-year contract. When the seat of Mundingburra was declared vacant, very senior appointments were being made to the public service. There was even one appointment of a Chief Executive Officer no less, who had very clear connections to the Labor Party, as I indicated, on the thirteenth of this month. Disgraceful! One contract given the day before the Mundingburra by-election—cronyism; contracts in the public service that extend through to the year 2000. The Labor Party has been lining up its mates and putting them into senior positions in the public service. It has been doing it when it knows that the political reality is that it is destined for the Opposition benches.

**An Opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I take that interjection, "Prove it." I look forward to proving it, and I am going to rub the member's nose in it. There has been rampant and disgraceful cronyism.

We on this side of the House and the public service, too, remember the Gulag—the place where Rudd, Coaldrake and the member for Logan sent some of this State's most senior and longest-serving public servants to rot. The conditions of their separation from the public sector were haggled over. Health broke, families fell apart and careers were utterly destroyed while some members opposite and some people outside this place took genuine enjoyment in the process. Such events make any statements from the Opposition about the sanctity of the public service, about appointment solely on merit, mealy-mouthed and hypocritical in the extreme.

Another area where the same applies is in relation to freedom of information. That reform very quickly became an anti-reform, a reform in reverse. Just like John Cain in Victoria, the principal concern from Labor after it had

passed freedom of information legislation was to make it freedom from information. I am pleased to advise the House tonight that this Government will restore genuine freedom of information legislation, and it is going to be interesting when the legislation is before the House. Will the people who gutted freedom of information vote to keep it the way they wanted it, or will they support us in putting it back the way Fitzgerald recommended? It is going to be a very interesting debate, and I look forward to the contribution of the Leader of the Opposition on this.

Is not Opposition an enlightening experience? I had the member for Chatsworth before asking, "When are we going to get our resources? What is the time frame?" The man who had my staff working in the most appalling conditions is now reformed as he occupies the Opposition benches. If I have offended the honourable member, I apologise: I know him to be one of the kindest and most benevolent members on the Labor side of the House!

It has been a long debate and a long day, but it has been an important day. We now wish to proceed with the job. We did not apply the gag as the Leader of the Opposition indicated that we might.

**Mrs Edmond** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The honourable member whose stewardship of workers' compensation will go down in the annals of history is giving me some advice. I commend the motion to the House.

Amendment agreed to.

**Question**—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

**AYES, 45**—Baumann, Beanland, Borbidge, Connor, Cooper, Cunningham, Davidson, Elliott, FitzGerald, Gamin, Gilmore, Goss J. N., Grice, Harper, Healy, Hegarty, Hobbs, Horan, Johnson, Laming, Lester, Lingard, Littleproud, McCauley, Malone, Mitchell, Perrett, Quinn, Radke, Rowell, Santoro, Sheldon, Simpson, Slack, Stephan, Stoneman, Tanti, Turner, Veivers, Warwick, Watson, Wilson, Woolmer *Tellers:* Springborg, Carroll

**NOES, 43**—Ardill, Barton, Beattie, Bird, Bligh, Braddy, Bredhauer, Briskey, Burns, Campbell, D'Arcy, De Lacy, Dollin, Edmond, Elder, Foley, Gibbs, Goss W. K., Hamill, Hayward, Hollis, McElligott, McGrady, Mackenroth, Milliner, Mulherin, Nunn, Nuttall, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Purcell, Roberts, Robertson, Rose, Schwarten, Smith, Spence, Sullivan J. H., Welford, Wells, Woodgate *Tellers:* Livingstone, Sullivan T. B.

Resolved in the **affirmative**.

### GOVERNMENT WHIP AND GOVERNMENT DEPUTY WHIP

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (1.08 a.m.): I thank the House and we will talk about it again some time after 1 May 1998. I advise the House that the honourable member for Warwick, Mr Lawrence James Springborg, has been appointed Government Whip, and the honourable member for Mansfield, Mr Francis Edward Carroll, has been appointed Deputy Government Whip.

### OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS

**Mr BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—Leader of the Opposition) (1.09 a.m.): I advise the House that the honourable member for Ipswich West, Mr Donald Wallace Livingstone, has been appointed as the Opposition Whip and the honourable member for Chermside, Mr Terence Boland Sullivan, has been appointed as the Deputy Opposition Whip.

On this occasion, can I briefly take the opportunity to congratulate the Premier and the Deputy Premier on their elevation to their new positions.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his courtesy.

### PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

#### Appointment

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (1.11 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That this House endorses—

- (a) the appointment of not more than three members of the Legislative Assembly as Parliamentary Secretaries to assist certain Ministers on the basis that—
  - (i) the appointments are not to affect the right of the members to sit or vote as members of the Legislative Assembly; and
  - (ii) additional salary or allowance is not payable to the members unless the Parliament otherwise decides; and
- (b) the approval by the Government of a phased improvement of staffing and resources for the Leader of the Opposition and other non-Government members."

**Hon. J. M. SHELDON** (Caloundra—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (1.12 a.m.): I formally second the motion.

**Mr BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—Leader of the Opposition) (1.12 a.m.): Due to the lateness of the hour, I will be brief. However, I wish to make a couple of points. As to the first part of the resolution, it is obviously very generally worded and it is a matter that we would need to take further consultation on. We are obviously not going to oppose it on this occasion, and I will not make any further comments other than that I can understand the Premier would be having some difficulty short-listing who will be in his Ministry, and I suspect that these may be accommodations as a result. We do understand the Premier's problems.

As to part (b)—I make the point that we would seek nothing more in terms of our facilities than the Premier sought when he stood as Opposition Leader. I am happy to say that I have a full list of all the matters that he sought when he stood in my place. I point out that there were a number of parts, including an additional 23 staff, the fact that the budget was to be managed by the Parliamentary Service Commission and that there were administrative and financial accounting purposes officers put in place. There were details in relation to delegations, budgets, staff and so on. I repeat: I seek nothing more than the former Leader of the Opposition sought when he stood in my place.

I congratulate the Premier for putting this issue on the Notice Paper so early. The only matter of concern that I raise is his use of the word "phased". It is like one of those words that means "one day", "perhaps" or "on the never-never". It is a bit like saying, "The cheque is in the mail."

**Mrs Sheldon** interjected.

**Mr BEATTIE:** I know the honourable member's Myercard is in the mail. It is all right. She should relax. We will come to her in a minute.

I suggest that perhaps a phase-in period should start and be significantly completed by June. I think that is fair. I draw to the attention of the Premier his use of the words "non-Government members". There are also non-Executive Government members in this House. I draw that to the Premier's attention and seek on this occasion a little detail as to what "phased" means.

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (1.14 a.m.), in reply:



The Leader of the Opposition used the words "the cheque is in the mail". I am from the Government and I am here to help! I understand that the Leader of the Opposition will be writing to me and, obviously, once I receive that correspondence it will be dealt with. I do remember on some previous occasions writing to the honourable member for Logan, and I cannot ever recall having received a specific reply.

The former Opposition put forward a very good submission to the honourable member's party when it was in Government. It would have been nice to have received a reply, something that has not yet been forthcoming.

**Mr Gibbs:** We can arrange it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I am enjoying this. It is in the mail.

In all seriousness, coming from Opposition into Government, we appreciate the problems that members opposite are now experiencing. I do not think it is in the best interests of a proper, functioning Parliament to disadvantage the Opposition. I think it should be reasonably resourced and within a reasonable time. Having said that, I will also indicate, something which I hope that members opposite will take as a degree of my sincerity, that in relation to the Margaret Street offices, which were never really smart and are not much better than a hovel, I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition last night that rather than moving the Leader of the Opposition back there, we will provide ministerial standard accommodation not too far from Parliament House in the Government precinct where he will be able to have a satisfactory office, in addition to the renovated offices on level 6, which the Government graciously put in place and which was a superb improvement. I indicate that—and this will be formalised—

**Mr Burns** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I am trying to—

**Mr Burns:** I am interjecting.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** What I want to say is that I know that in the past there was a lot of bitterness on the honourable member's side.

**Mr Burns:** There still is and I will never lose it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** What I want to say is that, where possible, we will treat members opposite reasonably. For the benefit of the member for Lytton and of honourable members opposite, I am pleased to confirm those arrangements. Also, I have had discussions with the honourable member for

Logan in respect of a car, office and secretary, and those arrangements are being expedited, as I think that they are quite legitimate and very fair entitlements for a former Premier of the State of Queensland.

Motion agreed to.

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (1.18 a.m.): I move—

"That the House at its rising do adjourn to a date and at a time to be fixed by Mr Speaker in consultation with the Government of the State."

**Mr FITZGERALD** (Lockyer) (1.18 a.m.): I formally second the motion.

**Mr MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth) (1.19 a.m.): I move—

"That all the words after the word 'adjourn' be deleted and the words 'until Tuesday, 12 March 1996' be inserted."

This week, we have had a one-day sitting of the Parliament for this year, and the Premier has stated that he wants to see the Parliament sitting and making the necessary decisions. I appreciate that the Government cannot have its Ministry sworn in and be back here by tomorrow and be able to operate in this Parliament. However, I think that three weeks is a reasonable period in which to swear in the Ministry and bring back the Parliament. Today, we saw a minority Government, and I think that minority Government deserves—

**Mr FitzGerald:** The confidence of this House by two votes.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** With one Independent. What we should see is a firm commitment from the Government of this State as to when it is going to come back to the Parliament. That is why I say that asking the Parliament to resolve that it will resume on a certain date is not unreasonable, and I would ask members, particularly the member for Gladstone, to support the amendment that is being moved, namely, that the Parliament will resume in three weeks' time.

**Mr BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—Leader of the Opposition) (1.20 a.m.): I second the motion, and I do so because I believe that with the numbers in this House being 44 to the coalition, 44 to the ALP and with one Independent this Parliament has a more important role to play than ever before. Decisions should be made in this House, and I am already concerned about the attitude of

the Government. Let me explain this very clearly. Today, the Under Secretary of Treasury, Gerard Bradley, has been sacked by the Government. What a disgrace! The Under Secretary of Treasury has been sacked. That is the way this Government is going to treat senior career public servants in this State. This Government should not allow a period of time to pass without being accountable to this Parliament.

The Westminster system provides that public servants, particularly career public servants such as Gerard Bradley—who has served as a career public servant under previous conservative Governments, who served under the Labor Party Government and who now would have served under this Government—should be allowed to carry out their responsibilities without fear or favour. The cronyism has started already. The first day that this Government is in power, it has sacked the Under Secretary of Treasury. No wonder the Treasurer has the audacity to start throwing around confidential Treasury documents! This Government obviously wants to destroy the public service and appoint party hacks. It is back to cronyism—it is back to the days of old, all right! The business community knows Gerard Bradley very well. This move will destroy the business community's confidence in Treasury. It will be devastating for the confidence in this Government.

We had the Treasurer earlier today setting out to smear the morale in Treasury and trying to destroy the credit rating of this State. It is all over the front page of today's *Courier-Mail*. If the Treasurer thinks that that helps business in this State, if she thinks that that helps the economy of this State, then she is dead wrong. Her responsibility is to lift business confidence, not to destroy the community's confidence in the economy. But that is what the Treasurer is seeking to do. This Government has set out on the long road of bringing back its cronies.

Let me make this very clear: the Premier said that he was not going to set up a Gulag. He does not need to, because he intends to just sack career public servants. Mr Bradley is not a Labor Party hack; he is not a Labor Party member; he is a career public servant. I call on the Premier to reverse that decision and to stop the sackings of other senior public servants that he is planning. If the Premier wants to destroy the public service, if he wants to destroy the confidence that the people of this State have in the public sector, then he is going about it the right way.

No wonder we have heard the Treasurer talk about shonky audits! No wonder we have this attempt to have an independent audit. It is simply an attempt to get out of the election promises that the Government has made. Earlier, we heard the Premier confusing the Treasury Corporation with the QIC. He does not even understand the various institutions in this State, so it is little wonder that the Government wants to clean out the senior public servants.

The members of this Government cannot act like thugs in sheep's clothing and get away with it. They cannot perform like thugs in sheep's clothing and pretend that they are going to put a sugar-coated covering over all their decisions. If this Government is going to sack senior people such as Mr Bradley, it will lose the confidence of the whole community. It is a disgrace.

Let me make it clear: these decisions need to be referred to this House. There is a whole string of things that I could talk about, such as the promises in relation to extra numbers for the Upper House and scrapping the Government's commitment to the Cape York wilderness zone. There is a whole range of things. In light of the numbers in this House, this Parliament should meet more regularly. It should be involved in the decision-making process. Those responsible for taking such decisions as cutting off the heads of decent Queenslanders who have served the community well should be accountable for those decisions in this House. Three weeks is more than long enough for the Government to get its act together. That is long enough for it to come back and be accountable in this House.

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (1.25 a.m.), in reply: The amendment is not acceptable to the Government. This adjournment motion is a mirror image of the adjournment motion that the former Leader of the House under the Goss Government moved in this place not only prior to Christmas but prior to almost every other adjournment. There is a very logical reason for that, and Mr Mackenroth knows it. There can be circumstances in which an earlier recall of the House may be required. That is the reason why the former Leader of the House consistently argued to me that this was the appropriate adjournment motion to put in place.

What I can say is that the Parliament will be back in the near future. But we have a lot

of work to do. The Opposition wants to debate decisions. What I want to say to the honourable the Leader of the Opposition is that, because of the need to have a confidence motion passed by this House to confirm the Government, we have not proceeded further. We have been acting essentially in a caretaker—

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** He has not been sacked.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Bradley has not been sacked. The point I would make for the benefit of honourable members opposite, who seem to have a short memory, is that they removed two Under Treasurers during the life of the Goss Government. They got rid of John Hall and then they got rid of Henry Smerdon. So that is the record of the Labor Government. The situation is that Mr Bradley has not been sacked. I can only assume that, once again, the wires have been crossed. I want to say to the honourable members opposite—

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The former Treasurer interjects—the man who knifed two Under Treasurers, the man who sent John Hall, one of the most distinguished public servants in this State, up to the Gulag. Then, a little bit later, Mr De Lacy wanted to get rid of Henry Smerdon, so he flicked him sideways and got rid of him. I say to the honourable the former Treasurer that Opposition members have a

bad problem: they keep judging us by their own standards.

The situation is simple. This is the standard adjournment motion always moved by the Government in circumstances that are normal, let alone circumstances in which a Government and a Ministry have to be put together. For that reason, while assuring the House that we will be back within a reasonable period, the amendment is unacceptable to the Government.

**Question**—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the motion—put; and the House divided—

**AYES, 45**—Baumann, Beanland, Borbidge, Connor, Cooper, Cunningham, Davidson, Elliott, FitzGerald, Gamin, Gilmore, Goss J. N., Grice, Harper, Healy, Hegarty, Hobbs, Horan, Johnson, Laming, Lester, Lingard, Littleproud, McCauley, Malone, Mitchell, Perrett, Quinn, Radke, Rowell, Santoro, Sheldon, Simpson, Slack, Stephan, Stoneman, Tanti, Turner, Veivers, Warwick, Watson, Wilson, Woolmer *Tellers:* Springborg, Carroll

**NOES, 43**—Ardill, Barton, Beattie, Bird, Bligh, Braddy, Bredhauer, Briskey, Burns, Campbell, D'Arcy, De Lacy, Dollin, Edmond, Elder, Foley, Gibbs, Goss W. K., Hamill, Hayward, Hollis, McElligott, McGrady, Mackenroth, Milliner, Mulherin, Nunn, Nuttall, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Purcell, Roberts, Robertson, Rose, Schwarten, Smith, Spence, Sullivan J. H., Welford, Wells, Woodgate *Tellers:* Livingstone, Sullivan T. B.

Resolved in the **affirmative**.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.34 a.m. (Wednesday).

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 142. Overseas Visit by Education Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the overseas trip taken by the Minister for Education on the following dates—

- (i) 22-24 September 1993 to New Zealand
- (ii) 8-13 February 1994 to Indonesia
- (iii) 8-13 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea

Will he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including the Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff?
- (2) Ministerial expenses for—
  - (a) Travel by—
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air?
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)?
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)?
  - (d) Other expenses?
- (3) Departmental expenses for—
  - (a) Travel by—
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air?
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)?
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)?
  - (d) Other expenses?
- (4) Government expenses for—
  - (a) Travel by—
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air?
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)?
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)?
  - (d) Other expenses?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

This question refers to trips undertaken by the Honourable Pat Comben as Minister for Education in 1993 and 1994.

As the Honourable Member would know, this Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These

Guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, Mr Hamill tabled reports in relation to the four trips concerned.

The costs of these trips, as charged to his ministerial office, were:

- 22-24 September 1993—NEW ZEALAND
 

Minister	\$4,638.41
Staff	\$2,604.40
TOTAL	\$7,242.81
- 8-13 February 1994—INDONESIA
 

Minister	\$10,675.28
Staff	\$7,363.44
TOTAL	\$18,038.72
- 8-13 March 1994 — PAPUA NEW GUINEA
 

Minister	\$8,909.83
Staff	\$8,800.79 (inc body guard expenses)
TOTAL	\$17,710.62

The Guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

### 155. High School, Kuranda

Mrs WARWICK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the construction of a high school for Kuranda, promised for 1997—

- (1) What is the present position regarding the acquisition of the Little's property at Myola Road, Kuranda?
- (2) Will he consider purchase of an alternate site, namely an area of 47 hectares adjacent to the Kennedy Highway and Fallon Road, near Kuranda, as this site has widespread community support?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

Ministerial Approval was granted by my predecessor for the acquisition of the Little's property in Myola Road on 22 August 1994. Notices of Intention to

Resume were sent to the property owners on 23 August 1994. Efforts are being made to settle the matter through negotiation between the parties rather than through the formal resumption process.

The Department of Lands is continuing with the negotiation process; a meeting was held on Tuesday 21 November 1995 between representatives of the Crown (Department of Lands Officers) and the property owners. Although no agreement was reached at the meeting, the general feeling was positive. It is hoped that the matter will be settled by agreement in the near future.

With respect to the second question, an alternative site situated at Fallon Road was suggested by Mareeba Shire Council. I have now rejected this site following an investigation into the comparative suitability of both sites for school purposes. Matters that were taken into account included topography, suitability for building, cost of construction, removal of existing vegetation, possible environmental impact, access to and into the sites, configuration of the allotments, and future development potential and servicing. The Myola Road site was considered superior in the great majority of these counts.

**163.LOTE Program**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the LOTE Program and a substantial number of students moving between schools (suggested in the Wiltshire Report to be over 40%) who start a LOTE subject but do not complete the eight years' study of the same language—

- (1) What impact does the migration of students between schools have on learning another language?
- (2) What are the number and percentage of schools teaching the same LOTE language?
- (3) Is consideration being given to a reduction of time allocated to teaching LOTE?
- (4) Will a syllabus be drawn up which will enable a continuance for students who wish to undertake, in-depth language studies?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

(1) Continuity in second language learning is critical to the successful achievement of desired learning outcomes for students. For this reason the implementation of the LOTE program has been planned and executed paying due regard to the significant portion of the State's population which is mobile.

The following strategies reduce the potentially disruptive effects of a change of school on the LOTE process:

- the limited number of priority languages taught in state primary schools and the policy of ensuring a balance across the State between those languages (this means that students moving from region to region will normally be able to find a local school which teaches the language they have been studying previously.)

- the consistency of teaching materials and program models, (the State has prepared and provided free to schools a consistent set of teaching materials; students will therefore use the same materials and follow approximately the same program sequence from school to school).
- the cluster system which assures continuity of learning from primary to secondary schools in any particular area (the greatest dislocation occurs as a result of the move from the primary to the secondary school. The cluster system, plus the priority languages, reduces the impact of this on continuity of learning).
- an emphasis on the provision of distance education materials in LOTE (the Department has prioritised the development of distance education materials in LOTE and is pursuing a program which will see the mainstream provision well supported by distance mode courses. Students who find that they cannot conveniently continue to study the same language in a new school location are increasingly able to access distance education courses).

1.3 These policies and initiatives significantly reduce the impact of changing schools on continuous LOTE learning and seek to ensure the achievement of desired learning outcomes for the majority of the State's students. As a result significantly fewer than the 40% (of students) quoted would have their learning interrupted by a change of school.

2.

School Type	No. of Schools	% of School Type
<b>JAPANESE</b>		
SDE	5	62.5%
SHS	82	46.59%
CCSE	1	10%
SS	365	34.21%
<b>GERMAN</b>		
SDE	2	25%
SHS	71	40.34%
SS	270	25.3%
<b>FRENCH</b>		
SDE	3	37.5%
SHS	62	35.23%
SS	196	18.36%
<b>ITALIAN</b>		
SDE	1	12.5%
SHS	18	10.23%
SS	101	9.47%
<b>INDONESIAN</b>		
SHS	25	14.2%
SS	94	8.81%
<b>CHINESE</b>		
SHS	20	11.36%
SS	66	6.19%
<b>KOREAN</b>		
SHS	1	0.57%
<b>SPANISH</b>		
SHS	1	0.57%
SS	6	0.56%
<b>VIETNAMESE</b>		
SHS	2	1.14%
SS	1	0.09%

Please Note: Some schools offer more than one LOTE. Key to abbreviations of school types:

CCSE—Centres for Continuing Secondary Education (10 in total)

SDE—Schools of Distance Education (8 in total); all except Capricornia-Emerald Campus have both primary and secondary departments.

SHS—State High Schools (176 in total)

SS—State Schools (i.e. primary; 1067 in total)

3. No consideration is currently being given to a reduction in the time allocated to the teaching of LOTE. A major review will be undertaken in early 1996 to look at the educational outcomes of the current core LOTE provision in Years 6, 7 and 8. On the basis of the outcome of this review, and in line with the agreed national learning outcomes for LOTE teaching, we will be in a position to determine the amount of time required to achieve those outcomes for students.

4. One of the basic aims of the Queensland LOTE Initiative is to provide all young Queenslanders with access to LOTE learning according to individual need and aptitude. The Queensland School Curriculum Office will be instructed to develop syllabuses to cater to the full range of student aptitude in this curriculum area. While all students will receive a basic grounding in a LOTE, those students who have either ample opportunity to do so by syllabuses designed to meet their needs. This will clearly include the provision of indepth language studies for those students seeking such a program.

### 190.Repressed Memory Therapy

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is he aware of the issue of repressed memory syndrome, and the practice of some psychologists conducting this therapy?
- (2) Is he also aware that some psychologists have been the subject of several complaints regarding their conduct of so-called repressed (or recovered) memory therapy, and this practice is the concern of many Queensland citizens?
- (3) Is he conversant with so-called "independent investigations" commissioned by the Psychologists Board of Queensland to examine complaints about registered psychologists implicated in the implanting of "false memories"?
- (4) Will he advise of any action regarding this issue, and does this therapy practice by some psychologists have the support of the Minister as a health issue?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) The terms 'repressed memory syndrome' and 'repressed memory therapy' have been used in the media in recent times in relation to cases where patients in psychotherapy have recovered memories of childhood sexual abuse, often involving family members. These memories are believed to be true by the patients and may be acted on to the extent that the patients may confront the supposed perpetrators of the abuse. The management of patients in these

situations requires considerable skill as the memories may be true and of clinical significance in treatment but they may also be false and lead to the wrongful accusations of family members and great damage to families.

(2) & (3) I am aware of complaints against two registered psychologists which allege malpractice in the context of so called 'repressed memory therapy'. The complaints in one of the two cases were referred to the Health Rights Commission and then to the Psychologists Board of Queensland. In the other case the events complained of, because of their timing, fell outside the scope of the Health Rights Commission and have been investigated directly by the Psychologists Board of Queensland. In both cases the Board has sought legal advice and the advice of an expert clinical psychologists concerned and interview the psychologists, their clients and the complainants. In one case the Board's investigations have been completed and it has resolved that there is no reason to suspect that the psychologist in question has behaved in a way discreditable to his profession. The investigation in the second case is yet to be finalised but I am advised that the Board expects to reach a decision at its November meeting.

(4) I understand that, partly in response to a request from the Board, The Australian Psychological Society has issued guidelines for psychologists working with clients who recover memories of childhood sexual abuse. These guidelines have been sent to all registered psychologists in the State. Generally the efficacy or desirability of a particular treatment or therapy is one for experts within the relevant profession to determine rather than for me as Minister to give endorsement or otherwise.

### 205.Contaminated Land

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

How many possible, probable or confirmed contaminated land sites throughout Queensland have been identified under the *Contaminated Land Act 1991* and how many of these are (a) current residential and (b) current commercial sites?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

As at 23 October 1995 the following number of contaminated land sites have been identified throughout Queensland as per the requirements of Section 23 of the *Contaminated Land Act 1991*, within the classifications nominated:

Possible—These sites are categorised according to the nature of the contaminant—either Chemical or Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).

2,397 Chemical contaminant sites

7,502 UXO contaminant sites

Probable—12,904 Chemical contaminant sites (this classification is not used for UXO contaminant sites)

Confirmed—6 Chemical contaminant sites (this classification is not used for UXO contaminant sites)

It is not possible to identify how many of these contaminated land sites are (a) current residential and (b) current commercial sites because:

A Contaminated Sites Register is maintained by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage as per the requirements of Section 24 (1) of the *Contaminated Land Act 1991*.

The particulars which must be recorded for a site upon entry to the Contaminated Sites Register as detailed in Section 23 of the *Contaminated Land Act 1991* and Section 5 of the *Contaminated Land Regulation 1991* are:

- (a) real property description of the property; and
- (b) classification of the property under section 23 (1) of the Act.

While the Contaminated Sites Register maintains a record of the specific "prescribed purpose" for which the site has been notified to the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, the current land use of a site is not mandatory data required for entry to the Register.

When a site has been recorded on the Contaminated Sites Register, data such as current land use is valid at the time of entry only. Current land use for individual sites recorded on the Contaminated Sites Register may change after the date of entry. It would be a major undertaking to continually update the current land use for the 24,424 (including 1,615 Restricted, Former and Released) sites recorded on the Register as at 23 October 1995, and require legislative power to require land owners and local governments to notify of each change in land use.

### 211. Cairns Base Hospital

Mrs WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed redeveloped Cairns Base Hospital—

- (1) (a) How many beds will it contain, (b) how many operating theatres will it contain and (c) how many birthing suites will it contain?
- (2) Will he make a commitment to the appointment of at least one local clinical representative on the steering committee?
- (3) Will he dispel the prevalent fears that attention will not focus just on buildings and equipment but on the development of more services and the upgrading of present services?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

- (1)(a) A study of bed numbers has occurred and has recommended a range of 310 to 340 beds.
- (b) The number of operating theatres has not been finalised as this study forms part of the Project Definition Plan/Design Brief which has only just commenced. However, the Master Plan indicates an allowance of 1500m<sup>2</sup> for the Operating Theatres in the new Clinical Services Building. This is significantly more than the 809m<sup>2</sup> which exists in the operating suite at present.
- (c) Again, the number of birthing suites will be finalised as part of the Project Definition Plan process. The Master Plan provides an indicative allocation of 530m<sup>2</sup> for the Delivery Suite, a much larger space than the 340m<sup>2</sup> for the existing Delivery Suite.

(2) As a result of a recent meeting of medical staff I am advised that the doctors have established a Committee panel which supersedes their need for a representative on the Steering Committee. The Committee panel will raise clinical concerns directly with the Project Director. Both the Government and the doctors share one aim and that is to upgrade the Cairns Base Hospital to make it a high level health care and teaching facility.

(3) I have already taken action to address the concerns of the doctors. A workshop is to be held in the next few weeks which will provide a forum for medical staff to raise issues of concern and review the recommendations of Functional Plan which was submitted by the Regional Health Authority in July 1994, after an extensive consultation process. The Functional Plan provided an analysis of existing services and levels of service along with projected service requirements of the hospital. The identified services requirements of the Functional Plan were the basis on which the current Master Plan was developed.

This will provide Cairns people with a modern facility—something never planned for under the Liberal and National Parties. In fact, under the Coalition Health Policy \$27 million would have been cut from the Health Budget which would have reduced services to Cairns Base Hospital.

The rebuilding process would be greatly assisted if the Honourable Member desisted from using the rebuilding of the Cairns Base Hospital as a cheap political football. These stunts only serve to damage the reputation of the Hospital in North Queensland.

### 212. Medical Superintendents; Hospital Staff Specialists

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many medical superintendents were employed at 30 June 1995?
- (2) How many medical superintendent vacancies existed at that date?
- (3) How many hospital staff specialists were employed at 30 June 1995?
- (4) How many staff specialist vacancies existed at that date?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

- (1) 116
- (2) 7
- (3) 454
- (4) 123

The recruitment and retention of Queensland's medical workforce in the public sector is a number one priority for the Government. The shortage of specialist doctors in the public sector is a phenomenon common to all Australian States. The Government will continue to work with the Colleges to address these issues. Queensland is also committed to working closely with the Commonwealth Government to improve Queensland's medical workforce position.

**217. Gold Coast Hospital**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his recent meeting on the Gold Coast with representatives of the Gold Coast branch of the Australian Medical Association where it was again pointed out that the South Coast Region receives only 5 per cent of the total health budget despite having 11 per cent of the State's population—

- (1) When will further resources be provided for the intensive care unit at the Gold Coast Hospital, including a provision for "high dependency" beds?
- (2) When will action be taken to increase paediatric services to overcome a 14-month waiting list?
- (3) When will a dementia ward be provided at the Gold Coast Hospital?
- (4) When will there be an increase in the number of detoxification beds?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) Queensland Health has commenced a statewide review of and long-term planning for intensive care services. Intensivists and nursing staff at the Gold Coast Hospital have been consulted as part of this process. There is a need for Queensland to attract and retain additional senior medical staff and intensive care specialists in the public hospital system and Queensland Health is engaged in a range of strategies to address this issue.

(2) The South Coast Region is unaware of a 14 month waiting list for paediatric services. There are currently 15 cases on the paediatric waiting list. An expansion of paediatric services in the South Coast will be considered when the redevelopment of the paediatric ward commences in the near future.

(3) A review of aged care and rehabilitation services has recently been completed. Funding for the development of a dementia unit at the Gold Coast Hospital will be considered along with other recommended projects.

(4) The South Coast Region is unaware of the need to increase beds in the detoxification unit at Fairhaven, as current figures reflect only a 76% occupancy rate for the unit. In addition, the Region is also providing increased drug and alcohol services within the community.

The Government has a high regard for the work carried out by Health Professionals at the Gold Coast Hospital. This is in sharp contrast to the attitude of Gold Coast based National Party colleagues of the Honourable Member who continually slur and demean the efforts of Health Professionals.

The National Party Election Policy to slash Health spending by \$27 million as part of an efficiency dividend would have resulted in decreased services to the Gold Coast Hospital.

**218. Land Acquisition, Redlands Electorate**

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

Will he honour promises made prior to the 15 July State Election to acquire the following properties (a) 34 blocks of land at Leo Lindo Drive, Shailer Park plus Rainforest Gully in Stage 20 of Kimberley Forest Park Estate and (b) 200 hectares of land on the eastern side of German Church Road, Mt Cotton, part of Bayview Country Estate on a \$2 for \$1 contribution by the Redlands Shire Council?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied.

**226. Community Health Centre, Mulgrave Electorate**

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed Mulgrave Community Health Centre to include aged care, family and child health services, drug and alcohol counselling, sexual health services, youth health, mental health and extended services in palliative care, rehabilitation and home medical aide—

- (1) Has the land at Lot 5, Loretta Drive, been purchased and paid for; if so, what is the proposed time line for the project and when will the project commence?
- (2) Will the centre commence operation in eighteen months, as previously proposed?
- (3) Will full and continual consultation occur with the doctors and staff who will support this project so that the services will actually meet the needs of the community?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) The land at Lot 5, Loretta Drive, Woree, has been purchased for the establishment of a Community Health Centre at Woree. The planning process for the new Centre has already commenced, with specifications for Functional Planning and Master Planning currently being finalised.

**241. Community Health Centre, Smithfield**

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed Community Health Centre to be constructed at Smithfield—

- (1) Has land been purchased?
- (2) When will construction commence?
- (3) When will the centre be operational?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) The purchase of land for the establishment of a Community Health Centre at Smithfield is not yet finalised. However, a specific site has been identified within the Smithfield Town Centre Development Control Plan, and negotiations are nearing completion with Cairns City Council.

(2) This answer depends on the outcome of the above question.

(3) This answer depends on the outcome of the above question.



**257. Ipswich Motorway**

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the increase in the volume of traffic travelling along the Ipswich Motorway—

- (1) Can a safety audit of the motorway be carried out; if so, could this audit review the suitability of current speed limits and whether the provision of safety barriers along dangerous sections of the motorway increase safety?
- (2) Will the completion of the Camira by-pass link and the widening to four lanes of the Logan motorway reduce some of the heavy traffic along the Ipswich motorway?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

1. Queensland Transport is presently carrying out a road safety audit of the Motorway. The audit will involve a detailed review of all safety matters on the Motorway including roadside hazards.

At this stage it is expected that the audit will be completed by the end of December 1995.

2. Traffic projections show significant increase in the traffic volumes using the Ipswich Motorway and Logan Motorway. Traffic projections with the "Camira Bypass" completed demonstrate the substantial relief which construction of the proposed new link will provide to the Ipswich Motorway.

**261. Gold Coast Rail Link**

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Brisbane to Gold Coast Railway—

- (1) On what date will services to Helensvale start?
- (2) When will the timetable for such services be available to the public?
- (3) When will the purchase of the site for the Robina Station be completed?
- (4) Is a corridor from Robina to Coolangatta being considered; if so, where will the stations along this line be located?
- (5) What is the status of discussions between his department and coach/bus operators about an integrated approach to the railway timetable?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

1. It is anticipated that the first passenger train will operate on the Gold Coast line to Helensvale early next year.

2. A draft timetable is currently being finalised and it will be available for distribution in January 1995.

3. Queensland Rail (QR) and Robina Land Corporation (RLC) have concluded a draft agreement on the terms and conditions for the acquisition of all land necessary for current works.

It is expected that an agreement covering the acquisition of the site for Robina station and any other RLC land necessary for the extension of the

railway south of Robina station will be finalised by the end of 1995.

4. As part of the government's pre-election commitments it was announced that planning for the extension of the Gold Coast rail from Robina to Coolangatta would be initiated.

A major component of this proposal is the conduct of an impact assessment study which will consider feasible corridor alternatives and identify optimum rail/road/air transport relationships and linkages particularly around the critical areas of the Coolangatta airport and the NSW/Queensland border.

5. Negotiations have taken place with Surfside Bus Company and Coachtrans. An agreement has been reached with Surfside to meet every train at Helensvale.

Coachtrans will meet all trains from Ormeau and Coomera stations.

Both these agreements will be regularly reviewed.

**264. Kroombit Tops**

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to a tender for some 12km of fencing on Kroombit Tops, which closed on 28 September, with the work to be completed by March 1996, with the aim of keeping 'brumbies and scrubbers' from a certain frog habitat—

- (1) How much money is involved in this tender?
- (2) As it involves an environmental matter, why is the funding coming from Department of Primary Industries' sources and not his department?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

(1) The public tender for fencing was let by the Department of Primary Industries Resource Management Business Group in their capacity as managers of Kroombit State Forest. The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) was not privy to the tender process nor were Departmental representatives present at the public opening of the tender.

(2) The funding is not coming from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), but rather from a Drought Research and Feral Pest grant under the Drought Landcare Program which is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Sport and Territories.

This grant was allocated to the DPI as managers of the Kroombit State Forest, for the exclusion and subsequent mustering of stock; particularly 'brumbies and scrubbers', from one of the two scientific areas on the State Forest. The creek system (including vulnerable frog habitat) within this scientific area is suffering from increased grazing pressure due to the ongoing drought conditions.

Irrespective of the grant, the State Forest, including the scientific areas, are managed by the DPI. Sound environmental management is an ultimate responsibility for everyone, whether the DPI, Department of Minerals and Energy, major

corporations or private individuals. If environmental matters were left solely to the DEH, achievements could only be limited. Rather, DEH seeks to assist other agencies and individuals to take better account of environmental needs. I and my Department are very pleased with the actions of the DPI on this and other matters.

### 265. Special Needs Students

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Prior to the integration of special needs children into the school community, what steps are taken to determine (a) whether this course of action will benefit a particular child and (b) the effect on the other children in the class?
- (2) On an individual child basis, how are the individual child's needs assessed?
- (3) Is each individual child's care needs fully met in the classroom situation; if so, how?
- (4) Is each individual case reviewed on a regular basis?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

1. An Ascertainment Process is used to determine the educational support needs arising from the disability of the individual student and the level of specialist teaching required. This process requires consultation with parents and relevant educational personnel and the school community to gather information about the educational needs of the student and the capacity of the school to provide to those needs.

Support for educational programs for most students with disabilities can be, and are provided, within the school, but for some students with disabilities, additional and higher levels of support may be necessary. This additional support may come from sources outside the school or through transfer of students to another program.

When this level of support is required an external statewide Ascertainment representative is included in the committee to determine the extent of the additional support and provide consistent statewide advice about a student's current and recommended levels of support. Consequently students in Brisbane ascertained at the highest level of educational need (i.e. level 6) will have comparable needs as a student with the same disability in Cairns or Mt Isa.

The principal is then responsible for arranging the student's entry into a program at the relevant local school, special school, special education unit or another approved location. Program support may include school-based personnel at the local school, advisory visiting teacher personnel, or specialist teachers at the local school, the special school, the special education unit, the special education developmental unit or another approved location.

The principal is responsible for instigating the review of the ascertained support level. This must occur every three years or at critical educational transitions (i.e. prior to the student entering early intervention programs, year one, mid primary or equivalent age appropriate programs, entry to secondary school or

equivalent age appropriate programs). Alternatively, if necessary, a review may be instigated at an earlier stage at the request of parents/caregivers or the school.

Parents/caregivers may accept or reject support level recommendations and may appeal to the Executive Director of the region.

2. For students with high support needs the Individual Education Plan process is used to determine each student's educational needs. Class teachers, parents, specialist teachers, therapists and other relevant support personnel are involved in all phases of the IEP process.

The process involves 5 phases:

information gathering and consultation about the educational needs of the student;

discussion at a meeting to decide on the educational priorities for the student;

development of a statement of the prioritised goals agreed to by both educational personnel and parents;

development of detailed educational programs and assessment of achieved goals;

ongoing review / evaluation of the Individual Education Plan. The last phase occurs every 6 months and initiates the next cycle of the IEP process.

3. The Individual Education Plan process and the Ascertainment process are designed to determine the student's educational needs and the support requirements necessary to meet these needs.

4. The ascertained level of each student must be reviewed every three years or earlier if required. The Individual Educational Plan of each student is reviewed every 6 months.

### 267. Nursing Positions

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Goss Government's election promise of 800 new nursing positions over three years—

- (1) How many new positions will be provided in 1995-96?
- (2) What is the location of these positions?
- (3) What is the timetable of appointment of this year's positions?
- (4) What is the amount of funding allocated to each region for these positions?
- (5) What is the process of application by service units for these positions?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

This commitment to nurses is in sharp contrast to the attitude of the Nationals who made little or no mention of nurses in their one four page document. This continues the tradition when the Nationals were in Government—of keeping Queensland nurses well below the national average as the lowest paid in the country with no career path structure.

(1) A systemic approach to the provision of the 800 additional positions is being used with Regional Directors currently in the process of:

- (i) formally confirming the baseline number of nursing staff (upon which growth in nursing numbers will be measured); and
- (ii) estimating the increase in numbers of positions for 1995-96 for service provision areas.

(2) This information is due to be received in Central Office this year. Until that time, no definitive details on the location of these positions can be provided.

(3) After the final determination of position locations within the Regions, recruitment and selection into the positions will occur.

(4) Until Regional numbers are determined, funding allocations by Region are not available.

(5) No process of application by service units for these numbers exists or is proposed. The proposed numbers relate directly to activity as a direct result of growth. Currently, Regional Directors, as part of the systemic approach to the provision of the 800 additional positions, are determining within their respective Regions, the estimated increase in numbers of positions for 1995-96 for the various service provision areas.

### 271. Public Dental Health Program

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to problems being experienced by the public dental health program on the Sunshine Coast—

- (1) How many dentist positions remain unfilled in (a) Queensland and (b) the Sunshine Coast region?
- (2) Is Nambour being included in the scheme to provide funding for both emergency dental and emergency denture work; if not, why not?
- (3) Why do patients have to seek an authority number from regional office to get emergency work done by a private dentist?
- (4) What provision exists for dentists to be called in to provide assistance in the case of accidents involving dental damage both in Queensland generally and on the Sunshine Coast?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

- (1)(a) Queensland Health is in the process of finalising a restructuring of oral health services along integrated team lines. As such the true position as to vacancies for public dentist positions in Queensland will not be known until this process is complete.
- (b) There are 3 full time dentist vacancies and 1 part time vacancy in the Sunshine Coast Region at Caloundra, Nambour and Noosa.

Unfilled positions are being advertised/readvertised in the next few weeks. The Region is confident of filling any vacant positions, particularly as new graduates will come onto the job market in the next month.

(2) All private dentists in the Sunshine Coast Region, including Nambour, were invited to join an outsourcing scheme to provide Emergency Dental Services for public sector patients. Twenty-four dentists across the Region have signed an Agreement. However, no private dentists in the Nambour area have signed an Agreement, although some may still be contemplating participating in the scheme. In the interim, available funds are being used at Nambour to provide programmed overtime for public sector staff and the employment on contract of a private practitioner to work within the facility. Perhaps the Honourable Member could devote some energy to encouraging private dentists in Nambour onto the scene.

(3) It is not necessary for patients to seek an authority number from Regional Office to access outsourced Emergency Dental Care. Authorisation is obtained from the local public dental clinics for those areas where outsourcing is occurring. This is to ensure audit requirements are met in relation to accountability for funds and to prevent abuse or fraud of the system.

(4) Within the Queensland Public Hospital system after hours emergency cases have access to emergency dental care upon presentation and assessment at Accident and Emergency Departments.

With respect to the Sunshine Coast Region in particular, Base Dental Clinics are situated in hospital grounds at all major sites (Redcliffe, Caboolture, Caloundra, Nambour, Gympie). Ready accessibility to dentists is available for accident cases involving oral trauma during normal hours. Most of these clinics now also operate during evenings as well.

Accidents involving significant dental trauma outside these times are referred to Brisbane from the Southern Sector (Redcliffe and Caboolture) and a call-in service of public sector dentists operates at Caloundra and Nambour for such emergencies.

Under Labor the Oral Health program in Queensland has gone forward. Funding for public dental services has increased from \$34.5 million in 1989 / 90 to \$75 million in 1995 / 96.

Oral Health services are now managed with a client outcome focus—something the system lacked prior to 1989.

### 276. Greenvale-Townsville Rail Link

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the new development currently taking place at Greenvale to operate as a viable tourist centre and two new mines to come on line in 1996 along with the cartage of many export cattle from the area—

Will he reconsider the decision to close and remove the railway line from Greenvale to Townsville?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

Approximately 20kms of rail has been removed from the Greenvale end of the branch line to replace rail on the main line between Mt Isa and Townsville.

All rail on the Greenvale line is required for rerailling of sections of the Mt Isa line in order to meet the requirements of increased mineral traffic from the Cloncurry/Mt Isa region.

The rail must be removed shortly, as timber sleepers on the Greenvale line have now deteriorated to the point where the train used to collect the disused rail will soon not be able to traverse this line.

There are no known commercial rail traffics available along the Greenvale line, in the foreseeable future. Any cattle required to be moved by rail can be taken to Charters Towers for loading via the development road.

However, while the track work is being removed, the rail corridor will be preserved for future development should any viable project eventuate.

### 277. Transit Australia

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the entry of Transit Australia into the passenger bus service business in many of Queensland's larger cities—

- (1) With respect to new bus services promised in Queensland Government advertisements, how many such services are now being delivered by Transit Australia?
- (2) How many bus licences has Transit Australia contracted to take over?
- (3) How many of the licence contracts in (2) above have actually been completed and paid for?
- (4) Has a senior Government officer threatened to stop goodwill payments to existing licence holders who did not co-operate with Transit Australia takeover delays; if so, why?
- (5) What is the reason for such delays?

#### Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) As of today's date, Transit Australia are involved in four (4) commercial service contract areas. The relevant information in relation to these service areas was supplied to you previously in Question 208 (9—18 October 1995).

(2) Transit Australia has not contracted to take over any bus licenses.

When a service contract is entered into for the provision of scheduled passenger services in a declared service contract area, those parts of any existing licenses that relate to services inside the declared contract area (including those licenses held by the contract holder) are terminated under the provisions of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*.

It is a condition of all the commercial service contracts held by Transit Australia Pty Ltd that they pay compensation to any existing operators who were unsuccessful in being awarded a contract.

In many instances, the issue of compensation has not arisen because the existing operators have chosen to continue to operate their businesses as sub-contractors to Transit Australia.

(3) There is no requirement for my Department to keep records of the private transactions that occur between private enterprise bus operators.

However, enquiries by my Department to Transit Australia have resulted in the following advice from that company.

Transit Australia has either bought the relevant licenses from, or paid out satisfactory compensation to, the following operators in the respective areas:

#### Townsville

- Campbells Coaches
- Hermit Park Bus Service

#### Cairns

- Northern Beaches Bus Service (part of Marlin Coast Consortium—the contract holder)
- West Cairns Bus Service (contract exists for full settlement during November 1995)
- Southern Cross Bus Service

#### Ipswich

- Pioneer Bus Service
- Sundowner City Bus (an agreed payment schedule is currently in place)

#### Sunshine Coast

- Tewantin Bus Service (part of Sunshine Transit—the contract holder)

Compensation is not an issue for the following operators who continue to operate their businesses as sub-contractors to Transit Australia (see answer 2):

- Nambour Bus Service
- Didillibah Bus Service
- North Coast Shuttle

The government is aware that compensation negotiations are progressing between Transit Australia and Amberley—Rosewood Bus Co Pty Ltd. At this stage neither party has exercised the right to refer the matter to arbitration.

The government is also aware that arbitration, pursuant to the *Commercial Arbitration Act (1990)*, is proceeding between Transit Australia and the following operators:

- Cairns Trans
- Sunshine Coast Coaches
- Coolum Coaches

(4) No senior Government officer has threatened to stop goodwill payments to existing license holders.

In any event, the existing operators who have been unsuccessful in being awarded a contract in all the areas serviced by Transit Australia under a commercial service contract have an entitlement to compensation under the provisions of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*. If they are unsatisfied with the amount of compensation they have the opportunity to have the matter heard independently by arbitration, pursuant to the provisions of the *Commercial Arbitration Act (1990)*.

(5) Any delays in respect of compensation arise from the negotiations between the operators themselves.

As a general rule, either party involved in a compensation dispute can refer the matter to arbitration as soon as there is a breakdown in negotiations.

### 281. South Coast Motorway

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Is Queensland Transport or any other Government authority, acquiring land in or near that part of the last preferred route (as at June 1995) of the proposed South Coast Motorway which lies within the Albert electorate, with a view to proceeding to construct a road or permit the construction thereon of a road; if so, what is the planned route, specifications and construction timetable for such road?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

At the owner's request Queensland Transport reopened negotiations for the fee simple acquisition of properties that were under way prior to the suspension of negotiations in August while the Government reviewed the decision to construct the South Coast Motorway.

Queensland Transport has also given permission to a landowner to construct an overbridge over the Beenleigh-Robina Rail line and the land acquired for the South Coast Motorway. The landowner owns the properties either side of the proposed motorway and railway line and needs the bridge for interconnectivity between his developments.

### 287. Renal Dialysis Service

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the review currently being conducted for renal services in Bundaberg and the Wide Bay region—

- (1) Will he confirm whether or not the renal dialysis service is to be made available to public patients in Bundaberg?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of providing a renal dialysis service to Bundaberg?
- (3) Comparatively, what is the cost involved to outsource this service through the private sector to public patients?
- (4) Has consideration been given to providing this facility to Hervey Bay or Maryborough instead of Bundaberg; if so, on what basis?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) I confirm that a renal dialysis service is to be opened at the Bundaberg Hospital early next year. I have already announced on Friday 10 November, 1995 that the Government will spend \$475,000 on providing the Bundaberg area with a renal unit. Planning and recruitment are already under way. The service will initially enable 8 patients to be treated locally. The expansion of such services was never contemplated for the people of Bundaberg when the Nationals were in power.

(2) Bundaberg Hospital will be paid the standard price of \$258 per treatment similar to that applying to all other hospitals providing dialysis services. Treating 8 patients per week, the annual payment is estimated to be \$321,984. In addition to \$475,000 capital works funding, the Government will provide \$425,000 recurrent funds to run the service and an initial \$22,000 to help with the recruitment and training of staff.

Of the \$475,000 capital costs to establish a renal service at Bundaberg Hospital — \$120,000 is for the purchase of 4 dialysis machines.

(3) Depending on the type of dialysis machine purchased, the private sector proposal was in the range of \$270 to \$285 per treatment. On an equivalent number of patients, the annual cost would be in the range of \$336,960 to \$355,680 per annum. These costs are higher than the public hospital costs by between \$14,976 and \$33,696 per annum. The savings gained at Bundaberg Hospital will fully offset the cost of the machines by the end of their useful life span.

(4) A five chair renal unit has been included in the new Hervey Bay Hospital, currently under construction and due for opening by March 1997. This unit will provide a service to patients from the local area, including Maryborough. The two renal units at Bundaberg and Hervey Bay Hospitals will be able to share resources and expertise to the benefit of all renal patients in the Wide Bay area.

This initiative demonstrates the Government's commitment to taking health services out to where people live.

Under the centralised system proposed by the Opposition during the Election, specialist services would revert back to pre-1989 conditions whereby people needing specialist services had to travel to Brisbane at enormous cost—both financial and emotional.

Based on their track record, I have no doubt that under a National Party Government, the people of Bundaberg will lose this service because the Nationals are the experts when it comes to pulling the money out of public health services and our Hospitals to balance recurrent expenditure.

### 289. South Coast Motorway

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the fact that Queensland Transport retains large tracts of land south of the Logan River in the route of the proposed South Coast motorway and has bought 27 extra properties in the Rochedale area in the path of that motorway in the last three months and continues to quickly purchase properties in Rochedale—

Is it Queensland Transport's intention to follow the SEQ 2001 Report recommendations by proceeding with motorway extensions north of the Logan River, both east of Daisy Hill into Rochedale and west of Daisy Hill through the Woodridge electorate and Logan and Waterford electorates (which Government

Members loudly claimed on 19 October 1995 will be favoured by creation of the new Meadowbrook University to soften up Logan and Waterford voters) onto the Logan motorway?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

On 13 September 1995, concerning the South Coast Motorway proposal, I announced that I was prepared to rule out completely a road through the koala habitat.

At that time some properties had been acquired by agreement with owners, and negotiations on other properties were taking place at the request of owners. Following the decision not to proceed with the Motorway these owners were able to continue with negotiations or to withdraw, as they wished. Disposal of these acquired properties will occur over time.

On 13 September 1995, I also announced the establishment of a community consultative committee to look at further planning for infrastructure needs in South-East Queensland. The committee will work in tandem with the development of the Government's Integrated Regional Transport Plan.

## 292. Demerit Points for Drivers of Defective Vehicles

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) When and why was the introduction of drivers licence demerit points for drivers of vehicles with minor defects introduced?
- (2) Why are the fines imposed on drivers/owners of motor vehicles with minor defects so high, thus causing financial hardship and possible prevention of the necessary repairs being undertaken?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

1. Demerit points for this offence under the *Traffic Regulation 1962* were introduced on 19 January 1970 with other provisions relating to the issue of provisional driver's licences and management of young driver performance. The demerit points scheme was subsequently extended to all road users. The specific offence relates to the use of a defective vehicle on a road and is aimed at deterring the use of defective vehicles.

2. An "on the spot" fine for the use of a defective vehicle on a road was introduced as part of the overall scheme in 1965 to allow the Police Service to issue "on the spot" infringement notices for Traffic offences. The penalty in 1965 was £3/- (\$6.00).

Members may recall that the Report of the Travelsafe Committee into the safety and mechanical condition of motor vehicles (Report No. 2, November 1990) recommended an increase in the level of the monetary penalty to reflect the need to deter offenders from driving unroadworthy or defective vehicles and cover the cost of administering the system. The penalties for driving defective motor vehicles (unroadworthy—minor defect) and unroadworthy vehicles at that time were \$15.00 for

either offence with 1 demerit point for a minor defect and 3 demerit points for an unroadworthy vehicle.

As a result of the Travelsafe recommendation an increase in the penalties was approved by Executive Council on 10 December 1992. The penalties was increased to \$60.00 for driving a vehicle which is unroadworthy—minor defect and \$120.00 for driving a vehicle which is unroadworthy. The demerit points of 1 and 3 for the respective offences were not altered.

These penalties have not been altered since 1992.

Road Safety concerns about unroadworthy vehicles are an important issue for the community. The system now in place for random roadside inspections was introduced following the Travelsafe report and is designed to encourage motorists to keep their vehicles in reasonable and safe condition all year round rather than once a year as might occur where annual inspection systems are in place.

The program does not impose any financial burden on motorists who keep their vehicles in safe condition in the interests of their own families and other road users.

## 302. Southport-Burleigh Road

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Southport-Burleigh Road connection to the Pacific Highway and to the recent "Roads Implementation Program" document, page 65, item 10.4.1 (Pacific Highway Acceleration)—

Will he now provide more specific information on commencement and completion dates for construction of the missing link to the Southport-Burleigh Road between Burleigh Connection Road and the Pacific Highway?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

The Queensland Government expects to award a major design and construct contract in November 1995 to duplicate the Pacific Highway between Reedy Creek and Tugun, and extend the Southport-Burleigh Road from the Burleigh Connection Road to the Pacific Highway.

Construction works on the project, including the extension of the Southport-Burleigh Road, will start in early 1996 and be completed by May 1997.

## 310. North Coast Rail Line, Toilets on Trains

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Has any study been undertaken to ascertain the need for toilets on trains on the North Coast line to Nambour and beyond; if so, what were the recommendations?
- (2) If not, will he initiate a study?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

1. No such study on the need for toilets on trains to Nambour has been undertaken.

2. The need for such a study is considered unnecessary.

The Intercity Express (ICE) rollingstock that is used for some of the north coast services has toilets.

However, some existing services utilise suburban EMU or SMU rollingstock which do not have toilets. In such cases, a comfort stop is scheduled at Caboolture.

With the release of additional ICE carriages from QR's Traveltrain division following the introduction of the TiltTrain in 1998, it is expected that all services to Nambour or Gympie will have toilet facilities on board. In addition, these toilet facilities will be accessible by all passengers including the disabled.

### 315. Tamborine-Oxenford Road

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the upgrading of the Tamborine/Oxenford Road—

- (1) What will be the commencement date and the anticipated completion date?
- (2) What is the full extent of property resumptions and valuations on each acquisition necessary to effect this upgrade?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

1. Between July and September 1995, Queensland Transport upgraded two sections of the Tamborine Road of a 8.0 metre wide bitumen seal standard. The two sections total 2.0 kilometres in length and are located between Kriedmans Road and Elevation Drive.

2. Queensland Transport did require additional land for this project

### 319. Mobile Phones

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the increase in the sale of car phones and portable phones during the past two years in Queensland—

- (1) Is there a method to establish whether carphones or portable phones were in use at the time vehicles were involved in serious accidents; if so, will he detail those results?
- (2) If not, will he give consideration to establishing a process whereby these figures could be obtained?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

The Queensland Government collects a comprehensive set of information about each road traffic accident that is reported to the police. A Traffic Incident Report is completed by the attending police officer and the information is entered on to the Police Traffic Incident Reporting System. This data is transferred to a Road Crash Data Base in Queensland Transport where each crash is examined, the information verified and additional data about the crash added.

At the current time, if the police feel that use of a mobile phone contributed to a road accident, the driver can be charged with 'driving without due care and attention'. While specific information on carphones is not collected on the Traffic Incident Report at the moment, the Queensland Government has been aware of the increase in the use of carphones and portable telephones by motorists. Earlier this year, the Government initiated action to ensure that information relating to communication devices will be collected in the future. A revised version of the Traffic Incident Report form, including provision for the information, has already been successfully trialled by Queensland existing form early in 1996.

It should be noted that, to date, there is no evidence that the use of telephones while driving represents a particular crash risk. While the research evidence shows that activities such as dialling a number and conducting a conversation do affect a person's driving, so also do things like tuning a radio or changing a music cassette.

The new Traffic Incident Report form will mean that information relating to the involvement of devices such as carphones in road accidents in Queensland will be available from 1996 on. Queensland Transport will monitor the data and, from 1996, will be in a position to provide information on the involvement of vehicles with telephones in road crashes.

### 321. Gold Coast Highway Upgrade

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Government's decision to upgrade the Gold Coast Highway to six lanes, and the urgent need for this project to be fast-tracked—

When will work on this upgrade commence, and when will the project South of Beenleigh to Southport be completed?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

I recently announced the Pacific Highway between Brisbane and Smith Street will be upgraded to six lanes within the next four years. Queensland Transport is actively working on a plan to accelerate this upgrading work as quickly as possible, mindful that the works are undertaken in a planned way which considers the needs of the travelling public and all the communities living close to the highway. Queensland Transport will be releasing details of the upgrading plan by December 1995.

### 322. Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the recent visit by him to Fraser Island when various matters of concern were raised in relation to the airstrip at Orchid Beach—

- (1) Will he further consider the reopening of the airstrip at Orchid Beach on Fraser Island?
- (2) Will he confirm what actions or reviews, if any, are proposed to be taken by his department in

relation to the closure of roads, etc. in the northern section of Fraser Island?

**Answer (Mr Barton):**

Answer not supplied.

### **325. Teacher Numbers, Mirani Electorate**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the continual problems of schools within the Mirani Electorate on a daily basis in obtaining relief and replacement staff (for example—one grade four class at Andergrove State School has had 22 relief teachers so far in 1995) and as this intolerable situation is not conducive to the development and education of our students—

- (1) Is he aware of the situation?
- (2) What measures are available to the Education Department to ensure continuity of teacher replacement?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

(1) With reference Mr Malone's claims and with regard to the situation at Andergrove State School, it is regrettable that the Member for Mirani has become a stranger to the truth and his wild exaggerations and departure from fact reflect poorly upon him, however it is of concern to me that a number of schools have had problems getting relief over the last 12 months. This is a result of the increased employment prospect for teachers and the Goss Government's commitment to increasing the number of teachers employed by the Department of Education.

(2) The Goss Government recognises that the provision of relief teachers for schools is an important and key element in providing a stable and consistent learning environment for students, that is why Goss Government has delivered on our election commitment to provide 90 permanent relief teachers across the State.

The Department of Education at all times makes every effort it can to ensure that relief teachers are provided to schools in such a way as to ensure continuity of teachers at classes within any one school. Maintenance of continuity of classroom learning is accomplished by:

- having classroom programs available to relief teachers
- having permanent relief teachers available where there is a limited number of trained teachers for relief duties
- having registers of relief teachers available to all schools in an area
- having processes to advise relief teachers of school procedures
- using temporary employment of one relief teacher when extended periods of absence are known
- principals attempting to use the same relief teachers where possible.

### **326. Fisherman Islands-Cleveland Railway Line**

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Fisherman Islands/Cleveland Railway line through the Greenslopes Electorate—

Will he provide information describing in detail any plans and initiatives to reduce the railway noise level due to goods trains using the line at night, blowing their whistles which disturbs the sleep of residents?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

The \$95m Standard Gauge Rail link to Fisherman Islands is part of the Commonwealth and State Government initiatives to maximise rail freight transport as part of the national strategy of ecologically sustainable development.

The rail link is targeted at providing direct access to the Port of Brisbane at Fisherman Island to the national standard gauge rail network and maximising use of the rail network for freight traffic.

The rail link will be a major boost to the economic development of the South East Queensland region and will help Queensland exporters compete on the world markets. The new Brisbane Multimodal Terminal at Fisherman Islands opened in November 1994 and has already been a major boost to the attraction of rail for container movements throughout Queensland.

The Standard Gauge Link proposal was a catalyst for Queensland Rail to address rail noise issues and studies were initiated to develop rail noise guidelines for rail corridors and terminals.

The corridor rail noise guidelines were utilised to address existing and future rail noise issues along the standard gauge link between Yeerongpilly and Fisherman Islands, and these were incorporated in the Impact Assessment Study and subsequent detailed noise investigation along the corridor.

The detailed noise study, by specialist consultant Richard Heggie and Associates, identified 7km of the route where rail noise is currently in excess of the guidelines. Further design of noise amelioration measures in these areas, including construction of a trial noise barrier at Dutton Park, identified that solid barriers ranging in height from 3.5 metres up to 8 metres, would be needed to reduce current rail noise in these locations to an acceptable level for residences along the route.

The initial capital cost of these barriers is estimated at \$7.5 million, with on-going maintenance costs.

The erection of noise barriers as recommended would have a major impact on local communities, particularly as regards visual amenity, loss of views, shading, loss of breezes, likelihood of graffiti attacks and the like.

The proposed barrier solution is being referred to Brisbane City Council for review of the impact from a town planning/community amenity perception before proceeding with construction of any barrier.

Alternative options to reduce the noise at the source are also being examined by Queensland Rail. These include electrification and the introduction of new generation quieter diesel locomotives, which have the potential to significantly reduce noise levels.

Other measures to reduce noise at the source are being implemented and this has included replacement of old timber bridges along the route,



elimination of rail joints and installation of special swing nose crossings.

National Rail Corporation is also in the process of acquiring new generation diesel locomotives which would operate the Standard Gauge trains to Fisherman Islands.

Queensland Rail has a community obligation to provide protection at level crossings which offers both vehicular and pedestrian traffic a safe method of passage across railway tracks. Sounding of the locomotive whistle or klaxon on the approach to level crossings is an integral part of the safety process.

However, given the known concerns of the community, instructions have been issued reminding drivers of the necessity to restrict the use of locomotive klaxons in residential areas to a minimum level consistent with safety to reduce noise intrusion.

### 338. Glenala State High School; School Uniform Vouchers

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the merger of the Inala and Richlands State High School campuses with the Glenala State High School campus and to ensure the smooth transition to the new campus—

Will he consider making the issue of the \$50 uniform voucher for 1996 to parents of students attending the Glenala High School a one-off payment made out to the Glenala State High School Parents and Citizens Association?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

On 22 November 1995 I wrote to parents and guardians advising that they would be paid the Queensland government's Back to School Uniform Allowance of \$50 per school child for students in Years 1 to 12 in Queensland State and non-State Schools in 1996.

The first round of cheques will be mailed to parents and guardians of students currently in Years 1 to 9 at the address shown on the school's records as at 30 November 1995. These cheques will be mailed in January, before the beginning of the school year.

Students who will be in Years 1, 11 and 12 in 1996 will receive their cheques in the second round of payments during March 1996.

The payment of this assistance in respect of students enrolled at Glenala State High will be to parents and guardians as will be the case for all other Queensland families.

### 343. Standard Gauge Rail Link

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Is he aware of the proposal by a group in Northern NSW to re-open the Armidale to Wallangarra section of railway track and upgrade the line from Wallangarra to Brisbane to standard gauge to create an inland standard

gauge rail link utilising largely existing infrastructure?

- (2) Have any approaches been made to Queensland Rail to seek their support for this proposal?
- (3) Does he agree that there needs to be an inland standard gauge rail link and that this proposal has merit?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(1) I am aware of a proposal being advocated by a group in northern NSW to re-open the Armidale to Wallangarra section of railway and to upgrade the line from Wallangarra to Brisbane to create an inland standard gauge link.

(2) Queensland Rail has been approached by several organisations seeking to discuss and obtain support for an inland standard gauge railway which could ultimately provide a direct link between Melbourne and Brisbane. Several options for such a link have been proposed however Queensland Rail advises that it does not regard the route via Armidale and Wallangarra as viable, either now or in the foreseeable future.

As previously advised to the House by my colleague, the former Minister for Transport in response to Question No 110 which was placed on notice on 28 March 1995, the inland standard gauge railway proposal via Moree is now the subject of a preliminary feasibility study being undertaken by the Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics (BTCE) in Canberra. I understand that Queensland Rail has provided significant input into this study and that its completion is not too far distant.

(3) The Government's view is that the inland rail route is a good example of potential Nation Building infrastructure which may well prove to have national as well as regional and local benefits. However, a project of such magnitude could only eventuate after a fully detailed feasibility study and by way of an agreement between the Commonwealth and affected States, including Queensland. It would also require substantial funding from the Commonwealth or from other sources.

As such, the Government will await with interest release of a report covering the BTCE's current study and will assess its implications at that time.

### 352. Roadworks, Gympie

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to increased traffic on the Bruce Highway and the construction of the Yandina By-Pass section—

- (1) When will construction begin on the junction of Tandur Road and the Bruce Highway, south of Gympie?
- (2) When will construction begin on the Gunalda Range Section of Bruce Highway between Gympie and Maryborough?
- (3) When will passing lanes be constructed on the Bruce Highway just north of Gympie?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

1. The intersection of Tandur Road with the Bruce Highway will be upgraded as part of the \$3.8M National Highway Project for the Matilda and Jackass Creek Sections. Tenders will be invited in January 1996, works are expected to be completed before December 1996. The works will also involve the widening and upgrading of approximately 4.0km of road to improve over all traffic safety. \$1.046M is allocated for expenditure in 1995/96 financial year.

2. The upgrading of the Gunalda Range has not been approved as a project for construction, by the Federal Department of Transport (FDoT). A submission to include the project on the National Highway works program will be made following the completion of a concept planning study, including community consultation and an environmental impact assessment, by the end of 1996.

3. Construction of passing lanes north of Gympie on the Bruce Highway is not on the five year National Highway Program. While Queensland Transport is aware of the need and has undertaken some preliminary planning, it has not been able to programme the construction of passing lanes within present Federal allocations.

**353. Teachers' Travel Allowance**

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the allowance paid to teachers who relieve in rural areas, ie 52.9 cents/km for travel in their own vehicles up to 8,000km and to the fact that once they have travelled more than 8,000 km in their duties, the rate is halved, although the relieving teacher is still expected to use their own car—

- (1) Does he agree that this system is inequitable and penalises teachers who are providing a service to his department?
- (2) What action can he take to address this senseless situation?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

The system is not inequitable. Reduced allowances are paid after the first 8 000 kms travelled, to all officers of the State public service, not only to teachers. Also, reduced allowances are paid in every geographical location—not only in rural areas.

It is not considered that this system for the payment of kilometric allowance penalises teachers. However, as the rates currently used have not been reviewed since 1993, it would not be inappropriate to reconsider them when the Determinations are not reviewed.

However, teachers who believe that kilometric allowances currently paid are inadequate should set out details of their reasons in writing to the Department. All relevant costs incurred and receipts relating to these should be included.

**360. Harbours**

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Is it the Government's intention to hand over responsibility for harbours like Mooloolaba to local government; if so, has the Government had discussions with the relevant shires and what has been their response to the proposal?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

Queensland has fourteen (14) designated Crown boat harbours which provide safe anchorage for recreational and commercial vessels.

Currently:

- five (5) are managed by Queensland Transport in particular Mooloolaba, Snapper Creek, Urangan, Rosslyn Bay and Bowen;
- seven (7) are managed by Port Authorities in particular Manly, Cabbage Tree Creek and Scarborough by Port of Brisbane Corporation, Burnett Heads by Bundaberg Port Authority, Auckland Inlet by Gladstone Port Authority, Mackay by Mackay Port Authority, Ross Creek by Townsville Port Authority; and
- two (2) are managed by the relevant Local Governments in particular Johnstone River by Johnstone Shire and Port Douglas by Douglas Shire.

On 18 April 1995, Cabinet approved:

- in principle, the devolution of the Crown boat harbours to local management (local authorities or port authorities); and
- the commencement of negotiations regarding boat harbours currently managed by Queensland Transport.

Negotiation packages have been presented to Hervey Bay City Council regarding Urangan and Cooloola Shire Council regarding Snapper Creek. Both shires have responded with a series of issues which are currently being examined by Queensland Transport.

In addition, the Port of Brisbane Corporation has made a submission under the corporatisation charters to continue to manage Manly, Scarborough and Cabbage Tree Creek boat harbours and take over the management of Mooloolaba Boat Harbour. It is envisaged that, subject to the review of the Port of Brisbane Corporation's submission, discussions regarding Mooloolaba Boat Harbour will occur prior to Christmas 1995.

Negotiations with local authorities regarding Rosslyn Bay and Bowen boat harbours will be held in the New Year.

**375. Barga Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Environment and Heritage Department's rejection of the Burnett Shire Council's Strategy Report on sewerage treatment and effluent disposal requirements for Barga Wastewater Treatment Plant (25 July 1994)—

- (1) Why was it rejected by his department after almost 4 years of development involving the Departments of Environment and Heritage, Primary Industries and Lands?

- (2) What are the department's treatment level requirements for water from sewerage to be injected into the Woongarra aquifer?
- (3) What are the department's treatment level requirements to allow the water to (a) be released into the irrigation channels and/or (b) into the Burnett River?
- (4) If relative treatment requirements are met would the department approve of the disposal into any of the abovementioned possible outlets?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

(1) The Bargara STP presently disposes of effluent to the Woongarra Marine Park and the undesirability of continuing and increasing this discharge has catalysed investigation of alternative effluent disposal options. The long term potential for impacts on the breeding of loggerhead turtles in this area is a major concern. As yet no acceptable alternatives for effluent disposal have been established thereby restricting the potential for augmentation of the Bargara STP.

(2) Aquifer injection of treated effluent is unacceptable to Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) as there is not enough information on the long term implications of this.

(3a) Discharging to the Department of Primary Industries Water Resources (DPI.WR) irrigation channel is an option for water reuse yet to receive full consideration by DPI: that agency does not have an existing policy on such discharge to open irrigation channels. Some concern raised in relation to the concept include potential for the irrigation channels to overflow in wet weather, and thereby discharge to the Woongarra Marine Park, and concern regarding health risks, to children and generally, of such effluent in open channels. Any such discharge from the STP would need to meet appropriate tertiary treatment standards for marine discharges as well as any standards determined under a DPI.WR policy.

(3b) The Bargara STP presently disposes of effluent to the Burnett River and thereby to the Woongarra Marine Park. Continuing and increasing this discharge at the present level of treatment is undesirable. In the short term the discharge will need to meet appropriate tertiary treatment standards. Disposal to the marine park is not viable in the long term.

(4) The 'Three R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle for sound environmental management apply in this case. Reuse to the greatest possible extent is necessarily the first priority for disposal of sewerage effluent, and is entirely logical in a major irrigated sugar cane production region such as around Bundaberg. Such schemes may require supplementary disposal mechanisms during periods of sustained wet weather. Whether a reuse option including addition to the DPI.WR irrigation channel is the optimum methodology has first to be considered by the DPI. Given that it is an open channel, it may require higher standards of treatment than some other means of irrigation distribution.

### **376. Gold Coast Rail Link**

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the commencement of rail services to Helensvale in the immediate future—

Will he provide details of (a) timetabling and fare scheduling for all rail services to operate, (b) integrated fare schedules and intermodal services offered and the operator providing same and (c) consultation with all service operators for Ormeau, Coomera, Helensvale intermodal services?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(a) In response to the Honourable members questions regarding the commencement of rail services to Helensvale in the immediate future, draft timetables have been formulated by Queensland Rail with services operating half-hourly, commencing at approximately 5.30am and running to approximately 11.30pm, seven days a week. A single adult fare from Brisbane Central to Helensvale will be \$7.00 with discounts applying to off-peak return tickets, pensioner tickets, weekly tickets, season tickets and a 50% discount for weekend travel.

(b) & (c) In relation to consultation with operators for intermodal services Queensland Rail has negotiated with Surfside Bus Company and Coachtrans.

An agreement was reached with Surfside to meet every train at Helensvale. Coachtrans will meet all trains at Ormeau and Coomera.

Both these agreements will be regularly reviewed.

Negotiations are still under way with Surfside and Coachtrans regarding fares and ticketing.

### **378. Dredging, Southport Broadwater**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

(1) When will the long delayed dredging of the main seaway to Hope Island Channel, Coombabah Creek and other major designated channels in the Broadwater commence?

(2) What are the expected completion dates and the dimensions of dredging?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

The Government plans dredging for the main navigation channel in the Coomera River (between the junction with the Broadwater and upstream to Sanctuary Cove), the main channel at Jacobs Well near Woogoompah Island, and the secondary channel in Canaipa Passage near the Slipping Sands. At this stage there are no plans to dredge either the Broadwater, between the Gold Coast Seaway and the mouth of the Coomera River, or Coombabah Creek.

Environmental and other approvals are presently being sought for the Coomera River dredging with the commencement of dredging expected when the necessary approvals are given and tenders obtained.

Tenders have been obtained for the dredging of the Jacobs Well and Canaipa Passage sites. Dredging of Canaipa Passage is scheduled to commence in late November 1995, with the most critical section of the works being completed prior to Christmas 1995 and the balance by early February 1996. Concerns raised by environmental agencies regarding previous and proposed disposal of spoil from the Jacobs Well channel on Woogoompah Island have necessitated the revision of the originally proposed works associated with this project to include rehabilitation of the spoil disposal site. Negotiations with environmental agencies regarding the requirements for the works and the necessary approvals are currently in progress. Commencement of dredging is expected when these negotiations are completed and new tenders for the revised scope of works are obtained.

### 381.Subdivisions, Johnstone Shire

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Have some landowners in the Johnstone Shire been forced to make contributions to Queensland Transport prior to council sealing subdivisional plans?
- (2) Are these charges in the vicinity of \$16,000 for each new block created and in addition to the usual charges associated with a development; if so, what action does he propose to take to prevent such windfall revenue gains and to ensure that residential land prices remain affordable?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

1. Queensland Transport is keenly encouraging transport efficient development and responds to subdivision and rezoning applications made to Local Government where it is assessed there will be an impact on State-controlled Roads.

During 1994, the rate of "family subdivision", which is very "transport inefficient", increased in Johnstone Shire. Consequently, Queensland Transport undertook a study to assess the true impact of this type of subdivision on State-controlled Roads in Johnstone Shire. This study resulted in Queensland Transport seeking, through Local Government contributions per lot ranging from \$2,600 for subdivision approximately 3 km from Innisfail to \$15,900 for subdivision 30 km from Innisfail.

2. It is intended that the future head of power enabling both State agencies and Local Government to impose infrastructure charges for eligible infrastructure will be the proposed Planning, Environment and Development Assessment (PEDA) legislation.

The Government has issued an Exposure Draft of the proposed PEDA Bill which specifies the principles that will apply in the determination and imposition of future infrastructure charges for Queensland. Queensland Transport will be bound by that legislation.

The impact on housing affordability will be managed by limiting infrastructure charges to the basic

infrastructure items required to maintain amenity and achieve safety standards.

### 385.Contaminated Land, Toowoomba

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to approximately 20 residential blocks in the suburb of Wilsonton in Toowoomba which have been listed on the Contaminated Land Register under the *Contaminated Land Act 1992*—

- (1) Did the user of the land at the time of the pollution (the Toowoomba City Council) not keep accurate records defining the perimeter of the filled land?
- (2) Did the Council also not record in which areas possible hazardous commercial waste was dumped and which areas contained only household rubbish?

**Answer (Mr Barton):**

In response to the question from Mr Healy, I can advise as follows:

In January 1995 the Department of Environment and Heritage requested that the Toowoomba City Council investigate an area of land in Wilsonton which was reported to have been used for a municipal landfill. This request was made as Council had indicated that accurate historical records about the operation of the landfill were not available.

Should the member require more information, he should contact Toowoomba City Council directly.

### 386.Road Headworks Charges

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What is the Government's intention in respect of levying developers for road headworks charges, which is presently causing great hardship to people wishing to subdivide their land, to the extent of an extra \$16,000 for each new block created in some cases?
- (2) Is it simply a fund-raising exercise by his department as in many cases the infrastructure required to be subsidised is not consequent to the development concerned?
- (3) Will he outline the basis under which such charges are being levied?
- (4) If the Government does not intend the charges to simply be a windfall revenue gain, what steps will the Government take to ensure that residential land prices are unencumbered by this extra charge so that they remain affordable to the average Queenslanders?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

(1) As part of its management of development impacts on State-controlled transport infrastructure the Government intends to continue imposing infrastructure charges where necessary.

With respect to the catchment scheme which resulted in charges up to \$16,000 per lot, the scheme

was introduced to offset the adverse impacts of Johnstone Shire Council's previous policy with respect to the creation of "family transfer" (residential use) lots in rural areas. Council has since amended its policy and Queensland Transport is currently reviewing the scheme to determine revised impacts.

(2) The infrastructure charges imposed by Queensland Transport are not general fund-raising taxes on developers.

They are charges on liable development specifically for provision of new, or rehabilitation of existing, State-controlled infrastructure which is necessary to meet accepted safety and amenity standards.

All revenue raised by imposition of infrastructure charges is spent to meet the local infrastructure requirements that are the basis of the charge. If conditions change, and the particular infrastructure is not required, then Queensland Transport will either refund the charges or, for catchment schemes, provide other beneficial transport infrastructure within the catchment.

(3) The infrastructure charges are currently being levied under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

The charges reflect a reasonable apportionment to the development of the cost of infrastructure considered relevant for the basic functioning of the transport networks serving the development.

Queensland Transport always undertakes technical studies, in consultation with Local Governments, to determine the level of infrastructure charges for both catchment-based and individual development assessments.

(4) It is intended that the future head of power enabling both State agencies and Local Government to impose infrastructure charges for eligible infrastructure will be the proposed Planning, Environment and Development Assessment (PEDA) legislation.

The Government has issued an Exposure Draft of the proposed PEDA Bill which specifies the principles that will apply in the determination and imposition of future infrastructure charges for Queensland. Queensland Transport will be bound by that legislation.

The impact on housing affordability will be managed by limiting infrastructure charges to the basic infrastructure items required to maintain amenity and achieve safety standards.

### **388. Salaries of Ministerial Policy and Media Advisers**

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the appointment of senior ministerial policy and media advisers—

What is the exact salary provided to the ministerial policy and media advisers of (a) the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth, (b) the Treasurer, (c) the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of

Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, (d) the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing, (e) the Minister for Health, (f) the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs, (g) the Minister for Lands, (h) the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development, (i) the Minister for Education, (j) the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women, (k) the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters, (l) the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts, (m) the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, (n) the Minister for Administrative Services, (o) the Minister for Environment and Heritage, (p) the Minister for Minerals and Energy and (q) the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development?

**Answer** (Mr De Lacy):

Answer not supplied.

### **391. School Principal Vacancies**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to complaints from parents of students dissatisfied with having acting principals at schools where vacancies exist for long periods of time—

What steps has he taken to ensure that "principal" positions in primary and secondary schools are filled more quickly?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

Once the position of Principal in a school is confirmed a vacancy, procedures regarding the process of filling the position are implemented immediately. Either a Principal (who is eligible for relocation) is appointed to the position or the position is advertised in order to ensure that the best person for the position is appointed as a permanent principal to the particular school.

Principals are appointed at the commencement of semesters to ensure minimum disruption within the school. Every effort is made to ensure that schools are afforded continuity and stability in staffing.

### **393. Roadworks, Keppel Electorate**

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Will he provide a three-year forward plan for work to be carried out on the Emu Park-Rockhampton road, Emu Park-Yeppoon coastal road and the Yeppoon-Rockhampton road?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

The Roads Implementation Program for 1995/96-1996/97 and indicative 1997/1998-1999/2000 has now been released publicly, following tabling in Parliament on 23 October 1995.

The current program provides for the following works:

Road 1995/96 1996/97 1997/98-1999/00

Rockhampton-Emu Park

- Blacks Ck-Thompson's Pt T/O—\$80,000
- Thompson's Pt T/O-Coolcorra—\$2,750,000

Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road

- Mulara Flats—\$1,900,000

The Blacks Ck-Thompson's Pt T/O project will cost a total of \$3,530,000 and was substantially completed in 1994/95.

No projects are programmed for the Yeppoon-Emu Park Road, in the current Roads Implementation Program.

### 398. North Coast Rail Line

Ms WILSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What has been the cost of replacing the wooden bridges and culverts on the North Coast railway line link with new reinforced concrete bridges and culverts?
- (2) What efforts have been made to increase freight and passenger traffic on this line to pay for the above cost?
- (3) What is the value of the increased traffic?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(1) It is difficult to answer the Honourable Member's first question specific to the amount spent on bridges and culverts, as many contracts involved a variety of civil engineering works, including bridges and culverts. However, the total amount invested in upgrading the North Coast line is \$420 million. This involves 118 kms of realigning the track (flatter grades and curves), the replacement of 674 bridges, the strengthening of 155 bridges and 1,000 kms of track strengthened (steel sleepers and welding of rail joints). These works will permit an increase in wagon axle loads from 15.75 tonnes to 20 tonnes and an increase in permissible freight train speeds from 80 km/h to 100 km/h.

Other upgrades include the construction of new freight terminals at Cairns, Bundaberg and Mackay and the upgrade of freight terminals at Townsville and Mt Isa.

There has also been capital invested in obtaining new rollingstock such as 40 new locomotives 250 new container wagons, with 100 more on order to suit increased traffic, and the upgrade of existing rollingstock to allow them to travel at higher speeds.

Other initiatives include the introduction of Superfreighter container trains, single destination freight trains and the vigorous marketing of freight and passenger services.

In relation to long distance passenger services that have been upgraded, the Sunlander and the Queenslander have undergone major refurbishment.

Additionally, the TiltTrain will be commissioned in 1997 which will provide a significant enhancement in passenger travel between Brisbane and Rockhampton.

(2) Significant marketing efforts have been undertaken by Queensland Rail's small freight wing, Q-Link in gaining major statewide distribution account based business, which uses the Brisbane to Cairns rail line for its essential distribution.

The capture of this business is dependent on improved rail transit times, hence delivery times throughout country Queensland. In the last two years, the Q-Link business has increased its revenue by almost 35%.

This increased level of business has been obtained because of Queensland Rail's improved competitiveness. The present significant investment in infrastructure will further improve transit times and rail reliability.

Q-Link has increased the number of its country sales representatives and now has adopted a product focus with its business managers. As well, Q-Link attends approximately 36 events and shows throughout country Queensland on a yearly basis. Door-knocking campaigns are undertaken by Q-Link at each of the major towns in country Queensland on a six monthly basis.

As well as Q-Link business gains, reductions in transit times have allowed substantial increases in Queensland Rail's livestock business which, over the last five years, has increased in volume by almost 50%. Improved transit times have definitely assisted the movement of livestock to Brisbane for slaughtering.

Significant marketing effort has also been put into capturing additional molasses, sunflower and grain movements from Central and Northern to Southern Queensland. Over the last three years Queensland Rail's domestic molasses business has more than doubled. As well, Queensland Rail was able to compete for, and capture, woodchip traffic at the rate of over 300,000 tonnes per annum from Owanilla to Gladstone.

The North Coast line upgrade is also facilitating Queensland Rail's ability to meet the expansion in Queensland's raw sugar production with rail tonnage expected to increase from one million t.p.a. to 1.5 million t.p.a. in the Burdekin, and in the Mackay area from 750,000 t.p.a. to one million t.p.a. over the next three years. Existing business levels have already grown from approximately 800,000 t.p.a. in the Burdekin and 500,000 t.p.a. in the Mackay area.

(3) In addition, Queensland Rail's small freight business revenue has grown from approximately \$18 million in 1989/90 to an estimated \$34 million in 1995/96.

Queensland Rail's Primary Industries business has also grown its revenue base over the same period, notwithstanding the effects of poor seasonal conditions which have offset these gains by approximately \$20 million. In particular, its livestock business revenue has grown from \$11.6 million in 1989/90 to \$19.0 million in 1993/94, the last year of normal livestock industry activity in Queensland.

The driving force behind the North Coast line upgrade was not only an increase in freight revenue, which is forecast to increase at approximately 4% per annum, but a 'stay in business' strategy to

counter competitive road transport as it achieves ongoing productivity and efficiency improvement.

Should the project not have been undertaken, it is estimated that there would have been a cumulative annual revenue loss to Queensland Rail's Freight Group of some \$5 million, so in 10 years' time, the revenue would have been \$50 million less than that of today, or some \$275 million accumulated over the 10 year period. These figures exclude the undoubted social and community benefits of transferring heavy truck traffic to rail.

The project therefore has not only arrested the decline of rail's market share, but its benefits to date have results in rail being able to successfully compete with road transport for new business, examples being the attainment of a \$5 million per annum contract to carry Cement and Flyash, and a recent \$2 million per annum contract to carry Aluminium Ingots from Gladstone.

#### **401. Carole Park Industrial Estate**

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to complaints from residents in the Wacol/Richlands area concerning noxious odours believed to emanate from businesses located in the Carole Park Industrial Estate—

- (1) Is the Department of Environment and Heritage monitoring this area for this problem?
- (2) If so, will a report be made available to local residents detailing the results of such monitoring?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

The Department is aware of community concerns about odour problems in the Wacol/ Richlands area and has been actively seeking to redress these concerns. The Department of Environment and Heritage has been conducting an odour survey in the locality since late August 1995 and residents in the Wacol area are participating in this survey.

The Scientific Services unit within the Queensland Department of Health has undertaken extensive odour sampling in the Wacol area in order to identify various odour types and likely associated industries. Some odours identified are those associated with the types of industrial businesses in the area. However, it is difficult to attribute specific odours to a single or obvious source.

Odour and other air emissions from industries in the Wacol/Richlands industrial estate will be controlled through the issuing of licences under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The results of the current work being done by the Department and the Scientific Services unit will assist the Department in setting appropriate control conditions.

As far as practicable local residents will continue to be informed as progress is made in controlling these odours.

#### **402. Port Road, Fisherman Islands**

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What is the program for development of the Port Road from Fisherman Islands to the Griffith Arterial Road and Gateway Arterial Road, and will he provide copies of plans?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

An impact Assessment Study on the proposed Port Road between the Gateway Motorway and the Port of Brisbane is being carried out.

The draft report of the study has been released for written comment by the community. Written comment is to be provided to the Consultants undertaking the Study by 1 March 1996.

The draft report is available for viewing at the electorate offices of the Member for Lytton, Hon T Burns MLA, and the Member for Bulimba, Mr P Purcell MLA, as well as at Wynnum Library, Hemmant Post Office and Queensland Transport Libraries. The draft report is also available for purchase at the Queensland Transport Metropolitan South District Office.

The draft report includes plans showing the proposed route. Following consideration of comments on the draft report, it will be finalised for consideration by the Government.

No decision will be made on implementation of the proposal until the report has been considered by Government.

#### **406. Primary School, Sippy Downs**

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Education—

What are the proposed construction and opening dates of the proposed new primary school at Sippy Downs in the Sunshine Coast region?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

Planning is in progress for construction of a new primary school at Sippy Downs for opening for the start of 1997.

Construction is planned to commence on 29 April 1996 with a construction period of 39 weeks which includes an allowance for delays caused by wet weather.

#### **408. Music Classes, State Schools**

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education—

As a number of primary schools in Gladstone are currently holding music classes in state school staff rooms (Clinton State School) or other appropriate locations, what provisions have been made to remedy the situation, given the high level of acceptance of music as an addition to the school curriculum?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

Capital works funds allocations are not sufficient to permit provision of music classrooms in every primary school.

The Department of Education's regional office is currently assessing the needs for new or additional facilities including music facilities as part of the annual capital works needs assessment process. All

projects will be prioritised by the region based on priorities set by each school and available funds.

Departmental records indicate that Clinton State School has 28 existing classrooms and 27 classes. One surplus classroom is therefore available for music. The school also has available several withdrawal rooms which can be used for music teaching.

#### 412. School Uniform Allowance

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the recently announced school uniform allowance—

Will it be available to all students, ie State primary and secondary, private, correspondence and School of the Air students?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

School aged students in Years 1 to 12 during Semester 1, 1996 at any Queensland State or non-Government school are eligible for the allowance. Only one allowance per student can be claimed in any one year.

The following students are ineligible:

- \* preschool students;
- \* students aged 19 or over who have returned to school after a break of 12 months or more;
- \* full fee paying overseas students; and
- \* those who have confirmed that they will NOT be attending a Queensland school in 1996.

#### 413. Southport Broadwater Plan

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) As the summer season is upon us, when will the Broadwater plan that was brought forward prior to the State Election be put back on the agenda for Gold Coast residents to discuss?
- (2) Will commercial users of the Broadwater (eg tourist boats, paraflyers, seaplane operators, bungy jumpers, windsurfer hirers, jet ski operators, amateur fishing clubs, professional fishermen (trawlers) and Air Sea Rescue) be represented on the discussion panel?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

1. A second revised draft of the Southport Broadwater Management Plan is now ready for final consultation.

The first draft management plan was released for public display and comment between the end of March and the middle of June 1995 and has been further reviewed as a result of that consultation process.

At a meeting on the Gold Coast on 14 June 1995, invited persons who had made written submissions regarding the first draft plan were advised that a revised version of the draft plan would be available for public feedback before the document was finalised.

Copies of this revised draft will be forwarded out to all interested parties and in particular persons who forwarded written submissions for comment by the end of November 1995.

2. The Interdepartmental Working Group actively consulted with all commercial and recreational users of the Southport Broadwater when formulating the first draft plan.

Further consultation took place with these users in developing the revised draft through written submissions and a public meeting on the Gold Coast on 14 June 1995.

A total of 26 written submissions were received from commercial operators and organisations who have an interest in the Broadwater plus a further 41 submissions from other interested parties.

I can assure you that consultation with the relevant commercial users has taken place and will continue until a final plan is completed.

#### 414. School Resources

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to Parents and Citizens' Associations in State Schools which contribute a significant amount of funding to assist in the provision of school infrastructure and equipment for the betterment of students and the acceptance by the Government of the facilities on a no-cost basis—

- (1) Why doesn't the Government guarantee replacement of the facilities, if damaged or destroyed, in like manner to other Government funded capital works?
- (2) Why doesn't the Government at least pay the cost of insurance premiums to provide replacement from an independent insurer?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

(1) In line with the long standing policy of this Government and previous Governments, the Department of Education makes a budget allocation to provide for the replacement of equipment and facilities, provided in conjunction with the school P&C.

(2) As indicated in the previous answer the Department of Education makes provision within its budget for the replacement of such facilities and equipment that have been the subject of vandalism or arson attacks. This process of self insurance is in line with the guidelines set down by Cabinet and within the arrangements provided for in Public Finance Standards 330 and 331. These standards were established to maximise the effective use of public funds in the delivery of services to the community.

#### 416. Kangaroo Quotas

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to widespread concern within the kangaroo meat processing and skinning industry that this year's quota will be shot out before the end of the year—



- (1) Who is responsible for setting the quotas?
- (2) What has caused this situation to occur?
- (3) What steps has his department taken to counteract this problem?
- (4) What avenues are open to him to prevent the reoccurrence of this?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

(1) Direct kangaroo population estimates are derived in Queensland by use of helicopter-based aerial surveys conducted by Department of Environment and Heritage staff. On the basis of maximum permissible harvest levels of 20% of the estimated population for the red kangaroo and 15% for the eastern grey kangaroo set by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) in Canberra, the Department of Environment and Heritage each year forwards a quota application to ANCA with respect to the forthcoming harvesting year. Quota proposals from each harvesting state are then considered and approved (or otherwise) by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982.

In January 1995, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories approved the Macropod Commercial Quotas which would apply in Queensland in 1995. Those quotas are:

Red kangaroo	600000
Eastern grey kangaroo	950000
Wallaroo	180000
Whiptail wallaby	25000

(2) The quotas with respect to the eastern grey kangaroo and the wallaroo are less than those in 1994 (quotas of 1250000 and 200000 respectively) in recognition of reduced populations due to prevailing drought conditions. Further, prices for macropod skins this year have been relatively high, prompting a number of dealers to purchase what would normally be regarded to be unattractively small skins, and to thereby use the quota more rapidly.

Harvest periods are closed to ensure that approved Macropod Commercial Quotas are not exceeded. The quota is set by the Commonwealth as a basis for its approval of export licences for kangaroo products. Any action by Queensland to not enforce the quota restrictions would jeopardise an important export industry.

(3) Following urgent representations from macropod pet meat dealers regarding the possibility of early harvest period closures on both the red and eastern grey kangaroos this year, arrangements were made for a teleconference to be conducted in July with the principal macropod skin and carcass dealers and with macropod shooter representatives to discuss options available to attempt to slow the unusually high harvest rates in 1995. The aim was to identify a rapid response mechanism which would "ration" the remaining quota to avoid a total industry shut-down. A further aim of the teleconference was to seek industry co-operation with voluntary harvesting restraint.

The meeting agreed that the high harvest rates might best be slowed by setting a minimum skin size and

carcass weight on the taking of the remaining available quota for red and grey kangaroos. That action had the support of industry participants, including the Fauna Dealers' Association and the Association of Professional Shooters.

The strategy was implemented on 4 August 1995 with the promulgation of the Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period) Amendment Notice (No. 3) 1995. However, as subsequent events indicate, the industry strategy had no discernible effect on the harvest rate.

(4) Subsequent discussions with industry stakeholders indicate that further adjustment of the minimum carcass weight parameters may be necessary. As a consequence, it is proposed that the 1996 Harvest Period Notice will require compliance with the adjusted parameters. Further, the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel has been requested to draft amendments to the Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvesting) Conservation Plan 1994 to ensure that the Department of Environment and Heritage, in consultation with key stakeholders, has a range of management options available in 1996 to address any recurrence of the situation which has prevailed in 1995. However, prime responsibility for addressing the consequences of irresponsible industry behaviour must be borne by macropod industry participants themselves.

#### **418. Yandina Bypass**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

As construction of the Yandina Bypass is well under way and in light of continuing concerns about its impact on the flood plain and upstream residents of the north and south Maroochy River—

- (1) Why has the Government refused to release the flood report thus far?
- (2) When will the unedited existing flood report be released?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(1) A complete and accurate report that addressed the relevant issues was not received from the Specialist Consultants and accepted by Queensland Transport until 21 November. The report was delayed pending the implementation of work covering additional issues.

(2) The flood report for the Yandina Bypass was released on 22 November 1995.

#### **419. Education Resources, Coomera**

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the planned growth for the Coomera region and the fact that the SEDU is housed temporarily in pre-school premises—

- (1) Will he provide as a matter of urgency (a) purpose-built accommodation for these students and teachers at the Coomera location and (b) additional special communications

devices necessary to monitor some of the more profoundly affected students?

- (2) As there is already full enrolment and a considerable waiting list, will he provide the additional staffing required and make permanent the position of Teacher in Charge?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

1(a) The facilities currently occupied by the Special Education Development Unit—one unit of a two-unit preschool building—are suitable for the delivery of the program provided for the number of students enrolled.

Current enrolment patterns do not warrant the establishment of a stand-alone Special Education Development Unit, although the school has nominated this as a priority for its capital works.

1(b) I have been advised that there has been no request for "special communication" devices from the school. The Honourable Member may wish to correspond on this matter to clarify this proposal, which I will then investigate further.

2. The current staffing allocations—1.6 Full Time Equivalent teacher numbers—is consistent with the enrolment-based allocations in similar facilities statewide. Full enrolment capacity has not yet been attained and any changes to staffing will be made when 1996 enrolment patterns are known.

#### **420.Landsborough-Maroochydore Spur Line**

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his answer to my Question, No. 89 of 14 September 1995, in particular the advice of the Government's "commitment to allocate \$1m towards planning in 1995-96"—

- (1) What expense has been incurred so far?
- (2) What feasibility studies have been done and what were the results?
- (3) Has a notional route been selected and what discussions have been held with landholders, local councils, etc.?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

(1) The \$1m committed to planning for the line has been allocated for expenditure in 1995/96. Only minimal expenses have been incurred to date, in the preparation of a Terms of Reference for the rail options study. It is expected that the feasibility study will commence early in 1996. It will consider a broad range of options.

(2) & (3) As previously advised, investigations for the spur line to date have only been at a concept level. No feasibility study has been undertaken as yet, and as a result no notional route has been selected, and no discussions have been held with councils or landholders on this issue.

#### **421.Coorparoo State School**

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Coorparoo State School Junior Campus Years 1-2—

- (1) Is there a stop work order limiting the completion of general maintenance and improvements?
- (2) Is there an additional classroom/administration building proposed for construction at the Coorparoo State School Senior Campus?
- (3) Has the Coorparoo State School Infants Section been sold; if not, is it in the process of being sold or identified for sale in the not too distant future?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

In answering this question it is important to note the hard work of Mr Gary Fenlon, the former member for Greenslopes, in representing the best interests of this school.

(1) I have never instructed my department not to carry out maintenance or needed improvements at the Coorparoo Junior Campus, nor is any such order in effect.

(2) A range of options for capital works improvements have been considered at the school in the context of the Government's Building Better School Program—Primary Upgrade element. This, I presume is what Mr Radke is mistaking for consideration of a new classroom block.

(3) Education Department assets are only sold after they have been declared surplus to requirements. No school with students could ever be considered surplus.

Given that there are still students at the school, I do not see how Mr Radke can think that it has been sold. Maybe he hasn't actually visited the school to know that it is still being used.

#### **422.Timber Industry**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

What consultative processes were and are being undertaken with key timber industry stakeholders, including the Queensland Timber Board, the Australian Workers' Union and other groups likely to be affected, eg graziers, beekeepers, miners and recreational users, prior to any Cabinet submission which would recommend any policy resulting in any adverse impact on all these stakeholders?

**Answer (Mr Gibbs):**

I will ensure that a full consultation process occurs with all stakeholders before I take any recommendations to Cabinet concerning implementation of forest policy.

I have already given such assurances to the Chairman of the Queensland Timber Board.

#### **423.Overseas Visits by Departmental Officers**

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the appendix in the departmental reports which details overseas travel—

Will she supply/detail (a) a copy of the report provided by each officer after her/his overseas mission, as required by official policy, (b) the date of their return and the date on which their report was provided, (c) a list of those officers to whom such official reports were provided, (d) the total cost of each overseas trip, including travel accommodation, allowances, meals, etc. and (e) what fee-for-service or commercial activity did each trip accomplish in relation to each of the following officers' trips (i) Harry Hauenschild to New Zealand, (ii) Ian Andrew to the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden, (iii) Ray Best to New Zealand, (iv) Chris D'Arcy to the United States, (v) Gary Kieseker and Robyn Paulson to Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, (vi) Camden McDonnell to Hong Kong, (vii) Ruth Reilly to the United States and Canada and (viii) D Whitlock to Indonesia?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

(a) to (d) I table the information requested.

(e) TAFE Queensland is a key exporter of vocational education and training services. Total revenue generated by TAFE Queensland since 1989 has exceeded \$33 million, which establishes the organisation as one of Australia's top 500 exporters.

In addition to its activities in the international student areas, TAFE Queensland has been active in the delivery of vocational education and training services in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa. These International Projects have earned over \$9.5 million since 1989.

(i) Not applicable.

(ii) As a result of this visit, Volvo Sweden have granted copyright access, free of charge, to video based materials produced by Volvo for incorporation into a series of interactive video materials.

(iii) Not applicable.

(iv) The trip identified:

- Functional 'fit' of the College Administrative Program System (CAP) to the requirements of schools, Junior Colleges and Universities in the United States.
- Additional functionality required by CAP to meet US requirements
- Market potential for CAP in the US
- Potential business partners for the marketing and support of CAP in the US
- Educational organisations providing opportunities for the marketing of CAP

(v) This trip resulted in the awarding of a multi-million dollar contract to TAFE Queensland in a strategic alliance with TAFE Victoria. The revenue generated to date from this contract for the TAFE partners is \$750,000. The anticipated revenue under this contract over a five year period for the TAFE partners is \$20 million.

(vi) The trip formed part of TAFE Queensland's 1994/95 International Student Program which recruited 932 students enrolled for formal courses and 737 registrations for English language intensive courses for overseas students and generated \$7.1

million in revenue. Revenue Generation from Hong Kong for 1994/95 was \$980,430.10.

(vii) Not applicable

(viii) The trip formed part of TAFE Queensland's 1994/95 International Student Program which recruited 932 students enrolled for formal courses and 737 registrations for English language intensive courses for overseas students and generated \$7.1 million. Revenue Generation from Indonesia for 1994/95 was \$483,644.00.

#### 424.Apprentices

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Will she provide the statistics on an annual basis for each year since the Goss Government was elected for the number of (a) female apprentices, (b) females undertaking trade-based prevocational programs and (c) females undertaking other programs designed to encourage them to enter non-traditional trade areas?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

(a) The numbers of females who have commenced apprenticeships since 1990 are: 1990—1277, 1991—1169, 1992—1440, 1993—1575, 1994—1764.

(b) The number of female enrolments in trade based prevocational programs is as follows: 1990—493, 1991—462, 1992—931, 1993—1225, 1994—1984.

(c) Training and Employment Queensland deliver a national program known as *Tradeswomen on the Move*. The program is aimed at female school students in Grades 6 to 8 as they develop career aspirations and occupation perceptions at this age. The number of schools visited and estimated number of students who have attended information sessions since 1990 are -

#### YEAR—SCHOOLS VISITED

1990—35  
1991—44  
1992—95  
1993—54  
1994—100  
1995—152

#### YEAR—ESTIMATED NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED INFORMATION SESSIONS

1990—2000  
1991—3300  
1992—7000  
1993—3700  
1994—5500  
1995—7500

#### 425.Designation of DEVETIR Staff

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question 192 and in view of (a) the attached correspondence provided with her answer, (b) TAFE Executive Forum

discussion of the problem (c) the attached official internal memorandum to the Executive Director about the issue and (d) the SPSFQ newbreak of April 24—

- (1) Why did neither the Executive Director nor the Director-General appear to know of this matter when I raised it at the Estimates Committee hearings in June?
- (2) Why have I been supplied with copies of letters which are unsigned and undated?
- (3) As these may, in fact, be preliminary and draft copies, which vary from the original letters that were actually sent, will she provide me with copies of the originals?
- (4) Will she table the minutes of the meeting of 22 May referred to by Mr McGaw?
- (5) What efforts has the department made to advise former departmental staff that they may be owed back pay if they were incorrectly designated?

**Answer (Mrs Edmond):**

(1) During the Estimates Committee hearing of 1 June 1995, Mr Santoro created confusion in his question by his reference to cases "currently before the Industrial Relations Commission". This issue has never been before the Industrial Relations Commission.

Once the issue was clarified during the process of the hearing, the Director-General indicated that he was aware of claims concerning the inappropriate classification of some employees, and that proceedings had been instigated to remedy the anomalies where they had been identified.

(2&3) I hereby table copies of the original correspondence that are signed and dated.

(4) I am advised that neither the representatives of the PSMC or my Department undertook the process of minute taking during the course of this meeting.

(5) My Department is unable to identify which of its ex-employees may or may not fall into this category. However, as stated by the previous Minister, the Department will deal quickly with any cases that might be drawn to its attention, as it has done in the past.

#### **426. Birth Centre, Cairns Base Hospital**

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposal for a Birth Centre at Cairns Base Hospital submitted by the Association for Improvement in Maternity Services (AIMS) Cairns group—

- (1) Will he make a commitment to the establishment of a family birth centre facility within the maternity section?
- (2) When will consumer consultation occur regarding maternity options and services within the redeveloped hospital?
- (3) What individuals and/or community groups will be involved in the consultation process?

**Answer (Mr Beattie):**

(1) The Project Definition Plan phase examines the policy and operational issues associated with the provision of Maternity Services at the redeveloped Cairns Hospital. This phase is about to commence and the concept proposed by the AIMS group will be examined and considered during this planning phase.

(2) To date, the AIMS Cairns group has met with the Chief Executive Officer and other relevant senior hospital staff concerning their birthing centre proposal. In addition, the Association has raised this matter with the Peninsula and Torres Strait Regional Health Authority. As part of the planning process, the Project Definition Plan relies heavily on input from key stakeholders and user groups. The AIMS group has been invited to participate in the user groups. 2.

(3) Key stakeholders, hospital staff and client user groups will be involved in the consultation process during the Project Definition Planning phase. It is expected that further input will occur from AIMS as one of the many user groups involved in the process.

#### **427. Vehicle Registration Charges**

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the administration fee charged on top of registration charges when a vehicle is registered (for example, the registration fee for a rigid two axle bus is stated as being \$300 but with the administration fee, the actual cost is \$335)—

- (1) Why is this fee now being charged?
- (2) Is it just a way of increasing registration costs under another name?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

The Queensland Government implemented the uniform national heavy vehicle charges for vehicle registration commencing from 1 July 1995. The fees apply to all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross mass.

The national charges were determined by the National Road Transport Commission and established in the Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Act 1993 which provides for the fees to apply in the Australian Capital Territory. All other states and territories are to adopt the charges through their own legislation.

The charges represent the appropriate contribution by heavy vehicle operators to the maintenance and provision of transport infrastructure. Costs associated with administration and the delivery of services are not included in the national charges and each jurisdiction may add an appropriate fee based on actual costs.

The National Road Transport Commission will monitor the administration fees levied by states to ensure that they are justifiable in terms of cost recovery and not just an additional tax.

The introduction of the new charges results in a reduction of registration revenue of approximately \$8M for Queensland vehicles. The new charging

method is based on actual road damage and distances applicable to the category of vehicle. Some vehicles such as heavy haulage vehicles and heavy trailers now attract higher registration charges while most other vehicles have significantly reduced fees.

The example of a 2 axle bus up to 12 tonnes, referred to in the question, previously attracted fees ranging from \$356.50 up to \$803.80 depending on the gross mass of the bus. A Traffic Improvement fee of \$30.50 was also charged.

These fees have been replaced by the national charge of \$300.00 and an administrative fee of \$35.00. Operators of such 2 axle buses have received a reduction in fees of up to \$499.30.

#### **428. Electricity Charges**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to statements made by various members of the government about the benefits of Queensland's entry into the national grid, and taking part in a deregulated, competitive electricity market and to corporatisation which has also been said to provide many opportunities for gains in efficiency and cost saving—ultimately providing cheaper power for Queenslanders—

As the Queensland electricity industry has been operating at or near world's best practice for a number of years, and providing power at world competitive prices (compared to both State owned and investor owned utilities), (a) where are these new efficiencies to be made, (b) which costs can be cut and (c) how much can be cut from the price of power to Queensland consumers as a result of these gains?

**Answer** (Mr McGrady):

(a) The Queensland electricity supply industry is at the forefront of Australian electricity supply systems, and its total factor productivity (ie a combined measure of the productivity of capital, labour and fuel) is higher than for any other State. However, other States are currently making concerted efforts to improve their electricity systems to enhance the competitiveness of their industries and provide low cost electricity to households. The Queensland electricity supply industry can therefore ill afford to be satisfied with currently operating at or near world's best practice and must pursue further productivity and technology gains if it is to keep pace with world's best practice.

The Queensland Government has moved to ensure that the industry is well placed to identify and secure these gains. The Government corporatised the Queensland electricity supply industry from 1 January 1995 with the objective of placing the Government-owned participants in the electricity industry on a similar footing to private sector companies, with clear commercial objectives, and to improve efficiency through a focus on commercial outcomes.

(b) The corporatisation process ensures there is continuing pressure on the electricity supply industry

to minimise costs and maintain competitively low prices and high service levels for all its customers. Establishment of the National Electricity Market is intended to provide opportunities for further cost reductions in the industry, including through the economic sourcing of electricity supply and competition through the national grid.

(c) The recent gains achieved by the Queensland electricity supply industry through productivity improvements and corporatisation are delivering lower electricity prices to Queensland consumers. A price reduction ranging up to 13 per cent for commercial and industrial users was implemented on 1 April 1995, which will result in cost savings to business of \$100 million per year. In addition, prices to domestic customers have been frozen until at least February 1996. The Government is currently negotiating with other jurisdictions to ensure the arrangements for the National Electricity Market in Queensland best meet the needs of Queensland consumers.

#### **429. Papaya Fruit Fly**

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

What action is currently being taken by the Department of Primary Industries to expedite the deletion of fruit and vegetables that were initially placed on the list of produce that has to be treated, but is not infected by the papaya fruit fly?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recognises that some fruits and vegetables currently listed as hosts of papaya fruit fly may not be hosts at certain maturity stages (for example, possibly hard green banana) or may only be infested if fruit is damaged (for example, possibly lychee).

Until evidence of non-host or low-risk status is provided, other States have demanded chemical treatment as a condition of entry.

DPI recognises that the requirement for chemical treatment is causing cost imposts and/or workplace health and safety issues for farmers and workers handling these chemicals for the first time.

The banana industry has presented a consultant's report arguing the case for removal of restrictions to DPI. This report has been forwarded to an interstate quarantine committee together with other comments and seeking urgent re-consideration of the host status of banana (hard green stage only), lychee, and possible grapes, pumpkins and watermelon.

Other States may require further local data to be developed before granting exemptions. DPI has a fruit sampling program in progress but there is a delay of two to three weeks before fruit flies hatch out from fruit and are identified.

#### **431. Ambulance Centre, Tully**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the Tully local ambulance committee's complaints that they have not been

consulted in the design of the new ambulance centre and his advice to the committee that the project services plan must be implemented because planning is too far advanced—

- (1) How can he defend such disregard for the wishes of this local ambulance committee when the Goss Government has reasserted its position to listen and consult more with Queenslanders?
- (2) Will he now adopt plans acceptable to the Tully local ambulance committee?

**Answer (Mr Davies):**

(1) The short answer is that it is nonsense to suggest that the Local Ambulance Committee have not been consulted.

This year's budget provided \$220,000 for development of an Ambulance Station co-located with the Fire Station at Mission Beach near Tully.

A draft plan was prepared and presented to the Local Ambulance Committee at its meeting on 22 August. Suggestions from the Local Ambulance Committee were incorporated into the plan, but the estimated cost of \$300,000 exceeded the available budget. A further suggestion was then made to construct a building similar to the new Ambulance Station at Russell Island and further designs were submitted to the Local Ambulance Committee on 31 October 1995. The Local Ambulance Committee has drawn up its own plan which also required adjustment to conform with relevant building codes.

Clearly, there has been extensive consultation with the Local Ambulance Committee, even though there has not been agreement about the final plan.

The Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service and I would clearly prefer that the new Station is built to a design acceptable to the Local Ambulance Committee and within the available budget.

(2) The Goss Government is proud of its record of management of the Queensland Ambulance Service and will not allow the good reputation of the Queensland Ambulance Service to be misrepresented by the Member for Western Downs.

As has always been the intention and the proven practice of this government, the new Ambulance Station will be built to a design acceptable to the Tully Local Ambulance Committee and within the available budget.

#### **432. Trowbridge Consultants**

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question on Notice 179, part 1—

- (1) Does her method of financial planning and accountability, illustrated by part of the answer, include (a) waiting for the account to come in so she will know how much she has spent and (b) hoping that it will not exceed \$25,000 to meet the requirements of the Public Finance Standards and the Auditor-General?

- (2) Will she table any correspondence between herself, her department and the consultancy firm (and vice versa) in relation to this expenditure?
- (3) Why did she consider that her department would not provide her with the necessary information in a manner that was both (a) timely and (b) independent?

**Answer (Mrs Edmond):**

(1) It is a requirement when engaging outside consultants to request a quote for fee for service. This was obtained prior to Trowbridge Consulting being engaged.

(2) Yes.

(3) Given that legal and other disbursement costs in common law were an important part of the issues being considered by the Board, Board members believed that independent actuarial advice was required. In addition, some of the information required was not available from the Board's database, such as solicitor own client costs. It was necessary that an assessment of such costs be made by the consultant making direct contact with a representative group of legal practitioners. Further, Board members considered it appropriate that an independent actuary conduct this analysis.

#### **433. Woodford State School**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is he aware of the inadequate and cramped conditions in a number of classrooms at the Woodford State School and the need for a massive upgrade to overcome these problems?
- (2) Is he aware of the unsafe and dangerous conditions which apply in the manual arts section?
- (3) Will action be taken to immediately provide a second telephone line into the Woodford State School?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

1. Woodford State School is a P10 school. Sixteen classroom spaces currently accommodate 432 primary students (as at July 1995). The principal anticipates that the school's opening enrolment for 1996 will remain around this figure. Sixteen teachers will be appointed to the school for the beginning of 1996.

Primary accommodation includes 10 permanent classrooms (four to current standard, six non-standard) and six classrooms in modular form. An uncounted, non-standard space is utilised by the school for music classes.

The government's Building Better Schools initiatives announced recently, include provision of \$84.6 million across the next five years to upgrade existing classrooms in our older primary schools. Using criteria developed by the Department of Education, Woodford State School has been identified as a high priority to benefit from this initiative. The nature and extent of work to be carried out, anticipated to occur within the first two years of the program, will be

determined in consultation with the school community.

Woodford State School has been identified by the region as having a likely minimum requirement for additional classrooms in 1997. The region has requested that additional spaces be provided in permanent accommodation and to the latest standard.

Secondary facilities at the school, to accommodate around 150 students, include five general learning areas, science laboratory, typing room, combined wood and metal workshop, drawing room, multi-purpose home economics area, and art room.

Following recent visits to the school by senior officers from the Sunshine Coast Regional Education Office, an agreed strategy aimed at addressing some of the school's needs in this area has been arrived at.

Other facilities at the school include an administration block, single unit preschool, special education unit and resource centre. Extension of the resource centre from 3-5 bays has been included on the draft 1995/96 Capital Works Program.

2. During a recent visit to Woodford State School by the region's Occupational Health and Safety Officer, the principal identified two issues of concern in the Manual Arts area: the slipperiness of the floor and the nature and positioning of the saw in the preparation area.

The floor is a wooden one, no different from many other laid in manual Arts facilities in the 1960s. It is acknowledged that the floor does become slippery when covered in woodshavings. In an effort to address this problem, the region previously arranged to have the floor sanded so as to remove the surfacing which was perceived as aggravating the problem. The principal has requested that a second sanding, using a coarser grain, be organised. It is anticipated that this will lessen the risk to students and staff.

The saw in the Manual Arts preparation area is approximately 30 years old. Officers are aware of the safety concerns associated with saws of this age and are to develop a prioritised replacement program for the region.

3. Woodford State School has four incoming phone lines—one to its general office area, one to its preschool, one to its special education unit, and a fax line. The school's existing telephone system is unable to accommodate a second line to the general office area, which is what the school is seeking.

In support of the school's stated wish to upgrade its phone system as quickly as possible, the Acting Manager, Facilities and Assets gave a commitment to contribute \$2,000 from the current Minor Works budget towards this project should the school elect to progress the project. The school consequently investigated various options and indicated its intention to install a Hybrex system. As agreed, a contribution of \$2,000 was forwarded to the school on 9 November. The principal has advised that school funds are available to supplement the installation of the new system which will cost approximately \$3,500.

#### **434. Bundaberg Bypass**

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the proposed ring road, announced by the former Minister for Transport (Mr Hayward) for the southern bypass of Bundaberg—

- (1) Will he acknowledge that many residents along the declared route are experiencing problems in relation to the sale of their properties and/or the devaluation of same?
- (2) Will he acknowledge that these problems are being experienced because of the timing of the actual construction of the ring road, as well as the delay in any compensation to residents?
- (3) Will he take action to ensure that adequate compensation is available now to residents wishing to move-sell out from the area in question; if so, (a) what measures can be taken by residents to access such compensation and (b) on what basis will compensation be assessed?
- (4) Is compensation proposed to be available to properties that are adjacent to the proposed ring road route?
- (5) Will he assure residents of Bundaberg that the timing of a proposed ring road of Bundaberg will be reconsidered, in view of the money to be expended by Queensland Transport on the upgrading of Walker Street?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

(1) I am aware of some concerns and staff in my office are currently following up on this issue.

(2) Planning must be carried out well before construction so that a route may be reserved. Such planning also informs developers and home buyers where future roads will be constructed.

More problems would be experienced if planning was not carried out well in advance of construction.

(3) Concept planning by an independent consultant has commenced and it is anticipated that this will be completed by May 1996. This planning will determine the actual areas of land required for the Ring Road. There will be community consultation during this concept planning.

Residents can obtain information regarding compensation by contacting staff of Queensland Transport in Bundaberg, 23 Quay Street, or telephone on (071) 522 355.

Compensation will be limited to land acquisition for hardship in accordance with Queensland Transport's Policy for Land Acquisition—Hardship Purchase and other Considerations. The amount of compensation will be assessed according to the market value of the land.

(4) Compensation will be limited to those residents from whom land is required for the Ring Road construction.

(5) The timing for the construction of the Ring Road will be periodically reviewed. Currently the time for construction is approximately fifteen years hence. Programmed works on Walker Street will be required in any case.

**435. Borumba Dam**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the low water level of the Borumba Dam and the increased use of water from this source for agriculture and domestic use—

- (1) Will he give urgent consideration for funding to enable extra water to be stored in Borumba Dam by utilising the sock process?
- (2) Will the Government give higher priority to the decision to raise the height of the wall of this dam to enable construction to begin immediately?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

The issue of providing additional water from Borumba Dam is primarily linked to the high level of reliability for current and future urban needs.

Growth in use for irrigation has not been dramatic though there has been steady increase over time. At present, with Borumba Dam storage at lower than normal levels, no further additional allocation is being made available. However, once storage returns to normal levels additional allocations can be made available for both agricultural and urban use.

The Government decided in December 1994 that raising of the dam would be the next source of additional water for the Mary Valley.

Staff from the Department of Primary Industries are currently negotiating with landholders to acquire the necessary lands for raising the dam and funds have been allowed in the 1994-1995 budget for this purpose.

Departmental officers are also having discussions with major water user groups regarding their future water needs and their willingness to contribute towards the cost of the works.

Technical issues associated with raising the dam are under investigation by DPI including impacts.

The Government is committed to raising the dam once the technical and financial issues are resolved and the demand has been clearly demonstrated.

**436. Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach**

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to traffic signals on the Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach and to the recent Roads Implementation Program which indicates that traffic signals and lighting for Gold Coast Highway (various locations) has been included (a) 1995-96 approved locations \$1.1m, (b) 1996-97 approved locations \$0.8m and (c) 1997-98 to 1999-2000 \$2.6m, a total over 5 years of \$4.5m—

What sites on the Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach have been allocated and at what stage of the five year program will they be installed?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

Queensland Transport has allocated \$1.1m in the 1995/96 financial year for traffic improvement works

in the Gold Coast City area. This funding is allocated to the most deserving projects based on the cost and associated community benefit. Currently Queensland Transport is working on the following projects as part of this program.

- \* Intersection of Gold Coast Springbrook Road at Farrant Drive to improve access to Mudgeeraba School (Estimate: \$500,000)
- \* Modifications to traffic facilities (including provision of pedestrian signals at Lavelle Street and traffic signals at Ferry Street/Nerang Street) at Nerang (Estimate: \$600,000)

These works will be completed in the next few months and improve safety in these areas. These projects will take most of the allocation for traffic improvement works though there is a possibility of bringing forward other traffic improvement works later in the financial year. Projects such as the provision of traffic signals at Tallebudgera Creek Road/Tsipura Drive, Olsen Avenue/Smith Street northern ramp and extra pedestrian signals on Gold Coast Highway (including Palm Beach) are all candidate projects and will be considered with available funding.

**437. Cooroy-Noosa Link Road**

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Have the consultants engaged by Queensland Transport to undertake a study for a Cooroy-Noosa link road completed their assignment?
- (2) When can the Cooroy community expect to be advised of a decision on this issue?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(1) In the last few months, a number of outside events such as the State election have slowed progress of the Cooroy Planning Study. Consultant Planners, Gutteridge Haskins and Davey, have used this time to further evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the various network and route options, particularly the options put forward at the first information night held with the community. Gutteridge Haskins and Davey intends to distribute another information newsletter in December 1995, and hold another information night with the community following the Christmas holiday period.

Depending on the outcome of this further public consultation, it is anticipated that the study will be completed in March 1996.

(2) Queensland Transport will be a position to make a decision once the study has been completed and the consultant's report is properly considered. A decision is expected to be made in mid 1996.

**438. Mercury Health Hazards in Hospitals**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will he detail what procedures are in place to avoid mercury health hazards at all Queensland hospitals and what funding is being provided to put those procedures in place?



- (2) In particular, what amount of funding has been provided to the Royal Brisbane Hospital for this purpose?

**Answer (Mr Beattie):**

(1) In Queensland Health hospitals, mercury usage is limited and confined mostly to thermometers, blood pressure machines (sphygmomanometers), and dental amalgam.

There is little risk of a health hazard with mercury and the incidence of spills in Queensland public hospitals is believed to be very low.

Public hospitals have addressed the hazard of mercury through a number of strategies including: elimination of mercury usage; substitution of mercury with less hazardous substances; containment of mercury to minimise the likelihood of exposure; and the development and implementation of policies and practices which protect staff when handling mercury. Specifics of these strategies are detailed in the Attachment.

No funding is specifically provided for the management of mercury health hazards in public hospitals, as it is considered part of their routine operational management, which is covered by their normal budgets. The cost of equipment to deal with mercury spillage is not high and does not impose a significant financial burden on individual hospitals.

(2) The Royal Brisbane Hospital has not been specifically funded for mercury hazard management. As part of its overall hazard management, the Royal Brisbane Hospital has set aside an amount of \$35,000 for the purchase of digital and tympanic thermometers to replace mercury thermometers.

The procedures used by Queensland public hospitals to avoid mercury health hazards include:

Substitution of mercury-based products with alternative products

Pathology laboratories no longer use mercury in testing procedures.

Mercurochrome is no longer used in hospitals.

Mercury containing thermometers (cost—\$0.65 each) are gradually being replaced with digital or tympanic thermometers (cost—\$6.50 to \$17.50 each).

Mercury containing sphygmomanometers are gradually being replaced with aneroid or digital equipment.

Containment of mercury

- In dentistry:

Mercury content of dental amalgam is strictly controlled in manufacture—there is no need to express excess mercury.

Amalgam is provided in sealed capsules, overcoming the need for dental personnel to handle the raw material.

Capsules are used only once.

The amalgam is directly dispensed into an instrument carrier, avoiding human contact.

Used capsules are immediately stored in an airtight container.

Amalgam dispensing capsules are collected and returned to the manufacturer for recycling, which means that no amalgam residue is disposed into normal waste.

Amalgam fillings are removed using high speed evacuation, minimising exposure to metallic dust and all vapours produced by heat in the cutting process.

Waste amalgam is covered with fixer and stored in closed containers.

Clinics are well ventilated.

- Sphygmomanometers are wall mounted or fixed, where possible, to lessen the risk of breakage with mercury spill.

- General

Workplace Health and Safety Committees in hospitals are responsible for management of mercury health hazards.

Staff education and awareness training programs are in place in a number of hospitals.

Placards and labelling of hazardous substances are required in relevant work areas. Safe Storage and Handling Information Cards for mercury have been produced in one Region.

Equipment is checked to ensure it is functional and intact prior to use, in addition to the regular auditing of equipment.

Vacuum cleaners are cleaned regularly with precipitated sulphur.

- When spillage occurs, there are protocols and policies in place in hospitals for the safe handling of the spill

Many hospitals have incorporated guidelines in the Workplace Health and Safety Policy Manual for the management of a hazardous spill, and some have specific policies in place for management of mercury spills (the area is isolated, precipitated sulphur is sprinkled on the contaminated area, and the Government Laboratory will conduct readings if required).

Mercury spill kits are available in a number of hospitals (contain protective gloves, eyewear, apron and mask, absorbent powder, syringe to collect mercury particles, etc).

Incident forms are required to be completed for all mercury spills.

Incidents are investigated and remedial action taken if necessary.

#### **440. Equine Morbillivirus**

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a letter I sent him on 9 November relating to an outbreak of equine morbillivirus—

- (1) Will he ascertain the reasons for the death of Letitia Johnston?
- (2) What action was taken at the Royal Children's Hospital, at the time of this tragic death, to determine whether or not Letitia Johnston had been infected with the deadly virus *equine morbillivirus*?

- (3) Will he ascertain why, if a strict quarantine had been ordered at the Vic Rail Hendra stables, Letitia Johnston had been allowed to pat a possibly infected horse there, only days prior to her sudden death?
- (4) Will he assure the House that medical authorities believe that this quarantine was absolutely strict, given, for example, the fact that the Racing Minister and his entourage visited the site on 24 September 1994?
- (5) Did health authorities at any time suspect the cause of the outbreak was *hanta virus*, which is unknown in Australia but which has been known to cause a 70 per cent mortality and has no known cure?

**Answer (Mr Beattie):**

(1) Letitia Johnston was notified to the Communicable Diseases Branch of Queensland Health on 25 October 1994 as suffering from meningococcal septicaemia caused by Serogroup C *Neisseria meningitidis*. Blood samples had been taken from the child on 11 and 12 October 1994.

I am advised that Meningococcal disease was the cause of the child's death.

Meningococci are organisms that are carried in the human nasopharynx and occasionally invade the blood stream or the brain causing a septicaemia or a meningitis which can be fatal.

There is no connection between *Neisseria meningitidis* and equine morbillivirus.

(2) Royal Children's Hospital would have had no cause to determine whether Letitia Johnston was infected by EMV. I understand that Letitia Johnston's illness was typical of meningococcal disease and confirmed as having been caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C.

(3) It is unknown how or why Letitia Johnston had been allowed to pat a horse at the Vic Rail Hendra stable some days before her death. The events are however not causally related. The horse with which Letitia had contact four days before her death was tested and found negative for antibodies to the equine morbillivirus.

(4) I am advised that a human quarantine was not imposed on the premises. However the premises were cordoned off by police and state emergency services providing a defacto quarantine.

(5) I understand that during the first several days prior to EMV being isolated a range of other causal agents that might account for the horse deaths were considered. One of those considered was a novel hanta virus. Hanta viruses that can simultaneously cause disease in man and in horses have not yet been described. The consideration of a novel hanta virus resulted in stringent rodent control measures being instituted.

**441. Voluntary Early Retirements, Queensland Rail**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to Voluntary Early Retirements (VERs) within the Minerals Division of Q-Rail, the Minister would be aware that VERs are given only to employees who are surplus to requirements and have demonstrated that they have a strong desire to retire from the Q-Rail workforce for whatever reason—

- (1) Has the department, in recent time, re-employed VER acceptants?
- (2) If so, how many people, in which region and under what terms of employment, ie contract, casual, etc?
- (3) Does he agree the re-employment of VER recipients has the potential to lessen the promotional opportunities of existing loyal employees?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

(1&2) Queensland Rail's Redeployment and Voluntary Early Retirement Policy (Clause 5.4.2) states that "Employees who have accepted Voluntary Early Retirement may be re-employed or contracted as consultants by Queensland Rail not earlier than two years after receiving early retirement payment. Within the Coal & Minerals Group, there are presently five employees who have been granted Voluntary Early Retirement and are currently employed.

(3) Under Queensland Rail's Recruitment & Selection Policy, employees engaged as fixed term are defined as *external applicants*. When positions at any level are advertised internally, the merit of *permanent* Queensland Rail applicants must be assessed prior to any consideration of external applicants. In essence, this means that Queensland Rail must consider first and foremost its permanent employees before employees who have been granted Voluntary Early Retirement and are now re-employed as fixed term or temporary.

**442. QE II Hospital**

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Health—

What is the budget and development program for the refurbishment and re-opening of QE II Hospital pursuant to plans announced by him recently?

**Answer (Mr Beattie):**

Architectural consultants have commenced the preparation of a Project Definition Plan, Schematic Design and Economic Evaluation. This will include the compilation of estimates of costs for the project. It is envisaged that the project will be completed by 30 June 1996. This will make the Hospital a fully utilised community hospital, something which was never achieved under the National and Liberal Party rule in Queensland.

The Honourable member would do well to cast his mind back to the pre-1989 status of that hospital when his now political colleagues were satisfied to neglect their duty in maximising health services for the South side residents.

The sad fact is that a National/Liberal led Government failed the community in the provision of sound health policy and if they'd bothered to establish a sound basis for the building of this

hospital rather than cheap short term political gain, the hospital would not have been neglected.

**443. Timber Industry**

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

What impact would the Federal Government's policy of preserving a minimum of 15 per cent of pre-European forest and woodland cover across all species have on Queensland's timber industry both in socio-economic job losses and in reduction of existing resources?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

A preliminary analysis of the possible socio-economic impacts of adopting the Commonwealth's reserve criteria, in particular the 15% of pre-1750 criterion has been completed. Indications are that there could be considerable ramifications for the timber industry in particular, but other forest based industries may also be affected. Before any decision is taken on this matter, I have given assurances that full consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders.

**445. Workers' Compensation**

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the proposed changes to the charges relating to workers compensation and the stated government policy of assessing the impact of any changed or new legislation on rural communities—

- (1) What assessments have been made in respect of the impact of increased charges on rural communities as opposed to larger centres that have a broader based economy?
- (2) What consultations took place with traders and employers generally in respect of the impact of the higher costs of employment in rural and isolated communities?
- (3) On what basis of research and substance was her claim that primary producers 'could pass on the costs' (of increased workers' compensation charges) made?
- (4) What is the assessed impact of the new schedules on the motor and machinery trade outlets in rural communities?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The claims performance of each of the Board's 300 Industry/Business classifications determined the percentage increase applicable to each premium rate, including those premium rates applicable to the rural sector.

In the interests of rating equity, claims performance is the sole determinant of the percentage increase applicable to a premium rate.

(2) Consultation was undertaken in relation to the reform package with employer groups, unions and the legal and medical professions. Employer groups

representative of the rural community with whom consultation took place included the Queensland Farmers' Federation Ltd, the United Graziers Association and the Queensland Graingrowers' Association. I met with employer representatives on numerous occasions.

(3) I am advised, that for a range of producers, there is an ability to pass on increased costs by way of adjustment to the prices of produce put to market and therefore to influence market prices, at least at the margin. Clearly, there may be less capacity to pass on such costs in situations where competitive international market conditions exist. However, even in these situations there can be a tendency for increased costs to flow through to prices over time as a result of normal market adjustments.

(4) The average net premium rate will increase by 14.7% from \$1.70 to \$1.95 of wages. In addition to the premium rate increase, a surcharge of 10% of net premium (equivalent to 6.4% of gross premium) will apply from 1 January 1996. The overall effect will be an average net premium rate of 2.145% of wages.

The premium rates that will apply to motor and machinery trade outlets in rural communities are set out below. The increases are based on the performance of this particular industry. It is possible for employers within this industry to reduce their premium rates through merit bonus and this means through safer work practices.

Industry/Business Description

109006—AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY & IMPLEMENTS MANUFACTURERS Current Rate—\$4.70; New Rate\*—\$6.02; % Increase—28%

348103—AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY & IMPLEMENTS SALESPERSONS & DEALERS Current Rate—\$0.77; New Rate\*—\$0.95; % Increase—24%

347004—MOTOR WORKSHOPS & AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS REPAIRERS Current Rate—\$2.34; New Rate\*—\$2.90; % Increase—24%

**446. Road Funding**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What was the Government's expenditure on the State-funded roads on a local authority basis for the 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 in the Southern Region?
- (2) On what individual projects within the local authorities was this money allocated to?
- (3) What work description is applied to each of these projects?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

The new Southern Region was formed on 1 July 1994 and contains all of the original South-West Region and the South Burnett/Wide Bay area of the original South-East Region.

The original South-West Region contained the following Local Governments:

Cambooya, Chinchilla, Crows Nest, Dalby Town, Esk, Gatton, Jondaryan, Bendemere, Booringa, Bulloo, Bungil, Murilla, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Roma Town, Taroom, Laidley, Millmerran, Pittsworth, Rosalie, Toowoomba City, Wambo, Warroo, Balonne, Clifton, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Stanthorpe, Tara, Waggamba, Warwick.

The new Southern Region contains the above list as well as the following:

Wondai, Kingaroy, Nanango, Murgon, Cherbourg, Mundubbera, Hervey Bay, Biggenden, Eidsvold, Burnett, Isis, Kolan, Monto, Perry, Gayndah, Woocoo, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Kilkivan, Tiaro.

The information you seek for the financial years 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93 and 1993/94 can be obtained from the publication headed "Queensland Declared Road Statistics" which is an attachment to the Department's Annual Report.

The statistics document for 1994/95 has not been published to date but the data can be made available.

If more detailed information than this is required it can be made available through the Southern Regional office in Toowoomba.

#### 447. Land Acquisitions, Mansfield Electorate

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to resumptions and acquisitions of land in the south-eastern corner of Mansfield Electorate by Brisbane City Council, allegedly for nature reserves—

What funding, legislative protection, staff or other support is either being provided, or is planned to be provided, by his department to preserve and enhance such reserves?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

In reference to the proposed resumption and acquisition of land by the Brisbane City Council for nature conservation purposes, this is a matter for the Council.

While the Department supports, in principle, such an action, it is not directly involved in either the funding or staffing of this proposal.

Departmental Officers have, however, been in contact with Brisbane City Council Officers regarding the possibility of establishing such areas as Nature Refuges under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. This would provide Council with some legislative powers under the Act to control undesirable activities.

#### 450. Inala Community Health Centre

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his recent visit to the Inala Community Health Centre, where he undertook a comprehensive inspection of the centre and held discussions with staff members—

(1) Will he consider providing funds for general maintenance and the repainting of the centre?

(2) Will he provide information whether waiting times for residents seeking dental treatment at the centre have been reduced?

(3) With optical services for residents of the Inala electorate being available at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, will he give consideration for the use of the Inala Community Health Centre as a centre for the provision of these services?

(4) Will he give consideration to using this centre as a model for visiting Indonesian health delegations with a view to establishing similar centres in Indonesia?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) General maintenance at the Community Health Centre, Inala, is undertaken on a day-to-day basis by Q-Build as required. However, the following major maintenance was carried out at the Centre during the 1993/94 financial year:

- painting of the exterior of the facility and ground floor interior;
- replacement of carpet on the ground floor;
- repair to drainage as well as landscaping of the internal garden; and
- repairs to the complex air conditioning system.<sup>2</sup>

During my recent visit to the Community Health Centre I noted it was well maintained and I know that the Honourable Member will keep me fully informed about developments at the Centre.

(2) Times for residents seeking dental treatment at the Dental Clinic located in the Inala Community Health Centre have reduced. This has been achieved by improved work practices, utilisation of locum relief and the addition of an extra surgery.

The waiting time for general dental treatment has reduced from 70 weeks, in June 1994, to 11 weeks currently. A reduction in prosthetic waiting times of seven weeks has been achieved since June this year. Priority prosthetic care continues to be provided on medical or dental grounds. Patients requiring emergency treatment are accepted on a same day or the next day basis.

Strategies are in place to continue improving access to these services and to reduce waiting times even further.

(3) As a result of the hard work by the Honourable Member, progress is being made to provide access to clients of the Queensland Optometrical Services Scheme through the Inala Community Health Centre. It is anticipated that this service will be operational by 1 February 1996.

(4) Under the direction of the Goss Government, greater use has been made of the building and facilities at Inala Community Health Centre. I believe it is a unique health care facility providing a range of services, including primary health care, the University of Queensland General Practice, community support services, and preventive medicine. I agree with the Honourable Member's suggestion to take visiting Indonesian health delegations to this Centre. The Inala Community is well serviced by the diligence of the Honourable member.

**451. Timber Industry**

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the National Forest Policy—

- (1) What scientific data has been used by his department to assess the amount of pre-European forest in Queensland?
- (2) How was the figure of 100 million hectares arrived at?
- (3) What consideration has been given to historical data (the notes of early European explorers) in the assessment of this area?
- (4) What are his department's latest evaluations of the area of each forest type typical throughout Queensland which would need to be preserved under the National Forest Policy?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

1. The pre-European distribution of forests in Queensland is assessed through the application of complex environmental modelling. This technique uses well established relationships between species occurrence and key environmental variables of light, moisture, temperature and soil nutrients. By observing these variables at many thousands of sites together with the species present, the likely extent of pre-European distribution of species can be established. The modelled distributions are also subject to field verification. The modelling approach is currently known to predict species distribution at 75 to 80% accuracy, while improvements being made to the underlying data will improve accuracy further.

2. The latest estimate of the present area of forest and woodland in Queensland is 54 million hectares. This information was published in the Plantation, Forests and Future Directions Statement, released by the Premier on 16 May 1995.

I can only surmise that the figure of 100 million hectares, which as been mentioned in various quarters, is based on some estimate that the present extent of forest and woodland represents about half of its original extent. I note that the Commonwealth's position paper on Reserve Criteria states that today's forests represent only 60 percent of their pre 1750 extent.

3. Where it exists, the modelled information about pre-European extent of forest has been compared and refined using Department of Environment and Heritage/Queensland herbarium pre-European mapping. This is based on field observation and reference to historical records.

4. The preliminary analysis of forest types and their present representation in the protected area estate has only been undertaken in South East Queensland. Based on this analysis it has been estimated in the South East Region the protected area could at least double.

**452. Mr J. Hartland**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the case of a constituent Mr Jaime Hartland who claims to be owed \$16,000 by a former employer and the failure of her departmental officers to investigate the matter or even take details and as my constituent's first approach to her officers was on 5 June 1995—

- (1) When will my constituent's case be dealt with?
- (2) How does she justify the constant delays?
- (3) What does she consider to be an appropriate period for handling such complaints?
- (4) If there is a shortage of industrial inspectors and support staff, what action is being taken to redress this situation?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

(1) Enquiries on behalf of Mr Hartland have resulted in a claim for wages against his former employer. This claim was subsequently refused and a statement of facts was taken from Mr Hartland on 7 December 1995. Action is now under way to have the matter resolved in the Industrial Magistrates Court.

(2) I am informed that the time taken to finalise this investigation is in excess of the time frame established by the Awards Management Branch of my Department for complaint investigation. As a result, additional staff as set out in (4) below have been allocated to the office.

(3) Depending on circumstances and complexity of the issue being investigated, I consider three months to be an appropriate time period in which to finalise complaint investigations. The Awards Management Branch has put in place a policy to this effect and makes every effort to meet set timelines.

(4) In relation to staffing of the Southport Industrial Inspector's office, the Government has ensured funds were made available in the 1995/96 budget for the employment of two additional Industrial Inspectors and appointments have recently been made. Furthermore, an officer was appointed to a vacant industrial inspector's position on 8 December 1995. The additional staff will assist the Southport office to meet the three month policy.

**453. Papaya Fruit Fly**

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to integrated pest management programs currently in place in horticultural production areas which may be disrupted where the Papaya Fruit Fly exists and needs to be controlled by chemical application—

Will the Government provide appropriate staff with technical knowledge and also adequate finance for procedures that may be necessary if this should happen?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

1. The campaign to eradicate papaya fruit fly should have little if any disruptive effect on integrated pest management programs in Far North Queensland.

2. The methods to be used to eradicate papaya fruit fly are very selective and involve using attractant chemicals which mimic natural insect systems mixed

with very low amounts of an insecticide. The chances of this impacting on natural or introduced parasites and predators used in integrated pest management are minimal.

3. The eradication procedure for papaya fruit fly is in fact a very good example of integrated pest management strategies using insecticides only in a low volume, highly targeted manner.

4. Media reports suggesting the outbreak area will be drenched with toxic chemicals are highly misleading and mischievous.

5. Treatment of fruit for access to markets outside the quarantine zone will however involve chemical spraying or fumigation of harvested fruit. The Department of Primary Industries is well aware of the workplace health and safety issues involved in the urgent incorporation of these treatments into packing shed routines and has been working with industry and other agencies to minimise adverse effects.

6. The Government is committed to providing appropriate resources to deal with the fruit fly problem.

#### **454. Voluntary Early Retirements, Queensland Rail**

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to workers who have previously taken the Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) package from Queensland Rail and now wish to re-apply for employment with this department—

What is Queensland Rail's practice with regard to this matter?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

Section 5.4.2 of Queensland Rail's Redeployment and Voluntary Early Retirement Policy states:

"Employees who have accepted voluntary early retirement may be re-employed or contracted as consultants by Queensland Rail not earlier than two years after receiving early retirement payments."

#### **455. Roadworks, Daintree Region**

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

(1) What progress is being made on upgrading the single lane section of road between the Daintree River turnoff and Daintree township?

(2) What is the anticipated completion date?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(1) The contract for provision of 2.9km of two lane construction to Daintree was awarded to Seymour Whyte Pty Ltd on the 25 August. This project completes the program of upgrading to two lanes from Mossman to Daintree.

(2) The project is planned to be completed by the end of February 1996.

#### **457. Oil Dumping, Yorkeys Knob**

Mrs WARWICK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the dumping of bilge/bunker oil on to land at Yorkeys Knob and to the claim just prior to the 15 July election by Dr Lesley Clark that she had identified four separate sites which required attention—

(1) Will he provide the results of the tests carried out in June/July 1995 by Dr Kathleen Burns from the Australian Institute of Marine Science?

(2) Has the area in question been fully remediated?

(3) What is the current status of this land?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

(1) Dr Kathryn Burns conducted testing at the Yorkeys Knob site in May and July 1995.

With respect to the July 1995 testing, the report compiled by Dr Burns on the results of the validation sampling was received in the Far Northern Office of the Department of Environment and Heritage on Friday, 17 November 1995. This report is currently being assessed by the DEH Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites Section in Brisbane.

I will arrange for a copy of the report to be forwarded directly to the Member for Barron River.

(2) The area in question has been substantially remediated with Dr Burns preliminary report following sampling in May 1995 indicating that "... this small oil spill no longer poses any threat to the contiguous estuary or any offshore areas..."

Dr Burns' latest report indicates:

- there is no obvious fluid oil left in the sediments,
- there was no visible oil on the water in the creeks,
- there was an abundance of crabs in the mangrove areas indicating a return of even the very sensitive biota,
- whatever oil remains in the sand and wet land muds from this spill will continue to degrade and dissipate at a fast rate,
- the Melaleuca Forest had refoliated.

Any further cleanup activities on this site would require heavy machinery which would damage the vegetation, compromising the integrity of the ecosystem which Dr Burns report suggests is promoting the rapid degradation of any remaining oil.

Dr Burns' final validation report is currently being assessed by DEH Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites Section in Brisbane to ascertain whether the site has been fully remediated.

(3) The site is currently listed on the Contaminated Sites register as a 'Probable' site.

#### **458. Kholo Creek Resource Area**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the extractive industries unit in his department and to the Kholo Creek Resource Area—

- (1) What consultations or discussions have taken place with respect to the development of the resource area by the unit?
- (2) What consultations or discussions have taken place with other relevant State Government departments and agencies?
- (3) If no consultations or discussions have occurred, what process will be adopted for further evaluation of the Kholo Creek Resource Area?

**Answer (Mr McGrady):**

Currently the statutory planning and development approval for extractive resources on private land is the responsibility of Local Authorities, in this case the Ipswich City Council. The involvement of the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) has been confined to providing geological resource advice to planning and approval bodies such as the Ipswich City Council and its precursor, the Moreton Shire Council. The Extractive Industry Unit of the Department of Minerals and Energy has been kept informed by Boral of their recent work to identify an acceptable haul route to allow exploitation of the Kholo Creek hard rock resource. DME believes that these deposits represent regionally significant resources, and the Department is committed to ensuring that the deposits are protected for the long term use of the community.

The Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development (DPETD) has enquired on whether the Unit has any desire to take carriage of the Kholo issue. DPETD have been informed that the Extractive Industry Unit is keen to facilitate decision making for extractive applications as soon as possible. However, since the Planning, Environment Development Assessment (PEDA) Bill will not be passed for some time, the Extractive Industry Unit does not presently have any legislation under which decisions can be made. DPETD have been informed that it would be inappropriate for DME to assume responsibility for the project, but that the Department intends that the Kholo resource gains planning protection as a Key Resource Area in the long term.

The new Extractive Industry Unit's mission is "To ensure long term access to strategically located extractive resources for the benefit of the Queensland community". The Unit is currently establishing procedures for assessing extractive resources for planning protection. The Unit is committed to 'best practice' in developing consultation processes for input by the community, Local Government, and other State agencies on any proposals for protection.

**459. Eastlink**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy

With reference to the Government's decision to proceed with the Eastlink Project to link Queensland and New South Wales electricity grids—

- (1) How many easements have been acquired over properties in Queensland?
- (2) Have any properties been purchased outright?

- (3) Have any properties been resumed?
- (4) What is the program time-frame to acquire the easements necessary for the powerline?

**Answer (Mr McGrady):**

- (1) No easements have yet been acquired over properties in Queensland.
- (2) No properties have been purchased outright.
- (3) No properties have been resumed.
- (4) It is anticipated that the notices of intention to resume easements will be issued around November 1996 and that all easements will be acquired and the site available for construction by April 1997.

**460. Timber Industry**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the reported suggestion that the Federal Government is considering a lock up of 15 per cent of pre-1750 native forests—

- (1) Is the 15 per cent a realistic figure to aim for, should this policy be adopted?
- (2) Bearing in mind our timber imports have increased to \$3 billion a year, what action could be considered to offer alternative sources of supply if this lock out figure is implemented?
- (3) How many mills in Queensland would be affected and jobs lost if this decision is implemented?

**Answer (Mr Gibbs):**

1. The Queensland Government is committed to establishing a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Forest conservation reserve system. The difficult question of how much forest should be included is the subject of wide debate in the community.

2. The Commonwealth Government has developed reserve criteria which require 15% of pre 1750 forest distribution to be included in the system. This criterion has the potential to significantly impact on social and economic considerations in rural Queensland.

3. I am not prepared to agree to any reservation criteria until there has been wide consultation with stakeholders. To this end the Government has approved the establishment of a Forest Working Group (FWG) comprised of Government, industry and conservation movement representatives. The principal task of the FWG is to develop, as soon as possible, an agreed approach to establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in South-East Queensland based on factual data.

4. I will not speculate on the impacts of the 15% criterion. I believe the action set in train is the most appropriate course to follow. At the same time high level negotiations with the Commonwealth will continue on this and other issues of forest policy

5. The Queensland Government has committed more than \$24 million over the next five years to expand Queensland's plantation estate of native timber

species. This includes funding for a research and development program and for a joint venture plantation scheme with private landholders. These initiatives are aimed at developing a future source of timber for Queensland industry and will reduce our need to import timber.

#### 462. Retreaded Tyres

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to passenger transport vehicles, particularly buses—

- (1) Is a certificate of roadworthiness issued for such a vehicle, if that vehicle is fitted with retreaded front tyres; if so, under what circumstances would this be the case?
- (2) What guidelines are laid down for the use or fitting of retreaded tyres to passenger transport vehicles?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

Passenger transport vehicles, including buses undergo inspections conducted by Queensland Transport every six months. A Certificate of Inspection (as opposed to a Certificate of Roadworthiness) is issued at these inspections to permit continued registration.

Retreaded front tyres are not classified as a defect and if in good condition would not result in failure to issue a Certificate of Inspection.

Passenger transport vehicles are not required to follow any special guidelines for the fitting of retreaded tyres—only those that apply to other similar vehicles.

To determine the cause of failure of tyres, and whether retreaded tyres are a problem, the tyre industry commissioned a survey by the Queensland University of Technology. The results showed that there was no appreciable difference in the failure rate of retreaded tyres compared to new tyres when taking into account the distance travelled.

The survey found that the major cause of tyre failure is under inflation, inadequate tyre maintenance and vehicle overloading.

In addition to six month safety inspections, Queensland Transport operates a number of random roadside vehicle inspections as part of its on road enforcement activities. The objective of these checks is to ensure that vehicles, including their tyres, are not defective or overloaded.

There is no evidence that suggests that retreaded tyres, that meet the appropriate standard, are more prone to failure than new tyres. The major cause of tyre failure are operator related including under inflation, inadequate tyre maintenance and vehicle overloading.

#### 463. Dental Position Vacancies

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

What was the number of vacant dental positions and their locations at 1 July 1995 and 30 October 1995?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

The number of vacant dental positions at 1 July 1995 was 36 and these were located across all Regions except Brisbane North, South Coast and West Moreton.

At 30 October 1995 the vacant dental positions numbered 36 with vacancies in all Regions except Brisbane North, Brisbane South and West Moreton.

Oral Health Services in the Regions are finalising recruitment and selection processes to implement Integrated Team Dentistry. Regional Coordinators have indicated they anticipate appointments against some of the current vacant dental positions in the near future.

#### 464. Palm Beach Community Health Centre

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed Palm Beach Community Health Centre and also to the article which appeared in the Queensland Health publication "State of Health" (November 1995)—

- (1) When will work commence on refurbishment of the building?
- (2) When will this work be completed and the building opened?
- (3) When will dental services be available to the general public?
- (4) Will a methadone program be included in the facilities?
- (5) Will a needle exchange program be included?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) & (2) Some unexpected delays regarding the purchase of land have been encountered. Negotiations are continuing and once the purchase is finalised work will commence. If negotiations are .... my Department will be asked to look for alternative sites.

(3) Dental services are already available and in .... , emergency cases are being contracted with private dentists.

(4) There is no plan to include a methadone program at this time.

(5) In spite of a (word deleted by order of Mr Speaker) campaign conducted by the Honourable member and the Liberal and National Parties at the State Election, a needle exchange program is not planned for this facility.

#### 466. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Is he aware of the enormous pressure on staff who are making every effort to provide the necessary documentation and training for temporary inspectors to administer the requirements of other States as a result of the papaya fruit fly outbreak in North Queensland?
- (2) Now that the quarantine area is being extended, will additional full time staff be provided?



**Answer (Mr Gibbs):**

1. Since the initial detection of the papaya fruit fly in North Queensland, every available resource has been used to meet the problem head on. Staff in my Department have demonstrated their capacity to deal effectively with the increase in workload in the North Region, particularly in relation to supervision of disinfestation treatments and issuing documentation to allow fruit to leave the area for southern markets.

The Government will ensure that resources are available to deal with quarantine requirements associated with the Papaya fruit fly.

2. Sufficient permanent and temporary staff are being employed and trained to ensure that the requirements of the extended quarantine are complied with.

**467. Beche-de-mer Fishery**

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the concern of Torres Strait leaders that there may be over-fishing of Beche-De-Mer in the Torres Straits and as Papua New Guinea waters have been over-fished to the extent that the industry had to be closed, and in view of the fact that the Torres Strait Beche-De-Mer fishery is controlled by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority—

- (1) What action is the Government taking to ascertain whether over-fishing is occurring?
- (2) What scientific research is being done to ascertain if there is over-fishing?
- (3) Does he intend to limit the catch in any way?

**Answer (Mr Gibbs):**

1. Following the Proclamation of *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994* responsibility for management of Beche-de-mer in Queensland became the responsibility of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA). A review of catch data revealed that much of the catch has been unrecorded.

The Authority has assembled catch only data from other sources (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol). This information has revealed that catch for the calendar year 1995 would exceed 750 tonnes, whereas catches for the previous years were in the vicinity of fifty tonnes. Such extremely high harvest levels of the past calendar year are not considered to be sustainable and if continued would result in severe overfishing.

2. The QFMA is preparing to have a survey undertaken of Beche-de-mer stocks in the Torres Strait. A survey design is being put together by the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee. In addition preliminary enquiries as to necessary research have been undertaken with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University and CSIRO. It is estimated a comprehensive survey required to provide the stock information will cost in the vicinity of \$130,000 and take fifteen months to complete.

3. Under the *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994* the QFMA is responsible for management of Queensland's collection fisheries include Beche-de-mer. I am advised that under its legislation and in keeping with its responsibilities the QFMA has instituted an emergency closed waters declaration which has made it illegal to take Beche-de-mer for a two month period. The declaration came into force on 1 December 1995. During the closure the QFMA will be undertaking consultation with Islanders to develop a set of permit conditions which can be applied to ensure the sustainability of the fishery.

**468. Charters Towers-Townsville Bus Service**

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the daily bus service commuting between Charters Towers and Townsville and as a large percentage of patronage of this service are pensioners seeking services (mainly medical) in the city of Townsville—

Is any subsidy available through his department to assist in keeping this essential bus service operational?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

A long distance bus service is currently provided by Douglas Coaches between Charter Towers and Townsville, a distance of approximately 150 kilometres.

Under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* a bus service with an average journey length of over 40 kilometres is regarded as a deregulated long distance passenger service.

Consequently there are no fare concessions or subsidies available on this service between Charters Towers and Townsville.

I acknowledge that the extension of current pensioner concessions and operator subsidies would be welcomed by pensioners and other groups. However, as you would appreciate there are a significant number of long distance services in Queensland. It would not be equitable to provide special financial assistance to one service which would be unavailable to operators generally.

**470. TAFE Colleges, Enrolments and Resources**

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the Annual Reports for 1994-95 of the Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations (pages 37, 41), the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission (pages 15, 32) and TAFE Queensland (pages 16, 27, 87)—

- (1) Why are there major statistical discrepancies between these reports when they are supposedly reporting the same enrolment and participation data for the same period?
- (2) Why were there no male enrolments at Mt Isa TAFE in 1994?

- (3) Why is there a deplorable under-participation by females in the programs conducted in (a) Bundaberg, (b) Rockhampton, (c) Townsville and (d) Brisbane?
- (4) With the total TAFE staff given as 7,388 (of whom 3,751 are educational staff) why is the participation of only eight staff in the release to industry scheme, to improve their skills, listed as an 'achievement'?
- (5) (a) Why are names not provided for the 'various representatives—TAFE Queensland' who participated in the 1995 international student recruitment activities in Korea, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Taiwan, Fiji, Japan and Papua New Guinea, (b) who were these officers and (c) how many students did they recruit from each of the countries listed?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

(1) I provide the following explanation of statistical discrepancies in enrolment and participation data provided in Annual Reports of my Department.

- (a) The Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission's Annual Report based its enrolment figures upon those students who nominated their sex on the enrolment form as either male or female. Six enrolments which did not nominate sex were not included. The TAFE Queensland Annual Report included all enrolments whether or not sex was nominated on the enrolment form. The difference is 6 enrolments.
- (b) The participation data on page 37 of the DEVETIR Annual Report identified High School student enrolments in TAFE Queensland modules. The statement on page 16 of the TAFE Queensland Annual Report uses a similar format to that contained in the DEVETIR Annual Report but is based upon data provided by the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies. This data identifies the number of Grade 12 students who have successfully completed a TAFE Queensland module.
- (c) A clerical error occurred in compilation of the 1994-95 DEVETIR Annual Report detailing the number of first preference applicants to TAFE Queensland through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre. As reported in the TAFE Queensland Annual Report, there were a total of 10,280 first preference applicants for TAFE Queensland courses in 1995.

(2) The graph on page 19 of the TAFE Queensland Annual Report depicts the participation rate of DEVETIR employees by gender and region. As a result of a technical error during printing, this graph did not fully re-produce the figures relating to the Mt Isa region. The graph should have indicated a participation rate of 51.9% male employees.

(3) As stated previously the graph on page 19 of the TAFE Queensland Annual Report depicts the participation rate of DEVETIR employees by gender and region. In 1994 female enrolments in TAFE Queensland represented 48.9% of total enrolments. Gender participation rates in TAFE Queensland courses reflect local community demographics.

(4) The Release to Industry Scheme referred to is a specific scheme sponsored by the National Staff Development Committee (NSDC), a committee of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). This Scheme provides national funding for approved proposals from TAFE systems, other vocational education and training providers, and State and Territory Training Authorities. In 1994-95, Queensland's share was \$72,982.

This funding is intended to be a catalyst in the development of innovative activity in high priority areas of staff training and development. This scheme does not replace the routine Return to Industry activity that already takes place in Institutes.

- (5)(a) The names of the various TAFE Queensland representatives were not included due to the routine nature of their participation and the number of officers involved.
- (b) The names of these officers are: Cam McConnell, Riborg Andersen, Alex Gamblin, Coral McKillop, Craig Sherrin, Robyn Paulson, Dianne Smith, Muriel Alorizo's, Sally Garozzo, Peter Clyburn
- (c) The number of international students recruited from each of the countries in 1994-95 were:

	Male	Female	Total
China	2	4	6
South Korea	120	131	251
Hong Kong	89	121	210
India	25	1	26
Indonesia	61	46	107
Taiwan	120	236	356
Fiji	10	3	13
Japan	123	198	321
Papua New Guinea	58	28	86

#### 471. Cooroy Bypass

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the vehicle noise level monitoring carried out by Queensland Transport on the Cooroy Bypass during the week ending 11 November 1995—

- (1) What days of the week are designated by Queensland Transport for monitoring?
- (2) Which hours of the day are specified for monitoring vehicle noise levels?
- (3) Is the final decibel level reading advice the maximum recorded or an average over the day's monitoring?
- (4) Do designated days and times apply to all roads for vehicle noise level monitoring in Queensland?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

- (1) Any working day (the 5 days of the week).
- (2) Measurements are taken between the hours of 0600 and 2400 pursuant to Australian Standards, AS2702, 1984 and CORTN (Calculation of Road Traffic Noise 1988) to achieve road traffic noise level of L<sub>10</sub>(18 hour).

(3) All noise levels are expressed in terms of the  $L_{10}$  hourly or  $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$  dB(A). The value of the  $L_{10}$  hourly dB(A) is the noise level exceeded for 10 per cent of the time over a period of one hour. The  $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$  dB(A) is the arithmetic mean of the values of  $L_{10}$  hourly dB(A) for each of the eighteen one-hour periods between 0600 and 2400 hours. Therefore, the measurement is the arithmetic of mean ten minute readings in each hour over an eighteen period.

Within certain circumstances, the shortened measurement procedure may be used. Measurements over ten minute periods ( $L_{10}$ ) are made over any three consecutive hours between 1000 and 1700 hours. This shortened three hour measurement is used to confirm the predicted 18 hourly levels.

The criteria for prioritising works are:

- A new road—63dB(A),  $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$  or an increase of  $\geq 10$ dB(A),  $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$  above previous background resulting in a level of greater than 60dB(A).
- An existing road to be upgraded—68dB(A) and has increased by  $\geq 3$ dB(A).
- The Bruce Highway at Cooroy (the bypass) is being evaluated at the 63dB(A) or increased  $\geq 10$ dB(A) above previous background levels.

(4) The above criteria is applied across the State to achieve a standard methodology for the prioritisation of ameliorative works, pursuant to Australian Standards.

#### 472. Penalties and Sentences

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to concerns raised by the Chambers Flat and Logan Reserve Neighbourhood (Rural) Watch Group to him that adequate penalties are not being awarded to criminal offenders and that the question of minimum sentences and action to deal with criminals reoffending whilst on bail or parole has not been addressed by him—

Will he provide advice on how the aforementioned concerns may be adequately addressed?

**Answer** (Mr Foley):

The question raises two issues, first, adequacy of penalties, and, second, dealing with persons who offend while on bail or parole.

#### ADEQUACY OF PENALTIES

With regard to the adequacy of penalties, it should be noted that the Government completely reviewed the Criminal Code for the first time in nearly a century and a new Criminal Code was passed by the Parliament in June 1995. The new Criminal Code increases the maximum penalties for a number of offences. It should also be noted that over the past two years, the prison population in Queensland has increased by 42%, an indication that heavier penalties are being imposed by the courts.

#### OFFENCES COMMITTED ON BAIL OR PAROLE

The *Bail Act 1980* and the *Corrective Services Act 1988* adequately provide for the consequences of the commission of an offence while on bail or parole respectively.

For example, where it is alleged that a defendant commits an indictable offence while on bail, waiting to be tried for another indictable offence, the court or police officer considering a further request for bail must refuse bail unless the defendant shows cause why their detention is not justified: see s.16(3) of the *Bail Act 1980*. The possibility that a defendant if granted bail would commit an offence is a factor that the court or police officer considers in deciding not to grant bail under s.16(1)(a)(ii)(A) of the *Bail Act 1980*.

Where an offender, who has been released on parole, is sentenced to imprisonment for another offence committed during the parole period, their parole is cancelled under s.187 of the *Corrective Services Act 1988*.

#### 473. Assaults on Students

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to an alleged attack on the now former Inala State High School student, David Lloyd on 9 November 1995 in the school grounds, reportedly involving a samurai sword—

- (1) What is the outcome of the investigation undertaken by the school principal and what further action will be taken against the perpetrator or perpetrators of this incident?
- (2) How many incidents involving assaults on students have occurred in or adjacent to the grounds of Inala State High School in 1995?
- (3) What has been the outcome of past investigations of such incidents?
- (4) Has financial compensation been paid by the State Government to any victims of such assaults in 1995; if so, how much?
- (5) How many incidents involving assaults on students necessitating police action have occurred in or near state high schools in 1995?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

Following the incident, the school principal contacted the regional Executive Director and interviewed a number of the students involved. The student against whom the allegation was made was then suspended with a view to exclusion and an investigation is being conducted by a Senior Review Officer of the Department.

There have been no incidents which could be described as assaults on students reported to staff at Inala State High School during 1995. However, here have been some two dozen episodes which have involved some measure of physical contact between students. The principal has a detailed record of these incidents and the penalties imposed.

If the allegation in this type of incident (i.e. one involving an implement or weapon) is found to be substantiated, the usual outcome is exclusion from

the school. There have been no incidents of this nature at Inala State High School reported to Regional Office for investigation during 1995.

To the best of the Department of Education's knowledge, there has been no financial compensation paid to victims of assaults in state schools during 1995.

For Semester One 1995 there were 29 state high school students in Queensland excluded from school because of assaults on other students.

#### **474. Overtime Payments, Ambulance Service**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to a recent personal deal he made with the union leaders representing Queensland Ambulance Services (QAS) officers to fund overtime to overcome staffing shortages and prevent industrial action by them—

- (1) Will he give an assurance that the capital expenditure budget of the QAS will not be cut to fund the overtime?
- (2) Where in the budget papers are the cost reserves that fund this overtime?

**Answer** (Mr Davies):

1. I can gladly give the Member for Western Downs a categorical assurance that none of the projects listed on page 20 of the Portfolio Program Statements will be curtailed due to staff overtime payments.
2. Overtime is not paid from "cost reserves" as such a budget item does not exist. Overtime is paid from the Salaries and Wages component in the budget.

#### **475. Windaroo Valley State High School**

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the lack of facilities provided by the Education Department at Windaroo Valley State High School at present, and the expected enrolments of 1,100 for 1996—

Will he (a) bring forward the construction stages for future buildings and facilities to reflect the increased student population, (b) increase teaching staff numbers as classes are already overcrowded and (c) provide facilities to enable the school to offer Shop A, Home Economics and computer courses to students?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

The planning of additional facilities as subsequent stages to new secondary schools involves an analysis of projected demand for various teaching spaces based on enrolments and current teaching data.

This process has been undertaken and the following additional facilities are being provided for the 1996 school year:

- 3rd laboratory by conversion
- 3rd art classroom by conversion
- 2nd shop A (Wood Working) by conversion
- 2nd kitchen by conversion
- General Studies block (8 classrooms)

- Staff/Amenities block
- Performing Arts block.

All projects are currently under construction and it is anticipated work will be completed for the commencement of the new school year.

Appropriate addition to teacher numbers will occur, matched to the enrolment growth and curriculum offerings at the school.

#### **479. Power Station Emissions**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to three occasions during 1995 when blackouts/brownouts occurred as a result of loadshedding, and two other occasions at least when loadshedding was narrowly averted—

As a result of serious threats to the integrity of supply, were environmental standards for emissions from power stations ever exceeded; if so, (a) by how much, (b) for how long and (c) from which power stations?

**Answer** (Mr McGrady):

Particulate emissions from all AUSTA Electric coal-fired power stations are regulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 by licences which translated from the repealed Clean Air Act. The operating policy for these power stations requires that emission limits be maintained within regulatory requirements and that load be reduced to achieve this when necessary. In any event where a particulate emission exceedance has occurred, the cause is investigated, remedial action taken, and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage advised accordingly. Particulate emission standards were not exceeded during the periods in question.

#### **480. Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation**

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation—

- (1) What was the opening share capital and debt at 1 January 1995?
- (2) How was this figure distributed in turn in the balance sheet categories, particularly (a) current assets (i) assets, (ii) receivables, (iii) inventory, (iv) other and (v) total current assets and (b) non-current assets (i) receivables, (ii) property, plant and equipment, (iii) other and (iv) total non-current assets?

**Answer** (Mr McGrady):

(1) The opening share capital and debt of the Corporation on 1 January 1995, representing the net assets of the Corporation, ie total assets minus total liabilities, was \$4,229,373,000. This comprised share capital of \$2 with the balance being debt owed to the shareholding Ministers.

(2) This figure was distributed in the balance sheet categories as follows:

- (a) Current Assets
- (i) Cash assets—\$162,698,000
  - (ii) Receivables—\$254,531,000
  - (iii) Inventory—\$53,659,000
  - (iv) Other—\$7,694,000
  - (v) Total current assets—\$478,582,000
- (b) Non-current assets
- (i) Receivables—\$1,612,000
  - (ii) Property plant and equipment—\$4,836,372,000
  - (iii) Other—\$66,913,000
  - (iv) Total non-current assets—\$4,904,897,000

Total assets as described above were \$5,383,479,000; total liabilities were \$1,154,106,000, providing net assets of \$4,229,373,000. Included in the total liabilities of \$1,154,106,000 of the Corporation at that date was debt owed to the Queensland Treasury Corporation totalling \$688,955,000.

#### 481. Solar Hot Water System Rebates

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Queensland Energy Saver Plan, under which home owners who install solar hot water systems receive a rebate of between \$300 and \$500, depending on whether the system has a single or twin solar collector—

How is it that people who install solar panels to existing electric systems are being denied a rebate, when such a modified system would seem to meet the Government's overall intention of energy saving by utilising solar energy?

**Answer** (Mr McGrady):

The Solar Hot Water Scheme, to which Mr Malone refers, is a successful program to promote the benefits of solar water heating. As at 16 November 1995 there had been 1812 rebates paid out under the scheme, at a total value of \$761 100. Guidelines for the program were developed in association with all the major solar water heater manufacturers from around Australia. These guidelines contain requirements for solar water heaters to meet Australian Standards for design and construction, WaterMark or Quality Assurance to ensure that proven performance in solar hot water systems is promoted by the Government. Fitting panels to an existing electric hot water system does not ensure that a family will receive an adequate supply of solar hot water. However, such systems, in concept, are not excluded from the program, rather no manufacturer has yet developed a system and proven it capable of meeting a householder's needs and the basic guidelines of the program. While no Government could be expected to fund all conceivable energy options in the general community, this Government keeps elements of its Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Policy under review and is willing to take into consideration technological and market changes as appropriate.

#### 482. School principal vacancies

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the many occasions where acting principals have filled principal positions for long periods in schools, promoting a destabilising influence in many of these school communities because of the uncertainty of just how long these people will stay in these acting roles and whether they will be fortunate to win these positions—

Will he give an assurance that these positions of acting principals will be filled by permanent appointments for the commencement of the 1996 school year?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

In circumstances where a position becomes vacant due to promotion, retirement or resignation of the incumbent every effort is made by the Department to fill the vacancy as soon as possible with a permanent officer. However, in order to allow such positions to be filled by the best person for the position, many vacancies are advertised and filled through the process of merit selection. On occasions it is necessary to appoint an acting Principal while the merit selection process is being managed. The appointment of an acting Principal to vacancy enables a position to be filled in a temporary capacity while giving officers the opportunity to develop skills in leadership and school administration.

All registered teachers are eligible to apply for any advertised vacant promotional position. Those acting Principals who apply for an advertised position will be appointed to the position if they are the most meritorious applicant.

In some circumstances officers perform duties in Principals' positions because the incumbent of the position is on paid leave. As the position is not a permanent vacancy such officers will not have the opportunity to be appointed permanently, but will be in a position to develop skills which will enable them to apply for advertised vacancies.

The duration of most acting and performing duties' service varies with the particular circumstances relating to each vacancy. For periods of greater than 3 months, acting officers are appointed through the expressions of interest process as governed by the PSMC Standard on Recruitment and Selection.

#### 483. Cape York Wilderness Zone

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the fact that recreational fishing is carried out now in the proposed Cape York Wilderness Zone—

- (1) Will recreational fishing still be allowed to continue by anyone (a) in the whole region and (b) within Princess Charlotte Bay?
- (2) What is the current situation on fishing off the North Queensland coast for live export?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

1. The proposed Cape York Wilderness Conservation Zone, as it is now termed, is being

implemented by the Department of Environment and Heritage.

I am advised that, in accord with the Premier's Statement on the proposal, public access to the Zone for recreational purposes, including for recreational fishing, will be maintained and, where possible, be enhanced, subject to satisfying Ecological Sustainable Development Principles. Fishing within Princess Charlotte Bay will be subject to the same considerations.

2. In reply to Mrs Wilson's question regarding the current situation on fishing off the North Queensland coast for live reef fish exports -

- Only commercial fishing vessels licensed to operate in the line fishery may take reef fish.
- The level of catch for exports of live fish primarily Coral Trout for 1995 up to September 1995 was approximately seventy-five tonnes.
- This compares to fifty-four tonnes which was exported during 1994.
- The level of fishing for this live reef fish market represents less than two per cent of total reef fish catches by commercial fishers.
- The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority is maintaining monthly logbook returns from commercial fishing operators and also obtaining statistical information from live fish exporters.

#### 484. Emergency Services, Redland Shire

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to areas in the southern portion of the Redland Shire which are beyond the accepted response times for both fire and ambulance services—

Does the Government's announced \$17m budget for emergency services provide for the provision of both a fire station and an ambulance station to be built and staffed in the southern Redland Shire; if so, when can it be expected to be completed?

**Answer (Mr Davies):**

Response times for both Ambulance and Fire attendance to the southern portion of the Redland Shire are within acceptable time frames so I would suggest that from now on, the Honourable Member do his research before asking questions—it will save him further embarrassment.

With the expanding population in the area, both the Ambulance and Fire Services will consider providing staffed facilities at the appropriate time. In anticipation of this time occurring, both services are currently engaged in preparatory planning for the eventual selection of appropriate sites.

#### 485. Nambour Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How long must Sunshine Coast residents wait for check-ups with staff at Nambour Hospital for

the following services (a) dental (non-emergency), (b) physiotherapy, (c) ear, nose and throat and (d) paediatric development unit?

- (2) How does this compare with Royal Brisbane Hospital?

**Answer (Mr Beattie):**

- (1) Nambour Hospital—Between 6 to 10 months

- (a) Dental (non-emergency)—To meet increasing demand for public dental services on the Sunshine Coast, the Government is working to establish private contract arrangements to alleviate waiting times.
- (b) Physiotherapy—Less than 2 weeks for urgent patients referred by Nambour Hospital
- (c) Ear, nose and throat—There is no specialist ENT clinic at Nambour Hospital
- (d) Paediatric development unit—For new assessments the average waiting time is 10 months<sup>2</sup>.

- (2) Royal Brisbane Hospital

- (a) Dental (non-emergency)—There is no dental clinic at the RBH.
- (b) Physiotherapy
  - 2 days for acute patients
  - 2 weeks for sub-acute patients
  - 6 weeks for chronic patients
- (c) Ear, nose and throat (Non-emergency)—36 weeks
- (d) Paediatric development unit
  - Specialist appointment 12 months
  - Therapist appointment 6-8 months

Reducing waiting times is a key priority for the Queensland Government. To reduce waiting times in priority areas of non-urgent medical treatments, the Government has:-

- invested \$64 million over 3 years to reduce backlogs in elective surgery;
- committed \$42.1 million over 3 years to attract and retain more specialists;
- accelerated the rebuilding of the fabric of our public hospital system with an extra \$40 million over 2 years; and
- introduced a specialist equipment program to ensure our specialist areas maintain world class standards.

#### 486. Promotional Material, Queensland Health

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Health—

What are the full particulars of expenditure on (reports and newsletter style) pamphlets and promotional material provided by or for Queensland Health during the quarter ended 30 June 1995 and the quarter ended 30 September 1995?

**Answer (Mr Beattie):**

Expenditure in Central Office and the Regions on reports and newsletter style promotional material during the quarters ending 30 June and 30

September 1995 respectively was \$179,907 and \$126,170.

The Newsletters include Regional newsletters enclosing Enterprise Bargaining, Breast Cancer Screening and Cervical Cancer public awareness information, Mental Health Plan and Papers.

Queensland Health provides a very important service to the community in the provision of public health education, information and health promotion material. The dissemination of this information both within and outside the public health service has proven benefits in the delivery of health services.

**487.Papaya Fruit Fly**

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to measures taken by the Queensland Primary Industries Department to control the papaya fruit fly in Far North Queensland—

- (1) What detection measures are being undertaken by his department in national parks for papaya fruit fly?
- (2) How long has his department had the program in place; if there is no program in place, is it his intention to monitor national parks; if so, what will the program involve?
- (3) What methods of disposal of dimethoate fruit fly dip are being undertaken?
- (4) Has there been a full investigation of possible environmental consequence of the disposal methods; if so, by whom and when did this take place?
- (5) Have these methods got the full support of himself and his department?
- (6) Is it his intention to ensure monitoring of ground water in the disposal area; if so, when and what form will the program take.

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied

**488.Workers' Compensation**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

What were the State Government's total workers' compensation premium receipts for Toowoomba and the Darling Downs for each year from 1990-91 to 1994-95?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

The total workers' compensation premium receipts collected in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs district including the Roma area are as follows.

PREMIUM YEAR	PREMIUM COLLECTED
1990/91	\$18,414,852
1991/92	\$18,434,359
1992/93	\$23,784,792
1993/94	\$26,319,687
1994/95	\$28,210,089

(assessments not yet fully completed)

**490. Emergency Helicopter Service, Gold Coast**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the community emergency helicopter rescue service Flight Care based on the Gold Coast—

- (1) How can he justify retaining the annual grant to Flight Care at \$300,000 over a number of years which is a decrease in funding in real terms?
- (2) Does he support a suggestion that Flight Care should revert to a single engine helicopter when only twin engine aircraft are permitted to fly rescue work at night?

**Answer** (Mr Davies):

(1) The Member for Western Downs should check his facts before asking Questions for he continually shows his lack of basic publicly available knowledge when he attempts to undermine the good record of this Government.

The community based helicopter rescue service on the Gold Coast is called "Care Flight" not "Flight Care" as it is named by Mr Littleproud.

This Government's commitment to improving the emergency and rescue response available to all Queenslanders is unparalleled in this State and is the envy of all other Governments.

Since 1989 this Government has increased funding for such activities to record levels with expenditure this year alone anticipated to exceed \$4.2M.

The Queensland Emergency Service Bell 412 can, and regularly in fact services the Gold Coast and the hinterland area.

(2) Care Flight voluntarily introduced a larger more expensive Bell helicopter into service knowing that certain repayments were required to be met and that there would be difficulties fulfilling their financial obligations. The Company also knew that this type of helicopter was more expensive to operate and that maintenance costs were also more expensive.

Prior to the purchase, Care Flight were well aware that all the other operating or proposed community based helicopter services were single engined units and that they were moving against the established trend.

It is entirely up to Care Flight to decide whether or not to revert to a single engined unit and their business plan and operational charter will reflect their decision.

**491.Golden Staph**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

Will he provide statistical detail of all Golden Staph infections in Queensland for the periods 1/7/94 to 30/6/95 and 1/7/95 to 31/10/95 on a per hospital basis?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

Statistical information concerning the incidence of Golden Staph infections varies from region to region. Some regions retain data regarding both incidents of isolates and new cases, some retain combined

figures whilst others cite only new cases. Hospitals serviced by one pathology department like the Royal Brisbane, Royal Children's and Royal Women's Hospitals retain data on all incidents recorded.

Thus the data is unreliable because the same patients who experience repeated isolation occurrences are counted a number of times and as are patients presenting from other health care facilities (such as nursing homes), already infected with Golden Staph (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus).

The Staphylococcus bacteria which is commonly carried by normal healthy people is a fact of life in both clinical and non-clinical settings.

#### 493. Queensland Transport Tendering Process

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to Queensland Transport tendering for contracts in competition with private contractors—

- (1) What weightage is given to the use of taxpayer funded facilities such as drafting facilities, computerised financial analysis, vehicle sales tax exemption and the like in the tendering process, or is no consideration given to this advantage?
- (2) How is confidentiality maintained in the opening of documents when the department is a tenderer for a contract and in turn awards the contract to itself in numerous instances?
- (3) How many contracts have been let to the Transport Department in competition with private companies in the past two years?
- (4) Is departmental tendering carried out on a region by region basis or from the central office of the department?
- (5) What component of profit is determined by the department when tendering for these contracts?

**Answer (Mr Elder):**

(1) Under the transition arrangements that apply in opening the Queensland Transport market to competition until the first of January 1996, Queensland Transport Commercial Business Units include all direct cost together with on and off site overheads, in their bid prices. However after first of January 1996, Commercial Business Units will, in addition to direct costs and overheads, include costs of imputed taxes and charges that will ensure that there is no competitive advantage or disadvantage to Queensland Transport Business Units relative to the private sector.

(2) When Queensland Transport Commercial Business Units bid for Queensland Transport work, the tender assessment panel must include a representative from outside of Queensland Transport to verify that the process of assessment was carried out without favour to any party. In this way, the selection process can assure an outcome based on best value and not be affected by the origin of the Tenderer.

(3) Considering works contracts of value greater than \$200,000 over the financial years 93/94, 94/95, Queensland Transport has won 34 contracts. During the same period 37 contracts were awarded to the private sector.

(4) Departmental bidding has been carried out on a District basis in South East Queensland and on a Regional basis in the remainder of the State.

(5) During the transition period in opening up of the Queensland Transport market to competition, Commercial Business Units have sought to break even.

#### 494. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) What level of surveillance is being carried out on trains and ships that travel across quarantine boundaries, in an endeavour to curtail the progress of the papaya fruit fly?
- (2) To assist with the eradication program, will internal surveillance be carried out to minimise the spread of the fly from the heavily infested areas?

**Answer (Mr Gibbs):**

1(a) Railway stationmasters at Cairns have been approached with a request that all passengers be advised that fruit should not be removed from the quarantine zone unless given appropriate treatments. Signs and bins have also been provided at the Cairns railway station. Announcements request passengers to deposit fruit in bins which have been provided.

Random inspections have been conducted on the Sunlander travelling south. An inspector meets the train at Ingham, walks through the train conducting inspections, and leaves the train at Rollingstone.

Signs and bins have also been located in bus terminals. Signs, bins and brochures have been placed in domestic and international airline terminals and announcements also made.

(b) Contacts have been made with yacht owners and members of the prawn fleet operating out of Cairns in relation to movements of fruit.

Incoming boats and ships are met by Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service inspectors, inspections conducted and personnel advised of quarantine restrictions.

All boat and ship owners are advised to obtain provisions from wholesalers approved for this purpose. Produce supplied from outside the quarantine zone is being transported into the area in sealed containers and used for this purpose.

2. Surveillance measures particularly trapping and monitoring of travel out of the area, including roadblocks and air, road and sea transport are being maintained. Public support has also been requested and media information has advised that fruit should not be moved out of infested areas.

Extensive trapping throughout the area will continue throughout the eradication program. This will detect



fly movements and the eradication program itself will minimise the spread of the fly by reducing fly populations.

#### 499. TAFE College Equipment

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to equipment which is no longer required by TAFE centres in Queensland—

- (1) Is it usual practice for equipment such as working lathes and shapers not required at TAFE centres to be rendered useless and sold as scrap material?
- (2) Will she consider offering for sale to private citizens such equipment deemed to be redundant, rather than used for waste?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

1. No. Before a TAFE Queensland Institute of TAFE disposes of any equipment items, an investigation is generally conducted into whether the item can be economically refurbished, traded-in on new equipment, transferred to another Institute, or transferred to the Education Department or similar Government Agency.

2. Equipment such as lathes and shapers are offered for sale by public auction when all other avenues for use in Government have been exhausted. The only exception to the final disposal by public auction would be if a machine was considered unsafe.

#### 500. Timber Industry

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to confirmation by a spokesman for the Department of Primary Industries that implementation of the Federal Government's preferred National Forest Policy which would lock away 15 per cent of all pre-1750 forest types and species would lead to the forced closure of some 40 timber mills and the loss of at least 2,000 jobs in Queensland—

Will he give an assurance that timber mills owned by Aboriginal communities at Cherbourg, Yarrabah and Bamaga, mills which provide vitally needed jobs and local community income, will not suffer in any way from a loss of access to their current available resource?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

The Queensland Government is committed to establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative Forest conservation reserve system. The difficult question of how much forest should be included is the subject of wide debate in the community.

The Commonwealth Government has developed reserve criteria which require 15% of pre 1750 forest distribution to be included in the system. This criterion has the potential to significantly impact on social and economic considerations in rural Queensland.

I am not prepared to agree to any reservation criteria until there has been wide consultation with stakeholders. To this end the Government has approved the establishment of a Forest Working Group (FWG) comprised of Government, industry and conservation movement representatives. The principal task of the FWG is to develop, as soon as possible, an agreed approach to establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in South-East Queensland based on factual data.

I will not speculate on the impacts the establishment of the reserve system will have on individual sawmills. I believe the full process should be allowed to run its course so that socio-economic values are considered as well as conservation and heritage values.

If the establishment of the reserve system impacts on jobs or communities then a structural adjustment package will be put in place to ensure that assistance is provided to counter these impacts.

#### 501. Child Care

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the recent Federal Government plan to restrict families to 12 hours (1 day) per week of child care in situations where both parents are not working and as in most cases child care facilities are utilised between 2-4 days per week to ensure continuity—

- (1) Is it correct that the occupancy rate of the majority of child care centres in Queensland is approximately 65 per cent of capacity?
- (2) Is it expected that the decision by the Federal Government will further reduce occupancy rates?
- (3) Will he investigate this situation and the implications of the Federal Government's plan and provide advice of any initiatives the State Government may implement to ensure sufficient child care places are available and occupied within Queensland?

**Answer** (Mrs Woodgate):

(1) As child care is substantially market driven, data on occupancy rates are not required to be provided to the Queensland Government nor, I understand, to the Commonwealth. However, I understand that the Quality Independent Child Care Centres Association has conducted a survey of 18 centres that revealed occupancy rates varying from 98% to 64%, with an average occupancy of 84%.

(2) The supply of centre based child care is substantially market driven. I understand that the intent of the Commonwealth's proposed legislation would be to influence investment decisions of people deciding to open new centres in a manner which would ensure that new centres are only opened in areas where there is a demonstrated need for work related child care. Another effect anticipated by the Commonwealth is that centres would have increased incentives to respond to the

currently substantial unmet need for child care for 0-2 year olds, and to better cater to the needs of parents who are shift-workers or casual employees.

(3) I monitor the provision of child care in Queensland with advice provided by my Ministerial Advisory Committee on Child Care, which is representative of all sectors of child care in Queensland. I will ensure that the significant record of the Queensland Government in relation to child care is maintained. For example, new commitments of the Queensland Government to strengthen preschool and child care in Queensland are currently being implemented.

### 502.Crime, Toowoomba

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

By what percentage have break and enter offences, stealing offences and motor vehicle thefts increased in the Toowoomba Police District since 1992-93?

**Answer** (Mr Braddy):

The total number of reported incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft in the Toowoomba Police District in 1992/93 was 383. In 1994/95 it was 429. This represents a 12% increase.

The total number of reported incidents of Break and Enter offences in the Toowoomba Police District in 1992/93 was 1764. In 1994/95 it was 2153. This represents an increase of 22%.

The total number of reported incidents of Stealing offences in the Toowoomba Police District in 1992/93 was 2961. In 1994/95 it was 2898. This represents a decrease of 2.1%.

Members of the Opposition have been falsely claiming this Government has done nothing in the fight against crime in the Toowoomba police district. The facts speak for themselves. Since 1989 there has been a 16.9% increase in police numbers. Sworn police numbers have increased from 136 at that time to a current model strength of 159. The actual strength of the Toowoomba police district as at the 30 November 1995 was 173. The budget for the Toowoomba Police District has increased from \$5.91 million in 1989 to \$8.57 in 1995/96. Additionally, a government commitment of \$8.25 million within the next five years has been made with regard to a replacement district police headquarters for the Toowoomba district.

The Government has also supported the establishment of a number of community based Crime Prevention Programs since 1989.

	1989	1995
Adopt A Cop	27	33
Neighbourhood Watch	0	18
Crime Stoppers	0	1
City Safe Cameras	0	1
Safety Audit	0	1
Community Police Beats	0	2

### 503.Radiata Pine Seedlings

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Will he confirm that his department has increased the price of radiata pine seedlings available from Darling Downs distribution points from 14.8 cents to \$2 per tree; if so, does he agree that this is inconsistent with modern community expectations that Government should be encouraging reforestation for environmental considerations as well as meeting our future timber requirements?
- (2) Has his department withdrawn Passchendaele as a place for the production and sale of radiata pine seedlings; if so, why?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

1. Radiata pine seedlings for sale to the public are raised in conjunction with planting stock requirements for the Department's own plantation programs. They are provided for sale to the public at the prevailing DPI-Forestry nursery price for the type of stock.

I am unable to ascertain when, if ever, radiata pine seedlings were sold for 14.8 cents/tree. However, prior to 1990, open root radiata seedlings (that is seedlings sold not in pots but with exposed roots) were sold at 27 cents each. The nature of open root stock is such that it has a limited planting season and cannot readily be held past its optimum age at the nursery and thus, occasional sales of surplus open root material have been cleared for as little as 10 cents/tree. The subsequent change in 1990 to significantly higher quality radiata pine seedlings grown in small pots resulted in the price increasing to \$2/tree with discounts for bulk purchases. The price in 1995/96 is \$2.20/tree with a discounted price of \$1.32 for purchases in excess of 10,000 trees. Under its draft commercialisation charter, DPI Forestry must seek to maximise its market value and operate on a commercial basis. As such, the pricing of seedlings for sale to the public reflects all production costs together with an appropriate commercial return.

The Department remains committed to promoting reforestation for both environmental and future timber needs through the DPI Resource Management's Tree Assistance Scheme, which provides technical advice and low cost planting stock to approved applicants. Under this scheme the public may purchase potted radiata pine seedlings for \$1/tree.

2. The Department's Passchendaele nursery was closed in 1990 due to high production costs related to its small scale, fungus related hygiene problems together with general quality difficulties and associated low survival for the open root stock produced from this nursery. Since this time, all radiata stock has been produced at the Beerburrum nursery as container seedlings. This stock is of a much higher quality than open root material. The transfer of radiata production to the Beerburrum nursery has not resulted in any reduction in stock availability for sale to the public as Passchendaele staff can and do take orders for planting stock. Alternatively, members of the public may place orders with the DPI Forestry Nursery at Dalby. In either case the order is referred to Beerburrum where the stock is raised and then forwarded to the appropriate centre.

**505. Oxley Creek**

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) What plans are in place to restore Oxley Creek (South West Brisbane) to a condition for recreation, especially so that the Brisbane City Council canoe trail can be re-opened?
- (2) What time frame is envisaged for this project?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

(1) In 1994, Brisbane City Council developed a canoe trail along the lower reaches of Oxley Creek extending approximately 11 km upstream. Prior to this, the Department of Environment and Heritage had conducted water quality sampling of Oxley Creek from September 1988 to June 1990, in December 1994, and recommenced a monthly sampling program from November 1995. All sampling programs include assessment of faecal coliform levels. Levels of faecal coliforms did not exceed National Health and Medical Research Council (NMHMRC) guidelines for recreational use (secondary contact) of waters when the trail was opened in 1994.

With funding from the National Landcare Program, the Brisbane River Management Group will establish an Oxley Creek Catchment Co-ordinating Committee in 1996. The position description for the Catchment Co-ordinator (Oxley Creek) has been approved and it is anticipated that a temporary officer will be appointed in the first week of December 1995. It is expected this position will establish, facilitate and service the Co-ordinating Committee.

The Committee will bring together Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council and Beaudesert Shire Council with industry and community representatives in the catchment to address the issues of: water quality; protection of riparian vegetation; recreation; and the impacts of sand and gravel extraction. Brisbane City Council will separately fund the development of a management plan for the catchment. It is expected that the whole-of-catchment Management Plan and the proposed Environmental Protection Policy for the Brisbane River will significantly contribute to managing the long term health of the Brisbane River and its major tributaries including Oxley Creek.

Evidence from water quality analysis indicates that following significant rainfall events bacteria levels are elevated for a few days compared to dry weather levels and the NMHMRC guideline values may not be met for short periods. Australian studies suggest that animal faeces and in some cases, leakages or overflows from sewage systems may be possible causes. To reduce overflow problems from the Oxley Creek Sewage Treatment Plant an hydraulic upgrade is currently being undertaken at the plant.

(2) A time frame for the restoration of Oxley Creek has not been determined. However, action to restore the creek will be the purpose and main priority of the Oxley Creek Catchment Co-ordinating Committee.

**510. SEQEB Electricity disconnection fees**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to my previous question in March 1995 and his answer in respect of SEQEB illegally charging the battlers of this State for the threat to cut off power supplies—

- (1) Has the office of the Regulator reported?
- (2) What were his findings?
- (3) How much money has been repaid to date?
- (4) How many individuals have been reimbursed?
- (5) Is SEQEC now actively seeking customers from whom this fee was taken?
- (6) Does he agree that SEQEC may avoid repayment on the grounds that it may be too expensive to seek out those from whom the money was taken?
- (7) Does he agree that it is a denial of justice to the battlers of Queensland, the people who can least afford to pay, that SEQEC, the perpetrator of the crime, can be allowed to determine who will be repaid, the level of reimbursement, and who will be ignored?

**Answer** (Mr McGrady):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Regulator reported on progress in the repayment by SEQEB of incorrectly charged visit fees.
- (3) \$658 863.80 to 28 October 1995.
- (4) 31 333 fees to 28 October 1995.
- (5) SEQEB is currently finalising its search of computer records to identify as many customers as possible from whom visit fees were collected.
- (6) The absence of computer records for visit fees collected before 1993 precludes the automatic identification of customers affected but SEQEB has advertised its willingness to refund the fees to all affected customers who apply.

**512. Facilities for Disabled Citizens**

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the lack of provision of learning facilities for physically and mentally impaired young people 18 years of age and older in this State—

Will he move immediately to (a) construct and fit out facilities to cope with the demand for those physically and intellectually impaired young people who cannot be placed in sheltered workshops etc and (b) help fund respite groups who volunteer not only premises but carers to staff these premises and provide relief for parents and/or guardians of these young people?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

The Department of Education provides a broad range of services to support the needs of students with disabilities.

Recently, I announced a \$72 million dollars plan to improve the physical resources available to special needs students, as well as to employ a range of additional specialist teachers and staff, including therapists, in order to boost the quality and quantity of resources and facilities available to people with special needs.

The Education General Provisions Act contains sections which refer specifically to the provision of Education for disabled students, and clearly sets out the Education Department's responsibilities, in this enacted by the former National Party Government in 1989.

This legislation has produced the basis for the bipartisan approach to this very important issue in the development of post school options. The Goss Government has recognised the need for enhanced services for those aged 18 years and over and to that end through the collaboration of a number of departments has developed a range of post school options for disabled people.

### 513.State Government Grants to Unions

Miss SIMPSON asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

How much money (individually itemised) has the State Government provided to Queensland unions in arts grants, training subsidies and other grants on an annual basis since 1990?

**Answer** (Mr Goss):

I refer the Member to the answer provided by the Treasurer to Question on Notice No. 514 by Mr Grice.

### 520.Breast Screening Program, Mackay

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the high profile free breast screening clinic program currently being advertised through Mackay District television stations, many constituents have called claiming that breast screening is only available to women in the Mackay District through private practice at a cost of up to \$100 and which is not subject to a rebate from Medicare—

- (1) Does he agree that it is totally inappropriate and misleading to advertise programs which are unavailable?
- (2) When is it likely that a breast screening program will come on line which will be accessible for women in the Mackay District?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) The National Program for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer was established in 1991 in order to implement free breast cancer screening and assessment services across Australia over a five year period. BreastScreen Queensland is part of the National Program.

In order for the Program to be successful in reducing the morbidity and mortality from breast cancer, a high percentage of eligible women need to be screened. The current media campaign is a National initiative and is being extremely successful in raising awareness of, and participation in the Program. The national number, 132 050, connects callers to their closest service. Callers from Mackay are connected to the State Coordination Unit and are provided with information about the opening date for the service in Mackay and the next closest BreastScreen Queensland service.

Unfortunately, because services are being implemented progressively, expectations have been raised for women who do not currently have ready access to a service. The scope and complexity of this major population screening Program and the need for high quality services have meant that the Program could not be implemented in a shorter timeframe, but has been a great success and already servicing a large number of Queensland women.

(2) BreastScreen Queensland has, since 1991, established nine fixed and four mobile services around the state, with a further two new services to be established in Mackay and Ipswich in early 1996.

The BreastScreen Queensland service in Mackay is currently under construction and is due to open in March 1996. It is located in Wellington Street. Advertisements for staff will be placed in the near future.

### 523.School Dental Service, Bundaberg/Burnett Region

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the situation which currently exists in my electorate whereby significant delays are being experienced with visits by the School Dental Clinic to state schools in the Burnett/Bundaberg area—

- (1) Will he confirm the current number of dental therapists employed in the School Dental Service for Bundaberg and the Burnett area?
- (2) How many new dental therapists have been employed in Bundaberg for the School Dental Service since the suspension of the old training course provided by Queensland Health at School Dental Therapists Training Centres in 1993?
- (3) What were the number of dental therapists employed in Bundaberg in the School Dental Service area prior to this time?
- (4) Of the \$231,000 per annum that has been allocated to the Wide Bay Region to extend oral health services to school students, how much will be received by Bundaberg?
- (5) How does he envisage that these funds will directly improve the current time delays being experienced?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) The number of Dental Therapists currently employed by the Bundaberg Health Service is five full-time and three part-time. This equates to 6.4 full-time dental therapists.

(2) Number of dental therapists employed since suspension of the training course is two - one full-time and one part-time dental therapist. Bundaberg Oral Health also employed two dental therapists from the last graduating class of 1993.

(3) The maximum number of dental therapists to work in the Bundaberg City and Rural School Dental Service was six full-time dental therapists in 1990 in conjunction with two dentists.

(4) The \$231,000 quoted is the budget for 1995/96 only, not for previous years. The budget for this and

previous years and the allocation to Bundaberg Health Service were:

	Region	Bundaberg Health Service
1992/93	125,000	62,500
1993/94	125,000	62,500
1994/95	146,000	62,500
1995/96	231,000	126,000

(5) These funds will be utilised to employ additional staff i.e. dentists/dental therapists/ dental assistants to increase productivity. It is anticipated that even maintaining current staffing levels average recall periods will reduce from 18 months to about 14 months within the next six months.

#### 524. Police Resignations; Criminal Justice Commission

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to evidence given to the Senate inquiry into unresolved whistleblower cases by the Director of the Official Misconduct Division of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), Mr Mark Le Grand, who said that Queensland police suspected of corruption and/or misconduct resign, in his words, "all the time" to avoid investigation, a situation Mr Le Grand described as "very galling"—

- (1) Does he agree with Mr Le Grand's opinion ; if so, will he give an indication of how many resignations by police officers from the service, since the establishment of the CJC, have been prompted by a desire to avoid such investigations?
- (2) Has the CJC recommended to him any changes to current procedures governing the submittal and acceptance of police officer resignations to ensure this allegedly frequent practice is stopped?

**Answer (Mr Braddy):**

(1) No statistics are maintained as to the number of resignations by police officers following the institution of disciplinary proceedings against them. It is pointed out that where corruption and misconduct matters have implications of criminal conduct, the resignation of a police officer does not impede the continuation of a criminal investigation and the laying of criminal charges should sufficient evidence be adduced.

(2) On 22 March 1993 the CJC reviewed its position on the retirement of serving police members by reason of age or medical grounds, or resignation of police members who are the subject of a complaint to the CJC alleging misconduct. The CJC's view was that these matters were for the determination of the Police Service; however, the CJC desired the opportunity to make representations to the Commissioner if it was considered warranted in any particular case. To that end, prompt advice of members intentions to retire or resign is provided to the CJC, in order that the CJC may be in a position to decide whether or not representations are to be made to the Commissioner. These representations may include the recommendation that the resignation or retirement not be approved by the Commissioner

until the maximum period of three months from the date of the application has expired. This period is provided for by Regulation 5.1 of the Police Service (Administration) Regulations.

#### 525. Apprentices

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) How many apprentices were employed in Queensland as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (2) How many apprentices were employed by the private sector as at end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (3) How many apprentices were employed by Queensland Government departments and instrumentalities as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (4) How many female apprentices were employed within categories (1), (2) and (3) as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (5) How many apprentices were employed in Queensland within the major industry and occupational classifications as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (6) How many trainees were within categories (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5)?

**Answer (Mrs Edmond):**

(1) As at the end of June: 1990—23470, 1991—21233, 1992—20706, 1993—20052, 1994—23351, 1995-23787.

(2)As at the end of June: 1990—18748, 1991—17783, 1992—16775, 1993—16375, 1994—17376, 1995—18892

(3)As at the end of June: 1990—1069, 1991—1229, 1992—1268, 1993—1220, 1994—1130, 1995—1176

(4) In category 1, as at the end of June: 1990—3118, 1991—2796, 1992—2903, 1993—2777, 1994—3070, 1995—2893

In category 2 as at the end of June: 1990—2758, 1991—2651, 1992—2534, 1993—2564, 1994—2639, 1995—2628

In category 3 as at the end of June: 1990—26, 1991—24, 1992—27, 1993—28, 1994—20, 1995—19.

(5) I table the answer in a tabular form.

(6) In category 1, as at the end of June: 1990—1843, 1991—1323, 1992—1585, 1993 -2456, 1994—2438, 1995—3151

In category 2, as at the end of June: 1990—1084, 1991—787, 1992—997, 1993—1307, 1994—1671, 1995—2096

In category 3, as at the end of June: 1990—284, 1991—173, 1992—246, 1993—453, 1994—366, 1995—446

In category 4(1), as at the end of June: 1990—1166, 1991—763, 1992—985, 1993—1644, 1994—1685, 1995—1817

In category 4 (2), as at the end of June: 1990—628, 1991—449, 1992—628, 1993—884, 1994—1146, 1995—1155

In category 4 (3), as at the end of June: 1990—235, 1991—90, 1992—154, 1993—327, 1994—260, 1995—298

In category 6 (5) I table the answer in tabular form.

I wish to advise the Honourable Member that there may be some variations between these figures and those supplied to him in December 1993 by my predecessor. The reasons for this are: the introduction of a new computer system, during which manual records were brought into order and the more timely nature of data entry ensures that the records of those persons who cease an apprenticeship or traineeship being removed from the data base.

Answer to (5) The number of apprentices employed in Qld within the major industry and occupational categories is as follows:

Category	30/6/90	30/6/91	30/6/92	30/6/93	30/6/94	30/6/95
Metal Fitting/ Machining	2800	2577	2491	2285	2108	2086
Other Metal	2091	1784	1590	1449	1683	1745
Electrical	3543	3212	3123	2929	2941	3240
Building		4442	4178	4195	4630	5843
6195						
Printing	364	317	313	258	353	253
Vehicle	3699	3290	2975	2669	3051	3342
Food	2042	1884	2057	2099	3261	2774
Horticulture	127	127	149	162	168	174
Hairdressing	2635	2320	2323	2176	2276	2161
Miscellaneous	1727	1544	1490	1395	1667	1817

Answer to 6 (5) The number of trainees employed in Queensland within the major industry and occupational classifications.

Category	30/6/90	30/6/91	30/6/92	30/6/93	30/6/94	30/6/95
Agricultural	121	93	127	105	123	148
Construction/ Mining	56	47	43	46	45	50
Engineering/ Tech	24	28	25	45	49	136
Machine Operators	100	64	77	69	93	97
Clerical	957	615	776	1497	1339	1934
Sales	475	355	404	493	561	551
Personal Service	0	0	0	69	114	91
Road & Rail Drivers	0	0	0	0	2	50
Labourers & Related Workers	66	63	69	100	76	73
Miscellaneous	44	58	64	32	36	21

### 527. Glenala State High School

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the commencement of operations of the newly merged Glenala High School in the calendar year 1996—

With the expected increase in enrolment at the high school, will he give consideration to the provision of a police officer and medical nurse at the commencement of the 1996 school year to ensure a smooth transition for the school community?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

I shall refer this issue to my colleagues the Honourable Paul Braddy, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and the Honourable

Peter Beattie, Minister for Health for their consideration

### 528. Land Subdivision, Wishart

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

In view of conflict, between the front page story in the *Southern Star* of 15 November reporting my constituent, Mr Slobodian's, inability to proceed with land subdivision at Wishart because Queensland Transport continues to claim an interest in that land for an extra road link between the South East Freeway and the Gateway Arterial Road and the Minister's assurance given on 2 November that the South Coast Motorway will not proceed in any shape or form north of the Logan River—

Will he confirm that Queensland Transport will not construct any associated extra road link between the South East Freeway and the Gateway Arterial Road across Mr Slobodian's land?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

There is a requirement from Mr Slobodian's land for a possible future ramp connecting the South East Freeway with the Gateway Motorway. This requirement remains even though the South Coast Motorway north of the Logan River will not proceed.

Mr Slobodian's solicitors have been advised by Queensland Transport that the extent of the requirement will be determined following finalisation of the concept planning for the proposed busway along the South East Freeway corridor.

### 530. Queensland Transport Tendering Process

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the change in the tendering process for Queensland Transport projects—

- (1) How many tenders have been let since the changed process was implemented?
- (2) How many of these tenders have been won by Queensland Transport?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(1) Over the financial year 94/95 and to the 20 November 95 in the year 95/96, 76 major tenders for works have been called.

(2) Of these tenders, 34 have been won by Queensland Transport.

### 531. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the fact that the horticulture industry and the Department of Primary Industries were ill prepared for the intrusion of the papaya fruit fly—

- (1) What measures are being adopted to circumvent the difficulties that occurred with

the Papaya fruit fly introduction into Queensland?

- (2) Does the department intend to upgrade the early warning procedures to avert this problem for other primary industries in the advent of a similar situation?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

- 1.(a) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) maintains a high degree of preparedness and technical capability to deal with possible incursions of quarantine pests.

DPI was well aware of the difficulties which would be caused to the horticultural industry by an incursion of the Papaya fruit fly (PFF).

- (b) Since 1991 when PFF was identified in Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, DPI has constantly monitored the situation and been aware of its presence and movement and capacity to spread.
- (c) First hand experience was also gained in South East Asia and Papua New Guinea where this pest is endemic and also in the Torres Strait where the pest was first detected in March 1993 as a result of extensive monitoring. An eradication program was successfully conducted on two of the five islands where the fly was detected and a suppression program is under way on the other three islands.
- (d) During this period, DPI has kept up to date with quarantine strategies and conducted work on eradication and chemical disinfestation treatments. In this latter area, Queensland is a world leader based on work with Queensland fruit fly. Close contact has also been kept with the horticultural industry.
- (e) Based on this experience, measures are being adopted to eradicate the pest from North Queensland using the technical capability developed to deal with such situations, and contacts with scientists interstate and overseas experienced with eradication.
- (f) The Department also has procedures in place to enable incursions of quarantine pests to be managed and these were implemented immediately the fly was detected. Thus, decisive action was taken immediately the fly was identified.

2. Discussions are being held with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) to ensure that early warning procedures for quarantine pests are adequate. A Senate Inquiry will also be addressing the provision of quarantine services by AQIS. Implementation of quarantine procedures needs to occur in full recognition of the difficulty of provision of a quarantine barrier in the extensive remote areas of northern Australia.

### 532.High School, Kuranda

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—  
Will he advise what progress is being made on the construction of a new high school at Kuranda.

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

The former Minister for Education, Pat Comben, approved a departmental recommendation for the acquisition of a property in Myola Road on 22 August. Acquisition action was initiated on 23 August 1994. Discussions are continuing between the representatives of the Crown (Department of Lands) and representatives of the registered property owners, in an attempt to settle the matter through negotiation rather than through the formal resumption process. Recent meetings between the two parties have been positive although no final agreement has yet been reached.

In the last few months, consideration has been given to an alternate site in Fallon Road that was suggested by Mareeba Shire Council. Following these investigations, it was concluded that the Myola Road Site was superior for school purposes. I have reaffirmed approval for the acquisition of the Myola Road Site.

Construction of the school has not commenced yet, although work has begun on the concept design for the school buildings. The design, detailing and construction phases have been hindered to a degree due to the time taken to consider the alternative site suggested by Mareeba Shire Council and the ongoing nature of negotiations between Crown representatives and the registered owners of the Myola Road property.

### 534.South-East Queensland Transit Authority

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Will the Government's South-East Queensland Transit Authority require any extra Government resources?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

I refer Honourable Members to comments I made to the House concerning this very issue and which appear at page 1210 of Hansard dated 16 November 1995. For the record I again reiterate the following:

- SEQTA's staff establishment will come from existing staff establishment levels of Queensland Transport.
- SEQTA's funding will come from the existing transport budget.
- There will be no duplication of responsibilities between SEQTA and Queensland Transport in south-east Queensland.
- SEQTA is not a new department or a new bureaucracy in the making. It has a purely strategic focus aimed at establishing and operating an integrated transport system for the region. Others such as Queensland Transport will deliver on SEQTA's objectives.
- To ensure SEQTA remains focused on its strategic role, Queensland Transport will provide corporate resources to SEQTA just like it currently does for functional line areas within its own organisation.

In all the documentation presented to Opposition members and in the briefing given by SEQTA officers, it has been made abundantly clear that SEQTA would have a staff level of no more than 40 officers and that its budget and staff establishment levels would be transferred from Queensland Transport.

No additional staff resources or budget allocations beyond this commitment will be made.

### 535.State Emergency Service

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to last week's severe storms in South-East Queensland which caused widespread damage to homes and property—

What type of response did the State Emergency Services provide?

**Answer** (Mr Davies):

1. The State Emergency Service, initially, through the Brisbane Unit responded by conducting:

- Reconnaissance of the areas affected by the storm;
- Teams were assembled and co-ordinated from Western Group headquarters;
- Tarpaulins and other resources assigned with resident's tasks attended;
- It became apparent that additional manpower was required to sustain the ongoing support;
- Units from Gold Coast, Ipswich, Esk, Caboolture, Pine Shire, Beaudesert, Redland, and Redcliffe came into support the Brisbane Unit during the week of November 6, 1995 and
- SUMMARY OF BRISBANE UNITS STATISTICS
  - Number of member hours—4,442
  - Number of member shifts—463
  - Number of houses visited—550
  - Number of tarpaulins used (small)—1,000
  - Number of tarpaulins used (large)—300
  - Number of telephone calls for assistance received—1,750

2. Other areas involved with storm response in the South East were Ipswich, Redland and Caboolture.

In addition to the abovementioned points, the State Emergency Service was involved in supporting the requirements for Personal Hardship payments, to the residents of Dunwich.

3. The final actions have been to provide further support with the recent rains, and newly appearing requests for assistance.

4. A programme for the collection of tarpaulins has begun with the Local Controllers using the Electronic Media to encourage residents to return the tarpaulins in a timely manner.

### 537.Dental Prosthetists

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Health—

What progress has been made to establish a formal training course for dental prosthetists by the Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board of Queensland at either a TAFE college or a university in Queensland?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

Queensland Health convened a meeting of key stakeholders in August to consider options for the delivery of an accredited dental prosthetist course.

Subsequent to this a smaller group consisting of representatives of the Dental Prosthetists Association, the Dental Technicians Association, TAFE and Griffith University met. This meeting unanimously agreed to prepare a 'proposal of cooperation' to establish a consortium with the responsibility to develop the educational and infrastructure requirements of a training program for dental prosthetists and dental technicians.

An initial feasibility assessment of this project is currently being examined by the consortium.

### 539.Workers Compensation Board

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question 282 relating to the results of the Workers' Compensation Board's "Client satisfaction survey"—

Will she table the plan and intervention strategies which she and her officers have developed to address the major areas where client satisfaction is at unacceptably low levels?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

The Board has implemented advertising campaigns, including the use of television, distributed a Newsletter, is writing to all policyholders this month and has produced a number of brochures this year. As well, I and Departmental officers consulted widely with employers throughout Queensland concerning the Government's Reform Package.

The Board will monitor responses to these initiatives.

### 540.Weipa Industrial Dispute

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

- (1) What has been the total cost to date to the State Government, its departments, agencies and statutory authorities, in terms of foregone revenues and increased expenditures, of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?
- (2) What is the State Government's estimate of the anticipated future ongoing costs to the State Government, its departments, agencies and statutory authorities, in terms of foregone revenues and increased expenditures, of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?
- (3) What is the State Government's estimate of the total cost to date to the Queensland economy of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?
- (4) What is the State Government's estimate of the anticipated future ongoing costs to the



Queensland economy of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?

**Answer** (Mr De Lacy):

Answer not supplied.

#### 541. Patient Transit Scheme

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Patient Transit Scheme—

- (1) Has the review of the scheme been completed?
- (2) What public information is available on this scheme?
- (3) Will his office supply me with the relevant updated information?
- (4) Who decides if a patient is a private or public patient?
- (5) What are the grounds for such a decision?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) A review of the Patient Transit Scheme occurred in 1993/94 with revised draft guidelines issued in March 1994 to all Regional Health Authorities and health services. This new scheme incorporates previously separate arrangements for public patient transfers and for patients attending private practitioners into one policy and changed the name to Patient Transfer Assistance Scheme (PTAS).

The PTAS is currently under revision with a number of options for its future operation being developed.

(2) There is no public information available, besides the current draft guidelines. Brochures for the public and medical practitioners will be produced as an explanation of the revised Scheme as soon as it is finalised.

(3) Yes

(4) Patients themselves determine their status. There may be cases whereby the referring medical practitioner may consider that a public patient may benefit by attending a specific private specialist and in this case the patient would be given the option to change his/her status for this purpose.

(5) It is the patient's decision as to whether he/she will be treated by public or private means and this decision often depends on whether medical insurance is held or not.

#### 543. Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the damning comments by the Commonwealth Inquiry into World Heritage Areas Chairman, John Langmore, in respect to the gross inadequacy of the funds committed by both the State and Commonwealth Governments for the management of World Heritage listed Fraser Island and to a statement of one of the witnesses who said "Fraser was being referred to as 'The Third World Heritage area'" and to his announcement that visitor fees to the island will double—

- (1) Is he concerned by the comments made by the Chairman of the inquiry and the statements made by the witnesses?

(2) Will the increased fees mean a substantial increase in the Government's funding allocation for the island?

(3) What steps is he taking to remedy inadequacies in his Government's resourcing for the management and provision of facilities for the island?

(4) What steps is he taking to ensure that a community consultation process is in place and operating?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

The Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment, Sport and the Arts is not responsible for allocating resources across the Protected Area estate within Queensland. It remains to be seen whether or not the Commonwealth Government responds to the Committees findings and the Queensland Governments requests for funding for the management of World Heritage properties.

The Queensland Government is committed to implementation of the Great Sandy Region Management Plan.

Some of the comments made by witnesses to the Committee were either ill informed or deliberately misleading. For example the same witness who referred to Fraser Island as a "Third World Heritage Area" also stated that the only recreation facilities on the Island had been constructed by the Queensland Forest Service prior to that organisation handing over responsibility to the

Department of Environment and Heritage. This witness owns a property within sight of the Waddy Point camping area, probably the most popular site for camping on Fraser Island, which was constructed by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The Committee was advised that wildfire's burnt 57,000 ha in 1994. The correct figure is 25,000 ha.

I am not concerned by the comments of witnesses who used the hearing to air their opinions based on self interest.

The fee increases will result in more available resources for management of Fraser Island.

The Queensland Government has allocated \$4.7m for management of the Great Sandy Region, of which Fraser Island is the major component, in the 1995/96 financial year.

The current arrangements for public consultation are working. I am reviewing the proposed management arrangements for the Fraser Island World Heritage property. Any new management arrangements will ensure that community views are obtained and taken into consideration.

#### 544. Advertising of Vacancies, DEVETIR

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her answer to Question No. 259—

- (1) Precisely which sections of DEVETIR report to Minister Foley?

- (2) Does this unusual arrangement breach one of the most basic principles of management (i.e. that it is inadvisable to have individuals or work units reporting to more than one supervisor)?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The following units of the Division of Labour Market Reform address Minister Foley's Principal Ministerial Responsibilities as Minister for Industrial Relations—

- Workplace Reform Unit
- Policy Research and Development Branch
- Public Sector Consultancy (in relation to matters dealing with Federal/State Award regulation).

The Director-General reports to Minister Foley and Minister Edmond.

(2) No. The arrangement keeps together the Division of Labour Market Reform with substantial benefits. There have been no problems with this arrangement and none are expected.

#### 545. Bunya Mountains

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to evidence given by one of his officers, Mr Jon Womersley to a House of Representative Standing Committee that the Bunyas would be nominated for World Heritage listing in line with Labor election policy, and given that his predecessor and other senior Labor figures expended considerable effort before the election on giving the impression there would be no listing—

- (1) What changed circumstances since the election have precipitated the listing proposal?
- (2) What consultation has been undertaken among Bunyas' landholders?
- (3) Which landholders have supported the proposal for listing?
- (4) What compensation arrangements have been made for the confiscation of private land and restrictions to be placed on the use of private land in line with world heritage management principles?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied.

#### 546. Education Department Facility, Keppel Island

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Does the Education Department have a type of resort facility on Keppel Island; if so, for what purpose is the facility used?
- (2) What was the cost of running the facility in 1994-95 and will he give a breakdown of these costs?

**Answer** (Mr Hamill):

(1) The Department of Education does not operate a resort facility on Keppel Island, however it does operate the North Keppel Island Environmental

Education Centre, which plays an integral role in the statewide network of similar centres. North Keppel Island is a National Park, totally surrounded by the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Department of Education centre operates on a leased site which focuses on outdoor and environmental education through supporting;

- school based programs
- professional development and training
- research activities
- other educational programs including the development of environmental knowledge and understanding.

(2) The centre has only been operational since May 1995.

The 1994-95 running costs were \$10 962.00.

A school grant allocation of \$20 000.00 has been made for the 1995 calendar year.

Lease payments are expected to be in the vicinity of \$2 000.00 per year.

#### 547. Sunshine Motorway Company Ltd

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Annual Report of the Sunshine Motorway Company Ltd—

- (1) When is it expected that the company's debt will stabilise?
- (2) When is it expected that the company's debt will be fully paid out?
- (3) Is it anticipated that the interest free loans paid to the company by the Government are included in (1) and (2) above?
- (4) Is it intended to draw payments, such as franchise payments, back to the Government after the debt has been repaid or earlier?
- (5) Will the road become a free road for public use when the debt has been paid back or at the end of the 30 year franchise period?
- (6) What were the direct costs and takings at each of the three toll plazas in 1994-95?

**Answer** (Mr Elder):

(1) Current financial modelling underpinning debt containment arrangements in place for the Sunshine Motorway Company P/L (SMCL) indicates that debt has in fact peaked in the financial year 1994/95 and will reduce from 1995/96 onwards.

(2) Current debt containment arrangements provide for all debt to be paid out by 2013.

(3) No. The amounts in question have been shown as interest free loans pending a restructure of Motorway Company arrangements under Queensland Motorway Limited (QML) as the holding company. Amounts shown as interest free loans effectively will be converted to equity during 1995/96 as disclosed in Note 15 to the financial statements of the Sunshine Motorway Company Limited.

(4) There is no intention to seek franchise fees from SMCL prior to repayment of the debt in (1) and (2). It is possible that under a restructuring of financial arrangements relating to QML and its subsidiaries, a franchise fee may apply to QML; however, this would not jeopardise the repayment of SMCL debt by 2013.

(5) SMCL has a franchise for a 30 year period which provides for the levying of tolls. Accordingly, tolls will continue to be levied for at least the franchise period. It is likely that duplication of the Motorway will be required prior to conclusion of the franchise period. This is likely to require renegotiation of the term of the franchise and the debt containment arrangements and will impact on the debt repayment schedule.

(6) SMCL has previously responded to Ms Fiona Simpson MLA that the information sought is "commercial in confidence". This is particularly so given the continuing approaches made to SMCL proposing the conversion of the Mooloolah Plaza to a service centre.

A copy of the relevant letter to Ms Simpson is tabled.

#### 548. TAFE College Funding

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What was the annual expenditure during (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94 and (f) 1994-95 in relation to each TAFE college (including rural training colleges) in Queensland on (i) salary and other operating expenses, (ii) special capital works, (iii) special projects and (iv) special employment support initiatives, including Commonwealth funding for such initiatives?
- (2) What other target funding was provided by the Commonwealth?
- (3) What was the amount of income generated from commercial activities and the provision of services by the colleges during (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94 and (f) 1994-95?
- (4) What is the precise break-up for each college of Commonwealth and State funding provided during (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94 and (f) 1994-95?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

Rural Training Schools are known as Agricultural Training Colleges and are established under separate charter known as the Agricultural Colleges Act 1994. They are not part of TAFE Queensland.

(1) I table "Annual Expenditure by TAFE Colleges/Institutes 1989/90—1994/95—State and Commonwealth Funding (Salaries and Operating Expenses, Special Projects and Special Commonwealth Support Initiatives Inclusive). The figures do not include expenditure on special capital works or on items such as superannuation, cash equivalent of long service leave and Corporate

Services allocations as these were expended at a Program level for these years.

I also table "Annual Expenditure by Agricultural Colleges 1989/90—1994/95 on Salary and Operating Expenses, Special Capital Works and Special Employment Support Initiatives, including Commonwealth Funding". Agricultural Colleges do not receive any direct Commonwealth based grants. All Commonwealth monies are received indirectly on a Fee-for-Service basis. Expenditure includes the budget allocation and is supplemented by commercial income, income gained from the sale of non-current assets and interest.

(2) I table "Target Funding Provided by the Commonwealth" in relation to TAFE Institutes. This question does not apply to Agricultural Colleges as all funding is from a state based grant from Consolidated Revenue.

(3) I table "Income Generated from Commercial Activities and the Provision of Services" in relation to TAFE Institutes, and "Income Generated from Commercial Activities and the Provision of Services, 1989/90—1994/95" in relation to Agricultural Colleges. Farm production and student fees are detailed separately. The remainder includes traineeships, seminars, functions, short courses, hire of equipment and facilities, sale of licensed semen, livestock, materials etc. Interest and disposal of non-current assets are not included.

(4) I table "Commonwealth and State Funding for TAFE Colleges and Institute 1989/90 to 1994/95", and "State Funding for Agricultural Colleges, 1989/90—1994/95". The budget allocations for TAFE Colleges/Institutes include capital works and items such as superannuation, cash equivalent of long service leave and Corporate Services allocations. It should be noted that these items were expended at a Program level for these years. Agricultural Colleges are funded through a state based grant from Consolidated revenue and do not receive any direct Commonwealth funding.

#### 549. TAFE College Funding

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What are the specific and individual 1994-95 budget allocations to each TAFE college and institute (including agricultural colleges) in Queensland?
- (2) With respect to each college, what were the budget allocations for (a) salary and other operating expenses, (b) special capital works, (c) special projects and (d) special employment support initiatives, including Commonwealth funding for such initiatives?
- (3) What other target funding was provided by the Commonwealth?
- (4) What is the expected income generation from commercial activities by the colleges?
- (5) Will he provide details of the break-up for each college of Commonwealth and State funding allocations?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) I table "1994/95 Budget Allocations by TAFE Colleges/Institutes". See answer to question 4, QON 548 in relation to Agricultural Colleges.
- (2) I table "1994/95 Budget Allocations by TAFE Colleges/Institute for Specific Categories", and "1994-95 Budget Allocation" in relation to Agricultural Colleges.
- (3) See answer to question 2, QON 548.
- (4) I table "1994/95 Expected Income Generation by TAFE College/Institute", and "Expected Income Generation from Commercial Activities—1994/95" in relation to Agricultural Colleges.
- (5) See answer to question 4, QON 548.

### 550.Pine Plantations

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

- (1) How many hectares of additional plantation pine (not replantings) have been established in Queensland over each of the last ten years, and where has that been?
- (2) Has the department any plans for the additional planting of pine in the vicinity of Killarney, either in or around the Gambubil State Forest?
- (3) Has the department any plans for the acquisition of additional land for the planting of pine between now and the year 2,000; if so, what are those plans?
- (4) Are there any restrictions, environmental or otherwise, which preclude the Department of Primary Industries from purchasing freehold land, then clearing that land and establishing plantation timber?

**Answer** (Mr Gibbs):

1. Over the last ten years some 28,800 hectares of new Crown plantations have been established throughout Queensland. The annual area of new plantations established has decreased progressively from approximately 5,300 hectares in 1986 to some 375 hectares in 1995. This reflects the gradual decline in availability of cleared State Forest suitable for plantation establishment together with the Government's decision (in line with its responsibilities under the National Forest Policy Statement) to no longer clear native forest for plantation establishment. The majority of the area of new Crown plantations established, some 22,000 hectares, has been in South-east Queensland with a further 5,700 hectares established in North Queensland and 1,100 hectares in Central Queensland. Only some 4 hectares of new plantations have been established in the Darling Downs area.

2. The Department has no immediate plans to expand its operations in the vicinity of the Gambubil plantations. However, DPI Forestry was

commercialised on 1 July 1995 and under its draft commercialisation charter, is charged with maximising its market value whilst observing all regulatory (including environmental) requirements to which it is subject. As such, DPI Forestry will be assessing any plantation expansion possibilities on their respective commercial merits.

3. The Department does plan to purchase some land for both pine and hardwood plantation establishment before the year 2000. For instance we expect to purchase 500 hectares under the Native Species Plantations initiative, possibly in the Pomona or Mary Valley area. Other commercial land purchase opportunities close to existing pine plantations will also be pursued. For example, the Department is continuing negotiations over the possible purchase of ex-APM plantation lands in the Sunshine Coast area. In addition the Government has announced a series of initiatives in its Future Directions Statement to encourage private sector investment in plantations, particularly based on hardwoods.

4. Yes, under the Government's commitment to the National Forest Policy Statement, it will not clear native forest for plantation establishment. However, where suitable cleared private land becomes available and funding permits, the Department would investigate acquisition to expand the Crown plantation estate. The Government also has announced a commitment in its Future Directions Statement to encourage the private sector to expand its interest in timber plantations.

### 551.Air Conditioner Gas

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to newspaper and trade journal reports in which the motor trades and associated industries are concerned at the safety of hydrocarbon gases used in car air-conditioning systems which can explode if ignited by a spark—

Will the Queensland Government take similar action to that taken by the New South Wales Government and ban the use of the gas in motor vehicles in Queensland?

**Answer** (Mr McGrady):

The regulation of these gases, not only in automotive air-conditioning, but in all refrigeration and air conditioning systems is now finalised.

### 552.Queensland Principal Club

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Will he provide details, for 1994-95, of all payments including expenses, on an individual by individual basis, made to members of the Queensland Principal Club and, in doing so, clearly identify the reasons for each category of payment to each such member?

**Answer (Mr Gibbs):**

Details Of 1994-95 Payments Made To Members Of The Queensland Principal Club Are Tabled Below:-

NAME	MEALS/ACCOM	AIRFARE	MILEAGE/CAR HIRE	TELEPHONE	TAXI	TOTAL
BENTLEY	4487.50	4025.00	7846.33	4978.65	120.40	21457.88
STEWART	4681.80	338.00	3387.88	166.80	20.00	8594.48
GUILFOYLE	364.30	5064.00	2540.20	2042.85	178.00	10189.35
BLACK	543.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	543.60
MARTIN	585.00	0.00	1415.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00
GREEVES	0.00	0.00	914.40	0.00	0.00	914.40
FORSTER	252.40	0.00	2678.79	5.50	252.51	3189.20
HILLMAN	0.00	274.00	0.00	0.00	42.40	316.40
TOTAL	10914.60	9701.00	18782.60	7193.80	613.31	47205.31

**SUMMARY**

BENTLEY	21457.88	Chairman
GUILFOYLE	10189.35	Chairman Country Racing Assoc
STEWART	8594.48	Member Executive Committee
FORSTER	3189.20	Member
MARTIN	2000.00	Member Executive Committee
GREEVES	914.40	Member Executive Committee
BLACK	543.60	Member
HILLMAN	316.40	Member
TOTAL	47205.31	

**553. Disposal of Chemicals**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Will the Government fund a public awareness campaign and provide financial support to local governments and appropriate Government departments for the safe disposal of old garden chemicals, agricultural chemicals and their containers?

**Answer (Mr Gibbs):**

The Department of Environment and Heritage is the lead agency for matters associated with waste disposal.

My Department is working closely with the Department of Environment and Heritage on the disposal of waste materials to ensure that these materials are disposed of safely and with minimal effect on the environment.

**554. Hambleton State School**

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to Hambleton State School and the continuing growth in population due to development expansion—

- (1) What is the commencement date for construction of the proposed administration block?
- (2) Given the out of school hours care program/vacation care program will have to move (possibly into temporary accommodation), will the Government find some financial assistance to cover the move?
- (3) What is the projected timetable for the commencement of the planned new school facilities in the Edmonton area and will this facility have a two-unit preschool attached?

**Answer (Mr Hamill):**

(1) Work is expected to begin in early February.

(2) The provision of childcare services that falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Family and Community Services and I would refer the Member to that Minister advice on this matter.

(3) My department has conducted some indicative planning for the provision of a relief school in the future in the Edmonton area. Current enrolment trends would indicate that a relief school may need to be considered in the next 2–5 years.

**555. Equine Morbillivirus**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister For Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the Vic Rail stable emergency in 1994, when SES officers worked with DPI officers at the stables and, I understand, in July 1995, a DPI debriefing was given to those SES officers— In light of the recent death of Mr Preston at Mackay from the same virus, has he taken any further action to test the SES officers involved at the Hendra stables to ensure their safety?

**Answer (Mr Davies):**

Queensland Emergency Services cares for the health and well-being of all its staff—both permanent and volunteer. This means looking after their psychological health as well as their physical safety as the Member for Western Downs knows. Members of the SES involved in the Hendra equine morbillivirus operation were engaged in tasks, using appropriate protective safety equipment, which allowed a very limited exposure to the horse serums or body fluids.

All personnel involved in the operation who were assessed to have been in a possibly contaminated area underwent a thorough decontamination process.

Close liaison between the SES and Queensland Health was established at the commencement of the operation. On advice from Queensland Health Senior Medical Officers, SES members were not subjected to screening or testing for the virus. This would have only placed undue anxiety or concern on these dedicated volunteers. If, however, any individual SES Member chooses to be tested then we will fully support that decision.

### 557. Public Hospitals

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What income was received by the public hospitals of Queensland in 1994-95 for paid services such as private patients, transplants, etc, and how much of these collected funds was transferred to Consolidated Revenue; and
- (2) Will he provide the detail of private patient accounts written off as bad debts during 1994-95 on a per hospital basis?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) Revenue received by Queensland Public Hospitals for services provided in 1994/95 was as follows:

Inpatient Fees—\$77,285,149

Other Charges—\$3,308,952

Board and Lodgings—\$2,442,827

Daily Maintenance Charge—(includes nursing home patients)—\$24,961,849

Outpatient Fees—\$4,584,817

Prosthetic Charges—\$522,910

Services Rendered—\$289,207

Total—\$113,395,711

All of these funds are returned to Consolidated Revenue. Queensland Health receives \$2.7 billion from consolidated revenue to provide services which include these services.

In addition to the above, \$2.755 million was collected for overseas patients' liver transplants. These funds are used to cover the cost of the transplants and related research.

(2) The total on private patient accounts written off as bad debts in 1994/95 totalled \$859,137.55.

### 558. Youth Suicide Prevention Programs

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the unacceptably high youth suicide statistics in Queensland—

- (1) Will he make available funding for further development and administration of youth suicide prevention programs in our established community help centres and support groups?
- (2) Will he take steps to implement youth suicide prevention programs into our TAFE colleges and high schools?

**Answer** (Mr Beattie):

(1) At this point in time, all funds available to the 'Young People at Risk: Access, Prevention and

Action' program have been committed to piloting the program in four Regional Health Authorities and undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the program prior to ongoing allocation of funding beyond June 1997. In the event of cost savings being achieved, the provision of one-off, non-recurrent grants for projects within the philosophy and scope of the 'Young People at Risk' program will be considered.

(2) The effectiveness of suicide prevention programs in schools and TAFE colleges has yet to be established with a number of studies providing conflicting outcomes. Without definitive evidence of the effectiveness of such programs, rather than implement suicide prevention programs in schools and TAFE colleges it is expected that Queensland Health will work closely with the Department of Education in developing a school health curriculum which addresses self harming, suicidal and related behaviours in a holistic manner. This approach will provide for a sensitive and practical consideration of issues associated with these behaviours and a framework for the discussion and identification of management and support mechanisms available to young people in dealing with their issues.

### 559. Environmental Protection Act

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the implications of the recently introduced *Environmental Protection Act*, and the fact that a small business in my electorate, which was paying \$30 per month to have a grease trap cleaned, is currently still paying \$30 per month but how has the added cost of \$140 per month for disposal of the sludge—

- (1) Does he agree that such costs make business less robust, more unlikely to be able to increase staff numbers and less likely to be able to ride out the economic ups and downs?
- (2) Were these add-on costs considered as part of the implementation of the *Environmental Protection Act*?
- (3) Will he consider changes to the Act to make add-on charges more business-friendly in the interests of employment and growth of the economy?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

(1) No.

The Environmental Protection Act is designed to produce good environmental outcomes for all Queenslanders, by protecting the air and water quality, minimising noise nuisance, and reducing the generation of wastes. Queensland's economic growth rate demanded a change from the 'end of pipe' archaic environmental legislation that previously existed under former state governments. The Environmental Protection Act, forged after extensive community consultation, is a comprehensive response to complex environmental challenges. It seeks to cut red tape by replacing several pieces of outmoded legislation with a single comprehensive Act. Through the consultative processes, which are

enshrined in the Act, the community indicated widespread support for the principle of polluter pays. Prevention and cleanup costs should be borne by the polluter and not the community.

The Government's decision to waive any fees in the first year's operation of the Environmental Protection Act is a considerable concession for those small businesses which hold licences issued by local governments under the Environmental Protection Act. Therefore, most small businesses will have almost two years from commencement of the Act before any fee is payable.

The licensing of regulated waste disposal commenced on 1 May 1995. The monthly fee quoted by the Member for Mirani suggests that the waste disposal firm is passing on other costs besides the environmental licence fee.

Experience overseas shows that environmental regulation can result in cost reductions, yield improvements, market share increases, and/or export expansion. Improved efficiencies through the introduction of best practice processes are well illustrated by examples in the Australian Best Practice Demonstration Program and the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency's Cleaner Production database. The development of cleaner production technologies by Queensland firms is beginning to emerge in response to business' increasing awareness of the need to deliver better environmental outcomes.

(2) Yes

(3) Yes

The Environmental Protection Act has been continually under review to identify any anomalous fee impositions.

The Government recognises that small to medium sized enterprises already employing good environmental practices in their businesses should be rewarded for their effort. The Department of Environment and Heritage continues to refine a graded licensing scheme to reward businesses which are good environmental performers. Under such a scheme, the recurrent cost of licence fees could be minimised by businesses who are managing their waste streams effectively.

The Act has sufficient flexibility and scope to provide businesses a number of ways to achieve compliance without affecting their viability. The Government may from time to time consider the introduction of changes through amendments to the Regulations to provide even more effective environmental management.

#### **564. Koala Coast Communities Facilities Fund**

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to funding to be provided under the Koala Coast Secretariat Community Facilities Fund for a \$1m contribution matched by the Local City Council for the provision of sporting and other facilities at Cornubia—

As he indicated in the House on 17 November 1995 that all first round offers made under the scheme

would be honoured, does this mean the Government will provide the \$1m; if so, when?

**Answer** (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied.

#### **565. Power Supply, Daintree Region**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to a recent trip to the area north of the Daintree where he promised that the decision in respect of the installation of mains grid power to the area had not been made and that a decision would be made by Cabinet in the near future—

When can it be expected that this decision will be made and announced?

**Answer** (Mr McGrady):

The Government announced its decision on Daintree power supply on 14 December 1995.

#### **566. TAFE College Resource Agreements**

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Will she table a copy of each TAFE Institute's most recent Resource Agreement?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

Yes. I table copies of the most recent Resource Agreements between the Executive Director, TAFE Queensland and the respective Directors and Administrators of the 16 TAFE Queensland Institutes.

#### **567. Adult and Community Education Programs, TAFE Colleges**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the ACE Program statistics provided in her answers to questions 178 and 157 and to Attachment A (provided in response to Question 178) it is possible to calculate the average hours for ACE programs in Term 1, 1995 and Term 1, 1994 at the following institutes (a) Bremer, (b) Logan, (c) Northpoint, (d) Southbank and (e) Yeronga—

(1) Why is there such a disparity between the average hours calculated from this material and the average hours provided from the CAP Program (as supplied in response to Question 157)?

(2) Does her department have any reliable, accurate enrolment figures; if so, will she provide them?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

(1) There is no disparity between the data provided in reference to Question 157 and Question 178. Questions on Notice 157 and 178 sought different data.

(2) Yes : Accurate enrolment figures have been provided.

**568. Taxi Expenditure, Southbank Institute of TAFE**

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question No. 193 in which she indicated that the Auditor-General is still considering issues resulting from the massive taxi expenditure by Southbank Institute of TAFE—

Will she undertake to table the Auditor-General's Report when she receives it?

**Answer** (Mrs Edmond):

The Auditor-General's Report for 1994/95 was tabled in the Parliament on Thursday, 7 December 1995.