



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 7 August 2014

Subject	Page
NOTICE OF MOTION	2529
Dissent from Deputy Speaker's Ruling	2529
PRIVILEGE	2529
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of a Committee	2529
DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.....	2529
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	2530
Absence of Member	2530
REPORT.....	2530
Register of Members' Interests	2530
<i>Tabled paper: Twenty-Seventh Report on the Register of Members' Interests.</i>	2530
PETITION	2530
TABLED PAPER	2530
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	2530
Criminal Motorcycle Gangs	2530
Police Resources	2531
Domestic and Family Violence	2531
Speed-Limit Review	2532
Justice System, Scientific Evidence	2532
Environmental Protection.....	2533
Graffiti	2533
Youth Boot Camps.....	2534
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, dated 30 July 2014, titled</i> <i>'Initiative turns lives around'</i>	2535
Moura No. 2 Mine Disaster.....	2535

Table of Contents – Thursday, 7 August 2014

ABSENCE OF PREMIER	2535
MOTION	2535
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee, Reporting Date	2535
MOTION	2536
Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee, Reporting Date	2536
EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE	2536
Reports	2536
<i>Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 36—Review of Auditor-General’s report to parliament 3: 2013-14, Follow-up—Acquisition and public access to the Museum, Art Gallery and Library collections.....</i>	<i>2536</i>
<i>Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 37—Review of Auditor-General’s report 16: 2013-14, Results of audit: education sector entities 2013.</i>	<i>2536</i>
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	2536
Report	2536
<i>Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 47—Consideration of Queensland Treasury and Trade annual report 2012-13.</i>	<i>2536</i>
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	2537
Government Procurement	2537
Higher Education, Funding	2538
Mount Ommaney Electorate, Community Safety	2538
Political Donations	2539
Southport Electorate, Community Safety	2540
Agriculture Industry	2541
Brisbane Central Electorate, Community Safety	2542
Vocational Education and Training, Subsidies.....	2543
Cairns Electorate, Community Safety	2544
Charters Towers Hospital, Dialysis Unit	2544
Bulimba Electorate, Community Safety	2545
Curtis Island	2545
Albert Electorate, Community Safety	2546
Roads, Toll Charges.....	2547
<i>Tabled paper: Articles relating to the Transurban deal to buy Queensland Motorways.</i>	<i>2547</i>
Sunnybank Electorate, Community Safety	2548
Crime Statistics	2548
<i>Tabled paper: Document titled ‘Police QPS News, Queensland Crime Statistics’.....</i>	<i>2548</i>
SPEAKER’S STATEMENT.....	2549
School Group Tours.....	2549
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.....	2549
Shadow Minister for Training	2549
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland parliament Record of Proceedings, dated 5 August 2014, p 2315.....</i>	<i>2549</i>
EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE	2549
Report, Motion to Take Note	2549
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	2550
Report No. 44, Motion to Take Note	2550
Report No. 45, Motion to Take Note	2550
STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE	2550
Report No. 42, Motion to Take Note	2550
Report No. 43, Motion to Take Note	2550
TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE	2550
Report, Motion to Take Note	2550
MOTION	2552
Suspension of Sessional Orders.....	2552
MEMBER’S STATEMENT	2552
Member for Stafford, First Speech	2552
QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2555
Introduction	2555
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.</i>	<i>2555</i>
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.</i>	<i>2555</i>
First Reading	2557
Referral to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee.....	2557
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	2557
PRIVILEGE.....	2557
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister	2557

Table of Contents – Thursday, 7 August 2014

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL	2558
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)	2558
Appropriation Bill	2558
Health and Community Services Committee.....	2558
Report	2558
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Photograph of the member for Beaudesert, Mr Jon Krause MP and others at the new Python Rock Lookout, Lamington National Park	2565
Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee	2570
Report	2570
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	2572
Queensland Health, Sexually Transmissible Infections	2572
Gold Coast Titans, Cartwright, Mr J and Searle, Mr M	2572
van Vree, Mr P; Everton Electorate, School Fetes	2573
Nanango Electorate, Rail Trails.....	2574
Mount Coot-tha Electorate, Schools; Queensland Education Accord.....	2574
Canefields Clubhouse.....	2575
Mundingburra State School.....	2576
Burleigh Electorate, Crime Statistics.....	2576
Coomera Electorate, Events.....	2577
Gold Coast G:link.....	2577
Redcliffe Electorate, Events	2578
World War I, 100-Year Commemoration.....	2578
Burtenshaw, Mr G	2579
Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce	2579
Maryborough Electorate, Health Services	2580
Naughty But Nice	2581
Coroner's Act, Section 29.....	2581
Social Housing	2582
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of emails to the Hervey Bay electorate office regarding housing commission tenant holiday policy.....	2582
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> , dated 2 August 2014, titled "Snooping ' gone too far"	2582
Moloney, Sergeant M; Port, Mr B	2582
Youth Suicide Prevention	2583
Brisbane Central Electorate, Events	2583
Gold Coast Cruise Ship Terminal.....	2584
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 12 February 2014, from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Jeff Seeney MP, to Mr Tom Tate, Mayor, City of Gold Coast, regarding establishing a cruise ship terminal in the Southport Broadwater.....	2584
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Photocopy of Queensland coalition flyer titled 'Save our Spit'.	2585
Life Education Centre	2585
Sarina Show Society.....	2585
Curtis Island	2586
Bundaberg Hospital, Centenary	2586
Algerate Electorate, Schools.....	2587
Townsville, Community Safety.....	2587
Australian Red Cross.....	2588
Townsville, Bruce Highway	2589
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL	2589
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)	2589
Appropriation Bill	2589
Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee	2589
Report	2589
Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.	2596
Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.	2596
Appropriation (Parliament) Bill.....	2596
Committee of the Legislative Assembly	2596
Report	2596
Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.	2597
Schedule, as read, agreed to.	2597
Third Reading (Cognate Debate).....	2598
Long Title (Cognate Debate).....	2598
FORESTRY AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL	2598
Second Reading	2598
Consideration in Detail	2610
Clause 1, as read, agreed to.....	2610
Clause 2 postponed.....	2610

Table of Contents – Thursday, 7 August 2014

Clauses 3 to 36, as read, agreed to	2610
Insertion of new clause—.....	2610
<i>Tabled paper: Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to</i>	
Hon. Jeff Seeneey's amendments.	2610
Amendment agreed to.	2610
Clauses 37 to 40, as read, agreed to.	2610
Clause 41—.....	2610
Division: Question put—That clause 41 stand part of the bill.....	2611
Resolved in the affirmative.....	2611
Clause 41, as read, agreed to.....	2611
Clauses 42 to 47, as read, agreed to.	2611
Schedule, as read, agreed to.....	2611
Clause 2—.....	2612
Amendment agreed to.	2612
Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.	2612
Third Reading	2612
Long Title.....	2612
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	2612
ADJOURNMENT	2612
Wensley, Hon. P	2612
Country Women's Association.....	2613
Murrumba Electorate.....	2614
Kokoda Challenge	2614
Ipswich West Electorate, Events	2615
Unemployment	2616
Thomlinson, Mr I.....	2616
Nudgee Electorate, Events	2617
Gladstone Electorate, Relay for Life	2618
Ormeau Fair	2618
ATTENDANCE	2619

THURSDAY, 7 AUGUST 2014



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

Dissent from Deputy Speaker's Ruling



Ms TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.30 am): In accordance with standing order 250 I give notice that I will move—

That the Deputy Speaker's ruling on 6 August 2014, pages 2508 to 2509 of the *Record of Proceedings* (proof), that a member's absence from a parliamentary committee may be referenced during debate in the House, be dissented from.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of a Committee



Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I refer to a matter involving a response to a question asked of the director-general of the Department of Housing and Public Works at the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee's consideration of the 2014-15 budget estimates held on 17 July.

I asked the director-general, Mr Castles, a question in relation to the department's new absenteeism policy. In response he stated—

The clear policy is that tenants are only required to notify a department if they plan to be absent from 14 days to three months.

He later clarified his response by saying—

With respect to leave of less than four weeks, people have to notify ... rather than apply.

The department's policy document titled 'Going away from your home' has a series of questions and answers, which include, 'Can I leave my home for a period of time?' and the response—

Yes. The department will consider your request to be absent from the property for the following reasons and lengths of time.

It then goes on and on—

Madam SPEAKER: Member, I would ask you to please—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order members! I would ask you to please put your point of privilege.

Mrs MILLER: The answer from the director-general is in direct conflict to an answer that was already given. Madam Speaker, I am advising you as a matter of courtesy that I will be writing to you in relation to this matter.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge special guests visiting today from Kajiado County in Kenya, led by the Speaker of the Assembly, the Hon. Johnson Parmuat Osoi. We welcome you.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Member

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that the Leader of the Opposition will be absent from the House today attending the MH17 national memorial service at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne at the invitation of the Premier.

REPORT

Register of Members' Interests

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I table the 27th report of the Register of Members' Interests.

Tabled paper: Twenty-Seventh Report on the Register of Members' Interests [\[5647\]](#).

PETITION

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Coroners Act 2003, Section 29, Repeal

Mr Knuth, from 532 petitioners, requesting the House to repeal section 29 of the Coroners Act 2003 and allow the coroner to perform an inquest independently of any current legal action [\[5648\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPER

MINISTERIAL PAPER Tabled BY THE CLERK

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Mr Cripps)—

[5649](#) Non-conforming petition requesting the House to instruct the Main Roads department to initiate and allow funding for a project.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Criminal Motorcycle Gangs

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.34 am): For too long criminal motorcycle gangs felt that they were above the law in Queensland. Labor's lack of action over 20 years only emboldened them. Queenslanders watched in dismay as brazen crimes were carried out, often in full view of the law-abiding public, and the drug trade flourished. This was particularly evident on the Gold Coast, which was shaken by mob violence and gun crimes. No-one will forget the brawl outside the Broadbeach restaurant in front of frightened patrons or the innocent woman who was shot at the Robina Town Centre, caught up in these gang disputes.

This government said, 'Enough is enough,' and we meant it. We introduced Australia's toughest antigang laws and we recruited extra police to make them work. We promised to boost police numbers by an extra 1,100 over four years but we have, in fact, already put more than 800 officers on the beat. As at 30 July 2014, 1,178 criminal motorcycle gang participants have been arrested on 2,989 charges. Those statistics bear repeating: as at 30 July 2014, 1,178 criminal motorcycle gang participants have been arrested on 2,989 charges. Of those, 111 offenders have been arrested for 164 offences under the new legislative provisions, with 66 people charged with 105 offences where a vicious lawless association will be alleged.

Crime is decreasing and people are safer in their homes and businesses right across Queensland. Gang membership is also decreasing. The people of Queensland now fully support these measures and believe that Queensland is a safer place because of them. A resounding 89 per cent of people on the Gold Coast and 78 per cent of people across the state want the government's tough measures retained, and they will be retained.

Where does Labor stand on these measures? Queenslanders do not know. They will never know, because Labor never sticks to a position. Labor spent 20 years in government being wishy-washy on law and order. They created this problem and it seems that nothing has changed when they are in opposition. Only the LNP has a strong plan to increase those front-line services. Only the LNP will ensure that we have enough police and that they have enough resources to keep Queenslanders safe.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Johnson interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gregory!

Police Resources

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (9.37 am): The government has again delivered on one of its core election commitments to have two helicopters for the South-East Queensland region by 2015. On 1 July 2014, I was honoured to launch the Brisbane based Helicopter Support Unit's *PolAir 2*, which will deliver a vital police presence in the skies above Brisbane and Ipswich. Again, there is silence from those opposite. The Newman government understood the need for the second helicopter and the benefits that it would bring to front-line policing. That is why in the 2014-15 budget we are delivering \$6 million to this commitment. The helicopter is provided under a contract with Surf Life Saving Queensland. Surf Life Saving Queensland has worked with the police to operate its helicopter on the Gold Coast since 2012 and remains committed to delivering a world-class aerial patrol and surveillance service for the Queensland community.

The second helicopter will give police even greater capacity to combat crime in South-East Queensland. The helicopter is based at Archerfield in Brisbane and will deliver safer streets for the residents of the greater Brisbane area, including Moreton, Ipswich and Redlands. Only two weeks after taking to the skies, *PolAir 2* kept an alleged stolen vehicle under surveillance until local police could arrive on the scene. Police initially attempted to intercept the vehicle around 2.00 pm at Wynnum. The driver of the vehicle is alleged to have evaded police at that time. The vehicle had been linked to a number of alleged break and enter offences in the Wynnum area. *PolAir 2* was called to assist and around five minutes later allegedly observed the vehicle travelling at dangerous speeds on the M1 motorway towards Logan. *PolAir 2* kept the vehicle under surveillance until it entered a Capalaba shopping centre. A 33-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman were apprehended minutes later. That is the safe way to do policing in a modern Queensland.

Since taking to the skies on 1 July 2014 *PolAir 2* has conducted searches for offenders, searches for missing persons, drug crop searches, evade police offences, stolen vehicles, break and enter offences, graffiti offences, home invasions, criminal gang extortion offences, street disturbances, noisy parties and drug use offences and the like. Silence again from those opposite! Needless to say, *PolAir 2* is already delivering real results for families across the south-east.

The Queensland government has a strong plan to revitalise front-line services and make our communities safer for families. That is why we are committed to this ongoing resource for police and communities. Those opposite just do not like the good news. Only the LNP has a strong plan to revitalise front-line services and ensure police have the resources they need to keep our streets safe, not just now but for generations to come.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. TE DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (9.40 am): Domestic and family violence is a national tragedy and as a community we need to be outraged that in 2014 domestic and family violence is still being perpetrated in Queensland homes. This government is determined to make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. We came into government with a clear plan to act and in my department this has been both about raising awareness of domestic and family violence and investing in services to provide support and counselling to victims across the state.

There is simply no excuse for domestic violence and we are pleased to see the community taking this stance as seriously as we are. We have seen more and more people getting behind this important issue; spreading the word that domestic and family violence in all its forms is never acceptable. Our Make the Call campaign has been instrumental in getting the message out. This social media marketing campaign calls out to victims, friends, family members and colleagues to make the call and get advice and support from DVConnect. We know this call to action is working and more people are reaching out for advice because we have seen a nearly 12 per cent increase in calls to the DVConnect service. Over the past two years, the campaign has run a Facebook page which has gained 27,000 likes. This is incredibly encouraging and it is proving that Queenslanders are demonstrating in numbers that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated in our community. To help us further spread the message, in May during Domestic Violence Prevention Month we partnered with the Queensland sporting community. I want to thank the Mission Queensland Firebirds, the Brisbane Roar, the Queensland Reds, the North Queensland Cowboys and the Gold Coast Suns for their strong voice and strong commitment in raising awareness and saying no to domestic and family violence.

Sadly, we know that the reports of domestic violence continue to increase and through raising awareness that more people are coming forward, but we know there is more to do. The statistics are just so confronting. In Queensland last year 10 women, two men and three children were murdered as a result of domestic and family violence. A further three men suicided after killing their female partners. This needs to stop. We need to protect Queenslanders. There is simply no excuse for domestic violence. Change happens when the community challenges the attitudes and behaviours of this heinous crime. We need to remain vigilant. We want Queensland to be the safest place to raise a family. Together we can achieve this.

Speed-Limit Review

 **Hon. SA EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.43 am): The can-do LNP government is delivering a brighter future for roads right across Queensland. Today we announce the second round of our state-wide speed-limit review that will see some stretches of highway increase to 110 kilometres per hour. This review is yet another way the LNP government is listening to Queenslanders' concerns and making our state the safest place to work, live and raise a family. One hundred roads and speed limits were short-listed for review after we received 3,300 submissions from the public. In June we released the results of the first 20 roads and I am pleased to announce today the second round of changes. Out of the 42 roads reviewed in the second round, six speed limits will be increased and three decreased. Four other roads will see the number and frequency of speed-limit changes reduced to minimise confusion for drivers.

After taking feedback from the local community, sections of the Leichhardt, Carnarvon and Warrego highways will increase to 110 kilometres per hour. Four speed zones on sections of the Peak Downs Highway will be reduced to 90 kilometres per hour and sections of Anzac Avenue, Rothwell, will be reduced from 80 kilometres to 70 kilometres per hour. Engineers are now carefully assessing the final 38 review results. Safety of motorists is our top priority, which is why this review has been conducted in collaboration with safety experts, police and engineers. Motorists are reminded that existing speed limits apply until the signs have changed.

Boosting consistency of speed on Queensland roads is part of our two-year, \$350 million Road Safety Action Plan to drive down the road toll. While any death on our roads is a tragedy, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud Queenslanders for their efforts in maintaining a record-low road toll. To date there have been 129 fatalities—39 below the same time last year and 14 below the record-low road toll in 2010. Road safety is everybody's responsibility. As we strive to make this state the safest place to live in, we must all remain vigilant and stay alert on our roads.

Justice System, Scientific Evidence

 **Hon. IB WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (9.46 am): A wife killer is in jail and Queensland is a safer place because of the knowledge and expertise of one of this government's leading scientists. Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts personnel are proud that it was one of their professionals who ensured justice was served in that particularly tragic case before the courts last month.

The murder of Allison Baden-Clay in 2012 by her husband gripped Queensland and the nation. The identification of plant material in Alison's hair by Dr Gordon Guymer, Director of the Queensland Herbarium within DSITIA's science division, was vital in linking her death to her house at Brookfield. The Queensland police requested Dr Guymer to examine botanical material caught in Alison's hair and he discovered leaves that belonged to six different plant species. He conducted extensive botanical surveys at Kholo Creek, Anstead, where her body was found and also botanical surveys at her house. Only two of these six plant species were present at Kholo Creek, whereas all six plant species were present in close proximity to her house in Brookfield, 14 kilometres away. That scientific evidence was crucial to the case. As Detective Superintendent Mark Ainsworth remarked, it was the icing on the cake. Dr Guymer was able to identify the leaves which helped convict Mr Baden-Clay using the facilities at the Queensland Herbarium and from his 30 years experience as a botanist.

Dr Guymer verified his identifications by comparing them to known plant specimens held in the state's principal botanical information resource, the Queensland Herbarium plant specimen collections. The 830,000 plant specimens held at the Herbarium are remarkable, irreplaceable and an essential source of information about plants in this state. They actually include specimens collected by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr Daniel Solander from the Endeavour River, Cooktown, in 1770, as well as specimens collected by early explorers such as Allan Cunningham and Ludwig Leichhardt. More than 20,000 Queenslanders have made important contributions to the Herbarium's collections and to our knowledge of the state's flora.

Our scientists have provided their expertise for other murder trials, including the Daniel Morcombe case earlier this year and for Keyra Steinhardt in 1999. I was pleased to personally call Dr Guymer last week and congratulate him on the quality of his work and the clarity of his evidence in the Baden-Clay trial. More broadly, I congratulate all DSITIA scientists for the high level of professionalism and expertise which they put to work for the people of Queensland. Their training and diligence is critical in securing convictions and that helps Queensland to be the safest place to live, work and raise a family and the most dangerous place for a killer who thinks he can get away with it.

Environmental Protection

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (9.49 am): The Newman government is determined to make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. This government has a strong plan to protect Queensland's environment. In the next few months, we will look to increase the maximum penalties for a number of offences under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. These increases will reflect the seriousness of the offences and reinforce our role as a firm but fair regulator.

This government is committed to helping business do what it does best: facilitate economic development and create jobs. I can reassure the business sector that where a business is doing the right thing it has nothing to fear. However, under the changes, for those who do not do the right thing we will increase maximum penalties for the most serious of offences. That includes those who wilfully harm the environment.

In addition, after a review of the on-the-spot fines, there will be an increase in penalties, as well as new offences added from 1 September this year. Those fines will act as a deterrent against future reoffending. We will also increase fines for taking a protected animal without authorisation under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Time and again this government has proven that we can protect the environment and encourage sustainable economic development. This is part of our strong plan to put Queensland back on track so that we again become the nation's leading economy and, more importantly, ensure Queensland is a safe place to live, work and play. The Newman government has a strong plan for a brighter future for Queensland's precious environment.

Graffiti

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (9.50 am): While the majority of Queenslanders relish in the countless benefits that come with living and working in our great state, unfortunately, a minority does not treat society with the same amount of pride. Dealing with these people is not just the responsibility of one level of government. Right across the state, I see councils continuing their push to stamp out crime in their local areas and this government is well on its way to delivering safer lifestyles for all residents,

but the work is far from over. Since my appointment as the local government minister, I have heard from mayors and councillors right across Queensland who are passionate about joining us in making local communities safer. They recognise the importance of crime prevention at a grassroots level, which makes me excited to work with them to help achieve that.

In the past, those opposite were soft on vandalism. This government has introduced strong laws that make vandals literally clean up their act. Earlier in the week we heard from the Attorney-General about the government's law reforms for graffiti removal. Those changes have slashed that senseless vandalism by more than 25 per cent across the state. At the last election, we promised to support councils with the prevention and management of graffiti. We have delivered on our promise by committing \$8 million over four years in the budget.

Whether it is a pedestrian bridge in Logan or a picnic table in Longreach, locals are proud of their community assets and they do not want them tagged by careless graffiti vandals. Councils are forced to spend millions of dollars cleaning up after those who have no respect for public property. As part of our strong plan, we are providing councils with the resources to tackle graffiti head-on. Each year, councils receive funding through base grants and grants for graffiti prevention. Cairns City Council has been proactive in using the funding to purchase a purpose-built trailer. The trailer is the second unit for Cairns and is being used on a weekly basis in known graffiti hotspots such as Mooroolooloolo, Earlville, Woree, Redlynch, Edmonton and Gordonvale. Other projects include the Gold Coast Council's rapid removal of graffiti from hotspots and the Brisbane City Council's project that supports businesses across the city mitigate graffiti. In my home city of Townsville, over \$1,000 has been given to the council to combat the effects of graffiti.

In addition to the funding we provide to councils, we are funding Crime Stoppers to run the state-wide graffiti hotline. Members should also be aware of the GraffitiSTOP app that is available for free on both Android and iPhones. That funding along with the reforms from the government have made Queensland safer for families.

Youth Boot Camps

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.53 am): This government has a strong plan for a bright future for all Queenslanders, including our most valuable resource and foundation for the future, our young people. Under Labor, young offenders were in and out of court and detention, some over five times, whilst a small percentage committed the majority of offences. This government is not content with containing offending, but is stopping offending and giving young people opportunities to get back on track, get a job and an education. In this way, we are building safer communities for our most vulnerable, whilst making Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family.

The youth boot camp trial was a key election commitment to begin to address the high rates of youth crime affecting the state. Commencing in 2012, there are now three early-intervention camps targeting young people most at risk of offending. Those are located on the Gold Coast, the Fraser-Sunshine Coast and in the Rockhampton region. In Cairns and Townsville, now young offenders entrenched in a life of crime can be sentenced to a youth boot camp designed to turn their lives around and to turn them into law-abiding good citizens.

By the end of the 2013-14 financial year, \$7 million had been invested into the youth boot camp trial. This included \$4.1 million in relocatable infrastructure. The clear benefit of these boot camps is that they address the underlying issues causing offending behaviour. As at 30 July 2014, 130 young people had commenced in the boot camps. If those young people had been held in detention for the three-month duration of a boot camp order, it would have cost taxpayers over \$15 million.

For young people participating in early intervention programs, we have successfully seen 91 per cent diverted from entering the youth justice system. For young offenders who were sentenced by the courts to a youth boot camp, 63 per cent have not committed a further offence. That is a significant achievement, as only approximately 20 per cent of young offenders leaving detention centres do not commit further offences. That is an increase of 43 per cent.

The youth boot camp programs not only will reduce crime but also will set the cornerstone for a safer way of life for all Queenslanders into the future. A formal evaluation to determine the effectiveness and cost benefit of the trial will be undertaken. However, early indications from all boot

camps are that the young people are turning their lives around. The figures paint a good picture for what can be achieved when you invest in young people, but their individual stories and those of their families show the real impact, as I said in the House earlier in the week. Even the critics are changing their minds. For the benefit of all honourable members, I table a recent editorial from the *Bulletin*, written by Frazer Pearce, who stated—

I feared it would be a swift-kick-up-the-backside program that may have done more harm than good.

But it turned out to be a tough-love initiative built more on rehabilitation than punishment.

...

When you consider how much chaos a few dozen juvenile delinquents have caused in the Rockhampton region in the past few years, this is a great success story.

If only the local member for Rockhampton held the view of the writer of that editorial.

Tabled paper: Article from the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin*, dated 30 July 2014, titled 'Initiative turns lives around' [\[5650\]](#).

Moura No. 2 Mine Disaster

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.56 am): Today I take the opportunity to reflect on the 20th anniversary of the Moura No. 2 mine disaster. That disaster occurred on 7 August 1994 and claimed the lives of 11 miners. The Assistant Minister for Natural Resources and Mines is representing the Queensland government at a commemoration service in Moura today to remember those lost miners.

All mining deaths, no matter how long ago, have a lasting impact on the community. The warden's inquiry following the disaster was the focus of considerable public concern and attention. It triggered a major rethink of our mine safety and health legislation. It directly resulted in changes to the management of hazards on mine sites in Queensland. The lessons we learnt from that disaster gave us new mine safety legislation, new ways of looking at safety and health in mines and, as a result, today one of the safest mining industries in the world.

The tragic loss of those 11 lives in the Moura No. 2 mine disaster is a sad part of Queensland's history. As the Minister for Mines and responsible for mining safety and health legislation, supported by the professional and independent inspectors of the Queensland Mines Inspectorate, I will continue to strive for improvement in the safety of those employees who work in the Queensland resources sector.

ABSENCE OF PREMIER

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.58 am): I wish to advise the House that the Premier will be absent from the House today as he is attending the national memorial service for MH17 in Melbourne. I further advise that the Deputy Premier will take questions on behalf of the Premier.

MOTION

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee, Reporting Date

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.58 am) by leave, without notice: I move—

That the report date for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee's inquiry on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014 referred by the House on 5 June 2014 be extended to 5 September 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee, Reporting Date

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.59 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the report date for the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee's inquiry on the Building and Construction Industry Payments Amendment Bill 2014, referred by the House on 21 May 2014, be extended to 1 September 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.59 am): I lay upon the table of the House two reports of the Education and Innovation Committee. The first is report No. 36, *Review of Auditor-General's report to parliament 3: 2013-14, Follow-up—acquisition and public access to the Museum, Art Gallery and Library collections*.

Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 36—Review of Auditor-General's report to parliament 3: 2013-14, Follow-up—Acquisition and public access to the Museum, Art Gallery and Library collections [\[5651\]](#).

This report considers the Auditor-General's 2013 follow-up of a 2011 performance management systems audit. The follow-up audit looked at the progress and effectiveness of the agencies in implementing the recommendations made in 2011. The committee was very pleased to note that the arts bodies and the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts have worked to improve the tourism potential for arts and culture in Queensland, and are strengthening their collaboration, maximising the potential of the considerable benefits of the South Bank cultural precinct.

I also table report No. 37, *Review of Auditor-General's report 16: 2013-14, Results of audit: education sector entities 2013*.

Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 37—Review of Auditor-General's report 16: 2013-14, Results of audit: education sector entities 2013 [\[5652\]](#).

This report details the committee's consideration of an annual audit undertaken by the Queensland Audit Office on the financial statements of universities and grammar schools in Queensland. We were also pleased to note these entities continue to produce reliable and timely financial statements, and that the universities and most grammar schools remain in a sound financial position or have improved their financial performance.

The committee noted the focus of the Auditor-General on delegations and procurement by universities. The committee has recommended that the Minister for Education, Training and Employment request all statutory bodies within the education sector consider and adopt the better practice guidelines on delegations, supplier engagement and preparation of financial statements developed by the Queensland Audit Office. I commend the reports to the House.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (10.01 am): I lay upon the table of the House, report No. 47 of the Finance and Administration Committee titled *Consideration of Queensland Treasury and Trade annual report 2012-13*.

Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 47—Consideration of Queensland Treasury and Trade annual report 2012-13 [\[5653\]](#).

Part of the committee's responsibility is to assess the public accounts of each agency within its areas of responsibility. It does this by examining government financial documents and considering the annual and other reports of the Auditor-General. The committee agreed to examine the annual reports of the entities for which it has portfolio responsibility. This report is the result of the committee's examination of QTT's annual and other reports.

The committee wishes to thank the QTT officers who meet with us and who provided additional information as requested. The committee very much appreciates the assistance provided. Finally, I would like to thank the other members of the committee for their valuable contribution and continued support. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Government Procurement

 **Mr MULHERIN** (10.02 am): My question is directed to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. I refer to the minister's responsibility for the Queensland Procurement Policy and the Premier's claims earlier this week that he runs an open and accountable government. Given that it has been revealed that the Attorney-General has awarded a second contract to an LNP donor, what action is the minister taking to ensure that the awarding of all contracts have been and will be in compliance with the procurement policy?

Mr MANDER: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. I welcome the opportunity to talk about the changes that have been happening in the procurement space. I have had that opportunity a few times in question time over the last 12 months.

We have made some massive changes in terms of how the government spends taxpayers' money. The government spends around \$16 billion a year on goods and services, so it is incredibly important that we do that well and cost effectively, and that we give taxpayers the best bang for their buck. As well, we have to make sure that we make it far easier for business to engage with government.

The feedback that we have received from business and private contractors since we have been in government is things like, 'The processes in dealing with government were far too bureaucratic. They took far too long to award tenders. It was far too costly and far too complicated. They never operated as one government. When we operated with one department and then another department it was like dealing with two different organisations or three different organisations.'

It is incredibly important that we made some fundamental changes to the way we do procurement so that we can get far better value for the taxpayers' dollar and so that we make it easier for business to do business with government. Some of the changes we made were to the procurement policy that was 36 pages long. Today, the procurement policy is two pages long. The emphasis in the past—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock! I warn members on your left!

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs Ostapovitch interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn members on my left! The member for Stretton, I am speaking and I ask you to pay attention. There are too many interjections. The minister is answering the question. I will start warning members under the standing orders. I call the minister.

Mr MANDER: The emphasis in the past was on being prescriptive and on being bureaucratic. Today, the emphasis is on smart outcomes. The emphasis in the past was that we would tell business how to solve our problems. Now, we are engaging with them in a far more consistent manner so that they can show us the innovation they have and the capability they have.

I have been involved with regional supplier forums right across the state. We have been dealing with local mums and dads and contractors who do work for my department and for other government departments. They are absolutely enthusiastically behind the changes that we are making.

The procurement process is more transparent than it has been in the past. We have already realised between \$40 million to \$80 million worth of savings. Our aim over the next five years is to save up to \$1.3 billion for Queensland taxpayers simply because we know how to do business far better than those opposite did in the past.

Higher Education, Funding

Mr PITT: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. I refer to page 110 of Budget Paper No. 2 which mentions the federal government's Asset Recycling Fund. Has the Treasurer asked his federal counterpart about how much funding Queensland universities will lose from the redirection of \$3 billion to the permanent Higher Education Endowment Fund and if not, why not?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the shadow Treasurer for a question. It may be the third question I have received this year. I thank him for the opportunity.

In terms of asset recycling, I think we have to reiterate why it is we are heading down the path of having to consider the strong choices that we face. Let us reflect again on where we are. We have a situation where, because of decisions made by the shadow Treasurer when he was in cabinet and his colleagues—the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the now Leader of the Opposition—Queensland was on a path to \$85 billion worth of debt. The last document of their government—the midyear economic and fiscal review—showed debt going to \$85 billion. That was before we had to deal with ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald and we had to write down revenues of over \$5 billion.

In fact, had the situation continued, without the work that this government has done to rein in expenses, that debt would have been \$93 billion. We have to do something to pay down the debt. That is the thing that is holding Queensland back from the bright future that we know we all deserve and is just waiting for us. We have to do that if we are going to build the schools, the hospitals, the roads and the highways of the future that a growing state is going to need.

We are going to be a growing state. We are going to have seven million people. The population is going to increase by about three million people. We will have an extra 400,000 children to educate over the next 20 years. There are going to be 650,000 more Queenslanders over the age of 65.

What are the three choices that we face? The choices are to substantially increase taxes, fees and charges. We know that that is the option that is preferred by the Australian Labor Party and their paymasters at the Queensland Council of Unions and their paymasters at the Electrical Trades Union. We know that is the case because the shadow Treasurer, in an interview on ABC Radio, said, 'We have to look at the revenue side.' The revenue side for governments is taxes, fees and charges. And the best—

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

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

Mr PITT: My question was directed to what Queensland universities will be experiencing under a permanent Higher Education Endowment Fund. The Treasurer has not addressed that issue in his answer.

Madam SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Your question had a preamble in respect to the issue that the Treasurer is talking about. I call the Treasurer to answer the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So we have the option that has been put forward by, as I say, the paymasters of the ALP—the Queensland Council of Unions, the Electrical Trades Union and a certain Mr Quiggin from the University of Queensland. They all advocate—and I have seen the photos: the shadow Treasurer has proudly stood beside the guys from the ETU, the people who campaigned against some of his colleagues last time. Just ask the former member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, about that. She was very happy about that. She sent the warning notice out about what it is like when you cosy up to the union movement. The Labor solution is to increase taxes; ours is to look at all of them. In terms of the education endowment, we will certainly be looking at what we can do with the federal government.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Community Safety

Mrs SMITH: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the safety of residents and businesses in my electorate of Mount Ommaney has improved due to the LNP government's strong plan to crack down on crime in Queensland?

Mr SEENEY: I begin by thanking Tarnya Smith, the member for Mount Ommaney, for the question. It is a question that comes as no surprise because I know that, as the member for Mount Ommaney, she has a very high level of interest in the safety of her constituents and the commitment like the rest of the government to reduce crime levels.

In fact, I know that the member for Mount Ommaney is an active member of her local Neighbourhood Watch groups in the Mount Ommaney electorate. I know that she is in touch with officers in charge of the Mount Ommaney and Sherwood police stations and the local crime prevention officers. I also know that she supports the Adopt-a-Cop program at Jindalee State School and has been part of events such as Walk Safely to School Day. Recently, Tarnya was telling me how she visited the Mount Ommaney Police Station to welcome new constables and launch the myPolice Centenary blog. She was also telling me about holding a Seniors Week morning tea this month so they can hear Assistant Commissioner Peter Martin talk about our police and community safety initiatives.

It is this local work in the community by a strong local member, along with the government's action to increase police numbers, to toughen laws and to provide better crime-fighting tools, that have made a real difference to local crime levels that local constituents now very much appreciate. Reported crime is down significantly across Mount Ommaney. That means fewer victims of crime and safer streets. It means that Mount Ommaney families want and expect safer communities and they are receiving them. They want results and that is what we have delivered and will keep delivering.

Can I share with the parliament and with the member for Mount Ommaney some of the key statistics. Crimes against the person or property in Mount Ommaney are down 11 per cent—11 per cent. That is a lot of people who have not had to suffer the stress and the trauma of crimes committed against them or their property. Other crime data in from the electorate also reflect the changes that the government has put in place. Crimes that have been detected by proactive police work are up five per cent. So five per cent more crimes have been detected by the extra police that we have put on the beat in Mount Ommaney, just as we have right across Queensland.

These are the things that matter to real Queenslanders in their lives. These are the things that a responsible government in Queensland is delivering with the assistance and the cooperation of good local members like the member for Mount Ommaney. It is about ensuring that people in Mount Ommaney have a safe environment. They have a strong local member who works with a strong government to ensure that they are safe in their homes and in their communities.

Political Donations

Mrs SCOTT: My question without notice is to the Acting Premier. In light of the Premier's claim on Tuesday to run an open accountable government and following evidence yesterday at ICAC of undeclared political donations of \$10,000 to individual MPs in the state, I ask—

A government member: Which state?

Mrs SCOTT: In that state—in New South Wales. I ask: is the Acting Premier aware of similar undeclared donations here since the government changed the law allowing such donations since November last year and, in the absence of a commission of inquiry, how will Queenslanders know of such donations?

Mr STEVENS: Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The preamble for that question was far in excess of what should be appropriate for a question.

Madam SPEAKER: I have listened to the question and it was a lengthy question. I would remind members to keep them tight because the preambles are becoming too long. But I will allow the question and ask the Deputy Premier as Acting Premier to answer it.

Mr SEENEY: It was a lengthy question and I have to confess I had difficulty following it.

Mr Wellington: It hit a nerve.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I warn the member for Nicklin under standing order 253A. There is a reason the standing orders refer to the length of preamble, and it was a lengthy one and an extended question. I could have ruled it out of order, but I have allowed the Deputy Premier to answer it. I call the Deputy Premier.

Mr SEENEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was a lengthy question and I had difficulty following what the member was driving at. For a moment I thought she has going to ask me about the CFMEU and the hearings that we have seen reported over the last couple of days and some of the transactions and interactions that are being exposed in the union movement and in the CFMEU in particular. I think that would have actually been a good question for the member to ask, because I think that is a significant issue. It is certainly a significant issue in relation to building costs in Queensland and our efforts to provide affordable housing for a whole range of Queenslanders.

Ms TRAD: Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for South Brisbane, what is your point of order?

Ms TRAD: I ask you to rule on relevance. We are not talking about the construction industry; we are talking about political donations.

Madam SPEAKER: I would ask you to take your seat. When you ask wide-ranging questions such as the one that has been asked with significant preambles, you open it up to wide answers. I call the Deputy Premier.

Mr SEENEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the member for South Brisbane is rather sensitive about donations—rather sensitive about donations from the CFMEU. I suspect we will also have some objections from the member for Bundamba, who has well-known connections with the CFMEU. The member for South Brisbane was probably concerned that her colleague was going to include in that long rambling question some reference to Eddie Obeid. No wonder she is a little bit concerned.

Can I, as best I am able to, go to what I think was the purpose of the member's question in relation to the requirement to declare electoral donations. What we did in Queensland was to make our electoral laws consistent with the federal laws. I wonder if any of the Labor Party members over there who have made many public comments about this, particularly the member who asked the question, have been in touch with their colleagues at a federal level asking the same questions of them—

Mr Springborg: The member for Redcliffe.

Mr SEENEY: That is a good point. The member for Redcliffe was actually part of the government that set the precedent, if you like.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There are too many interjections and I warn the member for Redcliffe under standing order 253A. I call the Deputy Premier.

Mr SEENEY: It is instructive to see how agitated the member for Redcliffe is when it is pointed out that the only thing that happened in Queensland was to achieve consistency with the federal level, the federal system of which the member for Redcliffe formerly was a part. I think we have achieved a higher level of consistency in Queensland than the Labor government.

(Time expired)

Mr WELLINGTON: Madam Speaker, I move—

That the minister be further heard.

I do not think he has been able to adequately answer the question in the time frame.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion negatived.

Mr Wellington: What are you afraid of?

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nicklin, you are already on a warning. I ask you to have respect for the standing orders.

Southport Electorate, Community Safety

Mr MOLHOEK: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister outline how the safety of residents and businesses in my electorate of Southport has improved due to the LNP government's strong plan to crack down on crime in Queensland?

Mr DEMPSEY: It is a great week to be able to comment on the great work that the police and the whole of the Queensland community is doing to reduce crime in this state. This can-do Queensland government has a strong plan for a brighter and safer future in Southport. Whether it be more front-line police officers for the Southport electorate, delivery of the second police helicopter—silence again—or the rapid action and patrols hub, this government is committed to revitalising front-line services in the south-east region.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEMPSEY: Madam Speaker, they would never support it. From 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Sadly, that is not silence coming from my left. I would ask you to cease your interjections. The minister has the call and is answering the question.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Mulgrave under standing 253A. I call the Minister for Police.

Mr DEMPSEY: On 1 July 2013 to 30 June this year there has been a 10 per cent decrease in the total reported offences against the person and property when compared to the same period last year. I note that the reported rate of assault has been driven down by 19 per cent. Businesses in Southport can feel safer as well. Reported unlawful entry is down by 20 per cent and reported unlawful use of motor vehicles has decreased by a massive 28 per cent. This can-do government's passing of Australia's toughest antihooning laws has had a lot to do with that. Those laws are obviously not supported by the member for Rockhampton.

The member for Southport is dedicated to this government's commitment to making Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. He regularly attends Neighbourhood Watch meetings in Crestwood, Southport and Parkwood in his electorate. He has re-established the Southport Community Consultative Committee, a working group tackling community issues and local crime, and he has a great working relationship with the Gold Coast police, particularly those at the Southport Police Station. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the member for all his hard work in the community and his strong support for the local police.

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

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Mulgrave, what is your point of order?

Mr PITT: Madam Speaker, can I ask that the minister table the document that he is reading from?

Madam SPEAKER: Order! We can ask the minister to table the document when he has finished answering the question.

Mr DEMPSEY: I thank the member for the interjection. They simply do not want to hear the great news, because it is only through great work and working together that we can continue to deliver a strong plan for a brighter future for Queensland families. To help continue to make Southport one of the safest communities for families, we introduced the police hub on the Gold Coast. Since January 2014 the hub has already delivered great results on the Gold Coast, with 1,913 arrests on 2,827 charges. I will say that again: in a short period of time there have been 1,913 arrests on 2,827 charges, a phenomenal effort.

Residents in the Southport electorate are the safest they have been in years because of revitalised front-line police, borderless policing technology and stronger laws. Only the LNP has a strong plan for a brighter future to revitalise front-line services and ensure police have the resources that Labor never would have given them to keep our streets safe now and into the future. It is a pity that the Labor Party only chose—

(Time expired)

Agriculture Industry

Mr KATTER: My question without notice is to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Minister, your government's vision for agriculture suggests a doubling of food production in Queensland by 2040. Does this include dairy? If it does, can you outline how this will be achieved?

Dr McVEIGH: I thank the member for Mount Isa for his question. It is a very important question. I appreciate particularly his reference to the Queensland vision for doubling agricultural production by the year 2040. It is a vision developed via Queensland's Agriculture Strategy with industry itself. That is right: a government that came to power and re-established a dedicated department of agriculture, which unfortunately and quite sadly had been done away with by the former Labor government, and immediately engaged with industry on that agriculture strategy. That engagement involved very

significant consultation with the likes of AgForce, the predominant agricultural body in the state representing broadacre industries, particularly grain, for example, and the Queensland Farmers Federation, an industry body that has in its membership those who represent more intensive agricultural industries, particularly irrigation, horticulture through Growcom, a member body, Cotton Australia from a cotton perspective and, I stress for the member for Mount Isa, QDO, the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation led by President Brian Tessmann. The Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation has been involved in the development of that agriculture strategy since day one.

I have had the pleasure since that time of holding what I have termed a number of Queensland dairy roundtables—meetings with the Queensland dairy industry—to deal with the current challenges facing the industry. From a production perspective they, like many other dairy farmers throughout the state, have been affected by drought even in areas such as the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast, for example, given the drought declaration that I announced there some months ago, and pricing and competition issues. I am very pleased that is progressing well. We have very significant plans with the dairy industry to take on board the opportunities that exist for Queensland dairy on a worldwide scale. In other words, it is not just about dealing with the challenges of supermarket pricing—the dollar a litre milk scenario that the industry continues to deal with. Yes, that is a big issue and, yes, the Premier and I have spent a significant amount of time dealing with processors and retailers in that regard, but it is about taking on worldwide opportunities. China, in particular, as many in this House would know, offers significant opportunities and I am very pleased the Queensland dairy industry is engaged in what are at this stage confidential discussions with numerous parties from around the world together with our government. It is a very exciting future indeed.

Brisbane Central Electorate, Community Safety

Mr CAVALLUCCI: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the safety of residents and businesses in my electorate of Brisbane Central has improved due to the LNP government's strong plan to crack down on crime in Queensland?

Mr SEENEY: I thank the member for Brisbane Central, Rob Cavallucci, for the question. I say to him directly that the lifestyle of his constituents in Brisbane Central has certainly improved with the latest crime statistics. Crimes against the person or property in Brisbane Central electorate are down 15 per cent—a 15 per cent reduction. That is a lot of people who have not had to deal with the trauma of crime against them as a person or their property. That makes a big difference to the lifestyle of the constituents in the electorate represented by the member. It is now a safer place to raise a family and to run a business, and it is now a better lifestyle on offer in Brisbane Central.

The member for Brisbane Central, Rob Cavallucci, has played a big part in achieving those very impressive statistics. He has been very active in improving law and order outcomes in Brisbane Central, as we expect local members to do. Rob has been leading work on the Safe Night Out Strategy implementation, he has been conducting personal safety reforms and he has been supporting local Crime Stoppers initiatives. These are the sorts of activities that local members can undertake to make a big difference in their communities. We as a government work with all of our local members to ensure that the outcomes we achieve are to the benefit of the people in electorates like Brisbane Central.

The member for Brisbane Central was telling me that he conducted a successful forum in partnership with the Fortitude Valley police and the LGBT community about personal safety best practice and improving training and reporting. He was saying that he conducts weekly phone calls and discussions with Inspector Ray Brownhill on improved law and order and outcomes in the Valley precinct. He has worked in the City Police Station on improved patrols in the Spring Hill area and the Boundary Street commercial precinct. He has assisted the Valley chamber safety committee with regular audits of the area and improvements in CCTV placement decisions.

These are the sorts of results that local members can attain in their electorate when they work together with a strong government and a strong police minister on a plan that is about delivering the things that matter to the people in local communities. In local communities right across Queensland—from Brisbane Central that is represented by Rob Cavallucci, through to the electorates in Cairns, in the Far North and in Western Queensland—local members are working together with the police minister and the government's strategies to deliver impressive crime statistics. Crime is down 15 per cent in Brisbane Central, and that is a figure that the member for South Brisbane can be proud of.

(Time expired)

Vocational Education and Training, Subsidies

Mrs D'ATH: My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Employment. I refer the minister to revelations this week that his government has cut subsidies to more than 200 vocational education and training courses. In the interests of openness and accountability, will the minister explain why he has cut subsidies for much needed occupations such as concreting, firefighting and pest management?

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question, which I now appreciate because she is not the shadow minister for education, training and employment anymore. She is now a shadow for something else, but I am getting my first question from her on this portfolio.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mrs D'ATH: The minister is misleading the House. He should pay attention because I am still the shadow minister for training.

Madam SPEAKER: Please take your seat. That is not a point of order.

Mrs D'ATH: I am the shadow minister for training. He is misleading the House.

Madam SPEAKER: Member, that is not a point of order under our standing orders. I call the Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question. I will say that, whether she is the shadow minister for training or the shadow minister for education, she has never been the shadow minister for employment which shows what those opposite think about that aspect of my portfolio.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Member for Redcliffe, you are disregarding the order of the House and you already have been under warned under 253A.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I would ask those interjections to cease or following the consequences of the standing orders you will be removed from the House for disobeying direction. I call the Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

Mr LANGBROEK: So let us get to the nub of the question and this issue about training and what it is that we want to see with education, training and employment when we take the perspective of being from crayon to career. I think what we have done with training in this portfolio is the best mix of private, public and community. That is what we have done to show that this government is about being enablers, not doers.

In training, we have taken TAFE out of the department—where it was the public provider and we were the purchaser and the provider—and said that we were going to give it to a statutory body to run it as a commercial enterprise. That means making sure that the people who are doing the courses—whether it is in the public provider, which is TAFE and which is doing those wonderful ads at the moment where we can see massive interest coming to the public provider, or now as it is a commercialised entity—are proud to be going there and are going to get the qualifications that lead to a real job. Lots of people are saying, 'We don't want TAFE to be seen as a poor alternative to a private provider.' Under those opposite, hundreds of millions of dollars were being poured into a system that was not leading to anything but frustration, especially for those young people who had lots of qualifications but were unable to get a job, whether that was because they were Indigenous or there were other issues which affected their ability to get a job.

So we said in conjunction with the federal government, which the honourable member was a part of, there would be a national partnership that said certificate IVs and diplomas were ones for which people could get funded by the federal government. We are going to focus on certificate IIIs because employers tell us that having a certificate III will actually give people a job. We will give them certificate III qualifications after year 12 with the subsidies paid completely, with the fees paid completely, because the employers tell us that that will lead to jobs. But we are not going to do qualifications with limited taxpayers' dollars, given the debt and deficit we inherited, for things that will not lead to real jobs. That is why we are saying that, if you want to do aromatherapy or you want to do some of those other courses and you have another qualification, it is going to cost you more. We will have industry telling us whether they will give jobs in those things, and they are the things we will provide subsidies for and TAFE will set the fees.

Cairns Electorate, Community Safety

Mr KING: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister outline how the safety of residents and businesses in my great electorate of Cairns has improved due to the LNP government's strong plan to crack down on crime in Queensland?

Mr DEMPSEY: I thank the member for the question and it is great to see he is so very proud of his electorate. This government has a strong plan for a brighter and safer future for families in Cairns. I thank the member for his dedication to his community in making the safety of Cairns families—the mums and dads who those opposite do not care about here in Queensland—and the visitors to Cairns a priority. This will enhance the economic base of the Cairns area.

Whether it be the 23 additional police officers on the front line on the beat, the delivery of a new catamaran, the launch of Australia's first trial of the use of segways in policing or the Cairns Safer Streets program, this government is committed to driving down crime and revitalising front-line services right across the Cairns Division. From 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, there has been a five per cent decrease in the total number of reported offences against the person and property when compared to the same period last year. I note that the reported rate of armed robberies—and this is significant—has been driven down by 17 per cent. I would like to thank the local member for his tireless work, alongside Acting Assistant Commissioner Paul Taylor, who is also doing a great job in the electorates of Thuringowa and Townsville and in Kirwan, right across those areas. They are delivering a range of crime prevention activities, such as 'Lock it or Lose it', to reduce break-ins to properties and cars. As a result of their efforts, reported unlawful entry has decreased by nine per cent and reported unlawful use of motor vehicles is down by a whopping 28 per cent.

The member for Cairns has also been instrumental in working with the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce to deliver a whole-of-government response to crime and social issues in his electorate, particularly in the west Cairns area that Labor just let go. In July 2013, this government implemented the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce, which is a multi-agency, whole-of-government collaboration with the Queensland Police Service and a number of government and non-government agencies in areas including youth welfare, health, disabilities, Indigenous affairs, education and housing—it is working across all government departments. We have now extended this program into the Safer Streets, Safer Communities program and we are in the process of rolling it out across other Far North Queensland communities. The LNP certainly has a strong plan for a brighter future to revitalise front-line services and ensure police have the resources they need to make our streets safer—not just now but for generations to come—for the good people of Cairns and for those in the surrounding areas who were neglected by the previous Labor government.

Charters Towers Hospital, Dialysis Unit

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. In 2008 the Charters Towers Hospital's kidney dialysis machine was moved to Townsville to increase the greater region's machine numbers from 48 to 49. Will the minister urgently reinstate a kidney dialysis unit in Charters Towers to alleviate the necessity for ill patients to travel the 260-kilometre round trip to Townsville three times a week?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I thank the honourable member for Dalrymple for his question. The Newman government is very much committed to restoring health services to people in rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland who have lost those services over an extended period. We have already started that process in a whole range of areas throughout this state. Indeed, there has been an expansion with regard to the chemo telehealth service out of Townsville, which is providing services throughout the state. Dr Bruce Chater, who now oversees the newly established rural and remote clinical network in Queensland, has done work recently and has also made a whole range of recommendations around the re-instigation of services, particularly backed up by good and adequate telehealth support. We can do that in so many ways whether it be in mental health, paediatrics, fracture clinics and a whole range of other areas; including genetic counselling and diagnosis.

With regard to renal dialysis, not every single person who has kidney failure and is on haemodialysis is able to be dialysed in their local community. If such a facility is even available locally, some people have such complex needs that they need to go to a place of even more significant and complex care. In some areas people are able to be supported with home dialyse or near-home care. I understand that there may be around three people in the honourable member's area of Charters Towers who travel to Townsville. Even if that particular facility in Charters Towers

were reopened—and it was closed in 2008—I am not sure that all of those people would be able to benefit from it. Having said that, we are very keen to look at how we can expand haemodialysis services in communities throughout Queensland. Indeed, I know the honourable member's colleague in Mount Isa has a similar issue as well, with the satellite services provided and supported out of Townsville. That is currently being reviewed with the possibility of expansion.

Only recently in the area of the honourable member for Mulgrave we put in place an assistant in nursing so that people in Yarrabah can be supported to dialyse in their particular community. It is something that I want to do around the rest of the state. I think that this area has been overly medicalised over a period. It is something that we can support more effectively with telehealth. We can support it by having properly instructed and qualified assistants in nursing in various areas to give people the confidence to do those sorts of things. There was push back against those things when I first made the announcement and we now have a pathway to do that. It may provide an opportunity for a re-institution of the service in Charters Towers in the future.

Bulimba Electorate, Community Safety

Mr DILLAWAY: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the safety of residents and businesses in my electorate of Bulimba has improved due to the LNP's strong plan to crack down on crime in Queensland?

Mr SEENEY: I thank the member for Bulimba for the question. I can assure him at the outset that the statistics reveal a very pleasing story for his constituents in Bulimba. The crimes against person or property in Bulimba are down 19 per cent. That is a lot of people who have had to deal with crimes against either their person or their property. Equally, the other statistic that is impressive in Bulimba is that crimes that have been proactively detected by police are up 16 per cent. So the much greater police presence that the police minister has been able to put onto the streets in Bulimba has resulted in a lot more crimes being detected and dealt with. I think that is a great story for the member for Bulimba. It is a great indication of the outcomes that have been achieved by a proactive local member working together with the police minister in a government that is committed to doing something about making Queensland streets and communities safer.

I think the House should understand the effort that the member for Bulimba, Aaron Dillaway, has gone to in order to play an active role in achieving those statistics. He has regular meetings with Senior Sergeant Barry Bullion from Morningside Police Station and they have worked together to help address the hooning issues in Fursden Road and Queensport Road. The hooning issues, which cause an enormous amount of disruption in local communities, have been a focus for us as a government and particularly for the member for Bulimba.

In February, Aaron surveyed all 18- to 25-year-olds in his electorate about alcohol fuelled violence. I would say to every other member of this House that that is an example that we should all follow. To go out and proactively survey a group of young people who do not normally engage with the government is something for which the member for Bulimba should be commended.

The member for Bulimba also recently visited a training group of new constables and represented the minister at the launch of Operation Treadstone at Morningside State School. One of the great things about this government is that we do have so many very capable members such as the member for Bulimba who are able to represent not just the Minister for Police, but a range of ministers in a range of different situations. I saw the Attorney-General on TV on Sunday cleaning up graffiti on the Cleveland train line at Morningside and the member for Bulimba was there supporting him as a good local member. The member for Bulimba can take pride in the contribution he has made to the great—

(Time expired)

Curtis Island

Mrs CUNNINGHAM: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. I refer to the fact that, according to the conditions of approval, large construction camps on Curtis Island must be removed at the completion of LNG construction. Can the Deputy Premier give an assurance that future maintenance employees will be required to stay at purpose-built, permanent workers accommodation on the mainland?

Mr SEENEY: I thank the member for Gladstone for the question. In beginning to answer the question, I say that the construction task on Curtis Island has been an enormous job. It has been one of the biggest construction sites in the world for quite some time. On seeing the results of that construction task, anybody who understands the work that has gone into it would know that we need to compliment everyone who has been involved in that. It has been an enormous technical challenge. It has also been a challenge for the people of the Gladstone community, from Mayor Gail Sellers, her council, to the local member, Liz Cunningham, who has worked with the council and other community leaders, to deal with the impact of that construction task that is now in its final stages or is now approaching a point where it will bring into production three LNG plants that will be significant contributors to the Queensland economy for many years to come. Many generations of Queenslanders in the future, wherever they live in Queensland, will benefit from the economic benefits that flow from the LNG industry. It is a great story that too few Queenslanders understand or comprehend fully. The contribution that the community of Gladstone and the people of Gladstone have made is something that should be recognised.

In relation to the specifics of the member's question, which goes to the issue of permanent residency for anyone on Curtis Island, I cannot recall hearing any proposition that a permanent residential facility be established on Curtis Island. I do not think that was part of any of the submissions or any of the approvals that were granted under the previous government or since by our government. I am happy to talk to the member for Gladstone and certainly the Gladstone Regional Council about how they see the future going forward. I would note that in the member's question there is a distinction drawn between permanent workforces and maintenance workforces, and that is a very valid distinction. I am not sure of the extent to which large maintenance tasks are programmed in the LNG plants. I am very happy to talk to the member for Gladstone about that. I am very happy to talk, as we have done over the last 2½ years, with the Gladstone community, Mayor Gail Sellers and her council in particular about how we continue to address the issues that arise due to the establishment of the LNG industry, which has had a huge impact on Gladstone but will be of great benefit to Queensland.

(Time expired)

Madam SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Albert, I wish to advise the House that question time will finish at 11.02 am as we started at 10.02 am. I call the member for Albert.

Albert Electorate, Community Safety

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister outline how the safety of residents and businesses in my electorate of Albert has improved due to the LNP government's strong plan to crack down on crime in Queensland?

Mr DEMPSEY: I thank the member for the question, because the safety of his constituents is very important. The Queensland government has a strong plan, as we all know, for a brighter and safer future for all families, particularly those in the Albert electorate. This government is committed to reducing crime and making Queensland the safest place to live, work, visit and raise a family. That is why we are delivering on our strong plan to revitalise front-line services and provide an additional 1,100 police officers over four years.

To date the government has delivered well over 800 additional officers who have been allocated throughout this state to areas of critical need and particularly to our new emphasis on borderless policing operations, which is very effective. Madam Speaker, 45 of these additional police officers have been delivered to the Albert electorate. This increase in front-line police is enabling the Queensland Police Service to commit more officers to proactive policing tasks and assisting to drive down crime across the state.

Police operations like Cisco, Arc Light 2 and Arc Light 3, Boost and Quadrangle have all contributed to a 33 per cent decrease in reported unlawful entry offences in the Albert electorate. Businesses and homes in Albert can certainly feel a lot safer. These are not just homes, but there are people inside those homes: families, children and grandparents. Operation Saturate has significantly contributed to the massive 65 per cent decrease in reported robbery offences. That means that mums and dads can send their young teenagers or uni students to work in the little corner shop knowing that they are not going to be attacked by thugs with guns who are trying to get money to purchase drugs. These types of offences were previously allowed to grow under soft Labor laws of the past.

From 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 there has been a 13 per cent decrease in total reported offences against the person and property compared with the same time last year. Unlawful use of motor vehicle offences have decreased 27 per cent, and we are obviously seeing the effects of our anti-hooning legislation. That anti-hooning legislation has allowed more police to get out from behind desks to deal with those people who are affecting the streets by disturbing peace and quiet in the suburbs. I note that the member for Albert certainly has a strong link with his community Neighbourhood Watch groups, and he avidly attends their meetings and supports them. He understands the invaluable work of Neighbour Watch; we certainly do. The government has committed \$1 million per year over the next four years for stronger laws, more police and better technology. These are results that families in the Albert area can see, enabling them to sleep a lot more easily in their beds knowing that police have the resources and the support—

(Time expired)

Roads, Toll Charges

Dr DOUGLAS: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Infrastructure fund Transurban purchased Queensland Motorways for 27 times earnings from QIC. Yesterday's *Financial Review*—

Madam SPEAKER: Member, I am going to stop you and ask you to please start again and speak clearly. You are speaking too fast and not clearly enough.

Dr DOUGLAS: Infrastructure fund Transurban purchased Queensland Motorways for 27 times earnings from QIC. Yesterday's *Financial Review* states that such funds will be unable to repay debts other than by increasing revenue due to the contraction of cheap US money. I table both documents.

Tabled paper: Articles relating to the Transurban deal to buy Queensland Motorways [\[5654\]](#).

Can the minister please detail to the parliament what road strategies are in place to deal with increased toll charges?

Madam SPEAKER: Member, you asked that question of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads?

Dr DOUGLAS: Yes.

Madam SPEAKER: That question is actually directed to the wrong minister if you are asking a question in respect of revenue. Member, could you just repeat the actual question at the end of the preamble?

Dr DOUGLAS: Madam Speaker, I have already given the question to your clerks, but I asked the minister to detail to the parliament what road transport strategies are in place to address these issues raised due to increased tolls.

Madam SPEAKER: I will allow the minister to answer that, but I remind the House again in respect of preambles. I call the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

Mr EMERSON: I do think that this is probably a question for the Treasurer, but I am very happy to answer the member for Gaven and I thank him for the question. I do want to remind the member for Gaven where we came from, because we changed the approach that we have taken. In terms of road tolls and tolling, that is fixed to CPI. If we go back to where we were during the previous Labor government, we saw massive increases well beyond CPI. So that is where we are.

But since you have asked me a question on roads, I want to talk to you about roads and where we are, because we are delivering massively on roads and on a whole range of issues. Already today I have detailed to the House that we have looked at speed limits, which is something that has not happened across this state in 20 years. We have listened to communities as part of our Road Safety Action Plan and we are working with the police. I do applaud the police because they work with us. With an extra 800 police on our streets it is obviously making not only our communities safer but our roads safer as well.

In terms of infrastructure across Queensland, have a look at our budget and what we are delivering this year: \$4.8 billion as part of our QTRIP plan, which is 37 per cent more than what the previous Labor government was planning to do this year. That is a massive increase. Look at the Bruce Highway, which is an incredibly important road for us. Even though our opponents say that state money should not be spent on the Bruce Highway, this year we will be delivering \$770 million worth of works on the Bruce Highway. We are pro Bruce Highway. The LNP believes in fixing the Bruce Highway and making it better. When we contrast that with what we see from Labor—

Mrs D’Ath interjected.

Mr EMERSON: I take the interjection from the member for Redcliffe. This is extraordinary, because the member for Redcliffe voted to slash spending for federal roads in Queensland. The traditional funding arrangement was 80-20. What did the federal Labor government do when the member for Redcliffe was a member of that government? They wanted to cut it back to 50 per cent. That would cost us an extra \$3 billion in terms of Bruce Highway funding. This is Labor’s policy. Not only did we see the former main roads spokesperson tell their local paper that state money spent on the Bruce Highway was a misspending of state money, but when the member for Redcliffe was in the federal parliament she voted to end that traditional 80-20 split for federal funding for Queensland roads and slash it to 50-50. Labor hates roads; it particularly hates roads in regional and rural Queensland. We back roads across Queensland, including in regional and rural Queensland.

Sunnybank Electorate, Community Safety

Mr STEWART: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. We have heard some great crime figures right across Queensland in the last few days, but can the Deputy Premier outline how the safety of residents and businesses in my electorate of Sunnybank has improved due to the LNP government’s strong plan to crack down on crime in Queensland?

Mr SEENEY: I thank the member for Sunnybank for the question, because there is a great story to tell about the families and businesses of Sunnybank. The statistics indicate that the work that the member for Sunnybank is doing at a local level, combined with the work that the police minister and our government is doing, are having real results for the people of Sunnybank. For example, crime detected proactively by police because of the additional police presence the police minister has put on the ground has risen by 26 per cent. The extra police in Sunnybank are having a real impact on people who are acting illegally—those who are causing concern to that community and who are detracting from the lifestyle of families and adding cost to businesses in Sunnybank.

The extra resources that the police minister and this government have put into the community of Sunnybank have meant that the rate of crimes detected proactively is up 26 per cent. That is great news for the people of Sunnybank because it means their community is safer and businesses are safer. Also, crimes against the person or property are down 18 per cent. As is the case across Queensland, the rates for this class of crime against the person or property are down significantly—since we introduced the tough laws targeting gangs in particular. Since we took away the gangs’ influence, especially with regard to drug related crime, the rate of crimes against the person and property has fallen right across Queensland. In Sunnybank those numbers are down 18 per cent.

That is a great story to tell for the people of Sunnybank. It is a great result from the work of a local member who is involved with a strong strategy on behalf of the government. I think the House should appreciate that, as a member of the police and community safety backbench committee, Mark Stewart, the member for Sunnybank, has been active in listening to and liaising with the local Neighbourhood Watch and the Chinese Community Crime Prevention Consultative Committee. He launched the Safer Sunnybank Project with the Minister for Police in recent times. He has been involved in a media campaign designed to reduce street robbery offences and to promote road awareness for residents and international visitors.

The member for Sunnybank also recently joined the minister to launch Queensland’s second police helicopter, which will be based locally at Archerfield in the Sunnybank electorate. What a great success story the police helicopters have been. How long in this House did we debate the issue of police helicopters? How long did the previous government resist the obvious need for police helicopters? These are the initiatives that the member for Sunnybank—

(Time expired)

Crime Statistics

Ms TRAD: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. I refer the minister to yesterday’s statement that crime is down in Ashgrove, and I table the following document showing a 28-fold increase—

Tabled paper: Document titled ‘Police QPS News, Queensland Crime Statistics’ [5655].

Madam SPEAKER: Member, the time for questions has expired. It is 11.02 am.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

Madam SPEAKER: I wish to acknowledge school groups visiting today: Christian Outreach College from Toowoomba South, Kings Christian College from Mudgeeraba, Robina State High School from Mudgeeraba and St Mary's Ipswich from Ipswich. Welcome to the parliament.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Shadow Minister for Training

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (11.02 am), by leave: I refer to this morning's question time, when the member for Redcliffe attested that she has been appointed as the shadow minister for training. I refer honourable members to the appointments announcement made on 5 August by the opposition leader, and I quote—

I am also pleased to announce that the member for Redcliffe has been promoted—
something I would take issue with—

and will now be responsible for the portfolios of justice and Attorney-General, disability services and housing.

There was no mention of the fact that she is supposedly the shadow minister for training. I table a copy of that document.

Tabled paper: Queensland parliament *Record of Proceedings*, dated 5 August 2014, p 2315 [\[5656\]](#).

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.03 am): I move—

That report No. 34 of the Education and Innovation Committee, *Review of Auditor-General's report 2: 2013-14—Supply of specialist subject teachers in secondary schools*, be noted.

The Auditor-General's report is a performance audit which considered how effectively, efficiently and economically the Department of Education, Training and Employment attracts specialist subject teachers in secondary schools to maximise student academic outcomes. This report was referred to the EIC for review. The Queensland Audit Office staff provided briefings to the committee to inform them of the contents of the report, and the department also briefed the committee on their actions to follow up the report's recommendations. I particularly wish to express the appreciation of the committee to those staff members. They were extremely willing and helpful in following up on those inquiries.

The audit report did note that the supply of secondary teachers matches demand but there is a shortage of specialised subject teachers in some areas. The particular area of note is secondary mathematics, science and industrial design and technology teachers. However, it was noted that there is an oversupply of primary teachers and secondary physical education, music, drama and dance teachers. Consequently, a large number of teachers do teach outside their field and some schools cannot offer some subjects due to the lack of specialist teachers. However, a number of issues were identified that are outside the department's control that impact on the department's ability to attract specialist teachers. These include university offerings and the way in which the college of teachers notes teacher specialty areas. Distance and sparsity of population in a state such as Queensland will also always create enormous challenges.

The audit report contained five recommendations to the department to address this. It was most encouraging to see the initiatives the department has already implemented. Many of these strategies are broader than those recommended by the audit report. The government's Great Teachers = Great Results builds on the strengths of Queensland's existing school model and focuses on the most important piece of the education system: the teacher. This plan will improve student outcomes by boosting school autonomy, elevating teaching standards, rewarding high performance and positioning those teachers where they are needed most.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report No. 44, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): There being no mover, the notice of motion lapses in accordance with standing order 71.

Report No. 45, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There being no mover, the notice of motion lapses in accordance with standing order 71.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

Report No. 42, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There being no mover, the notice of motion lapses in accordance with standing order 71.

Report No. 43, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There being no mover, the notice of motion lapses in accordance with standing order 71.

TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr HOBBS (Warrego—LNP) (11.08 am): I move—

That the House take note of report No. 45, *Rail freight use by the agriculture and livestock industries*, tabled on 16 June 2014.

My committee was given very wide-ranging terms of reference to inquire into rail freight in Queensland. I thank my very hardworking committee, research director Kate McGuckin and her very efficient staff. There was intense interest across Queensland. I am not aware if those in regional Queensland have ever been asked their detailed views on rail freight in this state before. I thank the minister, his staff and the department for always being very helpful throughout this extensive inquiry. The committee found that rail services to the agricultural industry are currently in a shambles. Infrastructure is outdated and inefficient; there is limited access to train paths; serious inefficiencies in the supply chain; and the above-rail service is inefficient, unreliable and inflexible. The committee was disturbed by reports of either no rail freight services, even where train lines exist, or slow and unreliable rail services for the non-mining sector occurring right across this state. Queensland is a significant producer of agricultural commodities, with a gross value of \$11.1 billion last year. The state government's agricultural strategy aim is to double the value of Queensland's food production by 2040 to respond to global food demand. That will be an absolute real challenge. We want to become the food bowl of Asia, but we are having great difficulty moving the agricultural products that we have as it is to the ports. Doubling that production would put enormous strain on the system.

The committee found that this predicted growth will place an enormous burden on the state's already congested roads unless rail infrastructure is modernised and brought into the 21st century and the above-rail service is transformed into an efficient, reliable and flexible business that can adapt quickly to market opportunities. Doing nothing is not an option. The current freight system will not cope with the forecast demand. Roads will quickly reach capacity. In terms of the Port of Brisbane Motorway, 84 per cent of the freight that goes out of the Port of Brisbane goes by road. The Gateway Motorway is expected to reach capacity by 2026—12 years away—and it will be at absolute gridlock. Rail freight is the only solution. A single grain train can take at least 500 trucks off the road. Given the predicted growth in the freight business, it would seem evident that rail freight can be transformed into a commercially viable business.

The committee developed a comprehensive set of recommendations on actions the government can take to not only arrest the decline in rail freight used by agricultural industries but to develop a vision, strategies and an action plan to ensure the state's rail infrastructure and freight services are transformed into a modern, state-of-the-art system—a system that facilitates industrial, mining and agricultural growth and becomes the industry preferred method of transporting freight

across this state. A new attitude to develop a fast, reliable freight system in Queensland is needed. We have to move away from the steam age era that we have, the infrastructure that we have, the rolling stock that we have. Some of those wagons are 50, 60 or 70 years old. We just have to move on. We have to prioritise a fast, dedicated dual or standard gauge freight line from the Surat Basin to the Port of Brisbane. We have been saddled with this narrow gauge since the very early days and we have to move away from that. We have to bite the bullet. We have to be able to put in dual gauge. We have to move to a standard gauge. We can only buy limited infrastructure—rolling stock—from around the world especially for Queensland, so we are limited in the number of operators who want to come here because they do not have the rolling stock to go on our narrow gauge.

We have to recognise that failing to fund rail infrastructure will result in road gridlock and limited export opportunities. We have to facilitate the operation of new, efficient general and multipurpose rolling stock. We have to have rolling stock that is flexible. We have to be able to have a flat top, grain bins and coal bins. We have to be able to have cattle crates like everyone else on a farm does and has done for many years. We can do that. We have to build new warehousing, intermodal freight depots and inland ports where the containers can be sealed and put on trains and sent straight to the port. That can be done out there on the spot. Containerisation is the future mode of transport. We want to appoint a high-level executive officer who will be responsible for coordinating rail freight logistics and appoint a rail logistics—

(Time expired)

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (11.13 am): I rise to second the member for Warrego's motion for the House to take note of this report. Report No. 45 is one of the biggest blueprints that this government will ever see with regard to the coordination, infrastructure, funding and government subsidies in the rail freight industry in Queensland. Our task in terms of this inquiry was to look at ways to incentivise agriculture and livestock in order to get it moving again on the rail system in Queensland. One of the biggest factors that we determined when doing this inquiry was the gridlock into Brisbane which the member for Warrego spoke about earlier. There will be gridlock by 2026 if we do nothing about this. I second the point that doing nothing is not an option. It is something that we have to do and that resulted in this inquiry making 45 recommendations to the government.

During the inquiry we travelled around and looked at many parts of the rail freight industry, including livestock and agriculture. We went to Toowoomba, St George, Charleville, Cloncurry, Rockhampton, Longreach and Townsville and visited many coal terminals, mines, ports, fruit and vegetable markets, cattle farmers, abattoirs, cotton gins, cattleyards, grain and sugar suppliers and the like. It was a comprehensive inquiry that led to the recommendations that have been put before the House today. I thank the secretariat and of course our chair, Howard Hobbs, for the help they gave us during the researching of this inquiry. I make special mention of Danielle Cooper, our principal research officer. She was appointed to do the abattoir tour which the committee did. Being a vegetarian, it was very difficult for her and I said that I would mention her today in my speech because she had a very tough job to do as a parliamentary staff member to come along to that, but she did a great job. Thanks very much, Danielle.

I will just touch on some of the main issues of the inquiry very briefly. The chair, Howard Hobbs, mentioned the unreliable services. It was amazing to get around the place to hear so many cattle graziers and those who have agriculture and livestock talking about unreliable services that do not turn up, run late et cetera. That is something that we have touched upon in our recommendations in the report. There was certainly a feel out there that Aurizon is more interested in moving coal or black rocks, as it calls them, and this was something that was felt by many of the cattle graziers because it is easier to move black rocks from its point of view than it is to move livestock—something that has to have very specific times and animal welfare issues rather than just putting rocks on a truck and getting them to the port. You would have to think that something is wrong with the system—and this is one reason why we made some great recommendations to the House in this report—when you can put product on to many, many trucks and move it to the ports and it is actually cheaper and more reliable than putting it on a train. For the benefit of members, that means that you could have a train with, say, 100 wagons and you can load it and take it to the port and yet it is actually cheaper and more efficient to load it on to 50 trucks, for example, and move that to the port. It is just astounding when you look at it from that point of view.

I turn now to the issue of the transport service contracts. Of course, these are government subsidies that are given to Aurizon, the train network provider, to provide agricultural and cattle services on our rail network. I make the point that these services were designed to incentivise, if you

like, the rail network to get more cattle and agriculture onto our rail networks. However, what we really found was that Aurizon is also moving a lot of product on trucks rather than rail because it is cheaper and more efficient than using the TSCs or transport service contracts. Some of the recommendations are in the realm of getting those incentives to be specific with regard to rail rather than trucks to unlock that gridlock due in 2026.

In conclusion, I look forward to the government's response to our 45 recommendations. This was the biggest blueprint this government will see with regard to rail freight and I am very proud and feel very privileged to be part of the inquiry that looked into this issue. This will shape Queensland's future in terms of what we do and how we move agriculture and cattle around Queensland. I am very much looking forward to the response from the government with regard to this blueprint in terms of coordination, infrastructure, funding and of course government subsidies to industry. I commend the report to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Suspension of Sessional Orders

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.18 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the sessional orders be suspended to enable the member for Stafford to make a statement not exceeding 20 minutes noting his election.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Member for Stafford, First Speech

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! I remind members that it is customary that we remain silent while a maiden speech is given.

 **Dr LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (11.20 am): I acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land on which this parliament meets. It is an immense honour for me to rise in this people's house for the first time as the member for Stafford to deliver my inaugural speech. I am truly humbled by the faith and trust that the people of Stafford have afforded me. I assure members of this House that I will work hard every day to fulfil my duty to the people of Stafford. It is an honour that I embrace wholeheartedly.

The Stafford electorate was formed in 1972. I am pleased that, having been originally won by Labor, Stafford was retained by Labor on its re-establishment in 2001. It has been my privilege to return Stafford to its Labor home at the recent by-election. Stafford is a vibrant, diverse, largely residential community bisected by Kedron Brook, which meanders past our major sporting clubs and recreational facilities. In its early years Stafford hosted a mixture of rural and industrial activities with tanneries, quarries, dairying, a wool scour and brickworks. From the 1940s to the 1960s Stafford saw a massive expansion of housing, both private and public. While most of these industries have disappeared, Stafford has now become a retail, small business and services hub for families in the area.

The Stafford electorate also boasts a centre of innovation, with world-leading research taking place at the Prince Charles Hospital. It is an electorate where education and health are paramount. Parents of the inner northern suburbs of Brisbane have always wanted their children to have access to a very high standard of education. Schools in the Stafford electorate, both government and non-government, have catered for the needs of our families and have become an integral part of our community. With the Prince Charles Hospital in the heart of the electorate and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital close by, Stafford has one of the highest concentrations of health workers of any electorate.

I have come to this place by way of a career. I have cherished being part of the surgical and trauma team at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. I have operated on one unsuspecting teenager after another who was just out for a good night but ended up in my care after a senseless assault. This constant exposure to trauma and violence caused me to consider how this mindless behaviour can and should be stopped. For over 12 years I have campaigned tirelessly for prevention of violence in our community.

Prevention of violence has usually been bipartisan in parliaments across Australia. We can all recall the strong initiative of John Howard and Kim Beazley in 1996. Australia's bipartisan gun control legislation has been one of the most effective violence prevention measures anywhere in this world. I have been appalled and angered by the feeble and ineffective response by the current LNP government to sensible violence prevention measures. It is easy to watch the nightclub brawls on the TV news and think that you know the answer, but my team and I were the ones who had to pick up the pieces on a weekly basis. As a surgeon, I could only keep operating on more and more distressing cases. As an elected representative of the people of Stafford, I aim to do more. Alongside others, I will be working hard to bring common sense to the debate, to provide solutions as to how we can prevent these attacks. Preventing violence surely is more worthwhile than trying to mop up the aftermath.

I grew up in my early years with my parents and my nan in a typical postwar housing commission home. Like many families, we came from humble beginnings and we would have been lost without the visionary, compassionate response by the then government to provide affordable housing to those who are struggling. Housing just like my childhood home continues to provide homes to many people in my electorate.

After some time and through hard work and persistence, my parents were fortunate enough to secure a housing commission loan and move to their own home. I attended Murarrie State School and then Iona College—two wonderful educational institutions which enabled me to achieve my potential. Like many kids, both then and now, my opportunity for advancement came through education—education that was affordable and accessible. That revolution in tertiary education came with the Whitlam Labor government in 1972. Prior to that, tertiary education was only for the privileged few.

Today, there is a growing concern in our community that this LNP government will follow the lead of its federal LNP colleagues, who are intent on making further education accessible to only those who can afford it. I do not want to return to a time when how much money and influence your parents had determined your entry to university rather than your academic ability and your commitment.

I am immensely proud of my parents, Clarrie and Marie. They came from humble beginnings to achieve so much in their respective careers. My dad was a council worker, well respected and liked by all at work and in the community. He was head of the school P&C association and the best dad one could ever hope for. My mum, like many others of her era, was forced to leave school at an early age in order to help support her family but, realising the value and empowerment of a good education, she returned as a mature-age student firstly to high school and then to university. She became a leading social worker in the Logan area, devoting her life to needy and underprivileged families.

One of the luckiest days of my life was when I met a beautiful young lady at a local dance. That wonderful person, Pam, has been my darling, tolerant wife for 34 years. We are proud parents of four loving and loved sons. Brayton, Rohan, Sean and Eamon have made an integral part of their lives the strong social conscious that was instilled in me by my parents. All of them are serving their respective communities in a productive and compassionate manner. Brayton is a teacher, Rohan a paramedic who is now attending medical school, Sean is a police officer and Eamon is a student at QUT. I also have a beautiful grandson, Darcy, who is spoilt rotten by his grandmother—and rightly so. It is to Darcy that I dedicate my commitment here to work to ensure that in his life he, along with all other children, will have access to affordable, high-quality education. As an MP, I will do my best to ensure that he and all children of his and future generations will have access to opportunity irrespective of their social or economic situation.

I wish to sincerely thank two former Labor members for Stafford: Terry Sullivan, my guide and mentor to whom I owe so much, and Stirling Hinchliffe, who has provided such wise counsel. I thank them both for their friendship, guidance and support as I enter the challenging world of state politics. I also want to thank those within the Labor movement who guided and supported me through this journey. My formative years in the party were influenced by two very distinguished politicians: Jim

Fouras, a former Speaker of this House, and Tim Quinn, a former Lord Mayor of Brisbane and a teacher of mine at Iona College. Throughout the recent by-election, party president Dick Williams and state secretary Anthony Chisholm have been pillars of support. My now parliamentary leader, Annastacia Palaszczuk, gave me confidence, faith and guidance throughout the campaign. Without her encouragement and the assistance of my fellow caucus MPs I would not be here today.

I also thank those federal and council colleagues who worked tirelessly on the campaign, offering me immeasurable assistance. There are a great many campaign workers whom I wish to thank and to whom I owe so much: the people who were campaigning on my behalf—walking the streets, handing out leaflets, staffing polling booths—all helping in their own special way. Support came from all sections of the community. There were mums and dads, grandparents, students, small business owners, teachers, nurses, doctors and lawyers all working to assist in sending a strong message of protest against this government's arrogant and callous attitude to the people of Queensland. Some stand out for their unflinching enthusiasm and steadfastness: Theresa, Krish, Jaime and Ellie—volunteers who were out in the community almost every single day. I thank those many union members who gave their support in so many ways: the cleaners, the bus drivers, the firefighters and the electrical trade workers. They are the backbone of our community yet they have come under relentless attack from this government. They deserve to be treated with respect and they deserve to be listened to. This by-election gave them the chance to be heard.

Together with local branch members, affiliated unions form the core of the ALP. Members of trade unions are only too aware of the pain caused to thousands of Queensland families by this LNP government's sacking of dedicated loyal public servants. I assure all government workers that I will listen to you, I will respect you and I will fight for your working conditions, as I will for workers across the state. I want to particularly thank my campaign team: Jimmy, Bruce, Peter, Ian, Mark, Brenton, Jamie, David, Terry, Trish, Helena, Dylan and James. We worked tirelessly; usually up before dawn every day. Most of our days were spent simply out meeting and listening to the people of Stafford; to the hardworking mums and dads who were not being heard by this government. They were not from the big end of town, they did not give large electoral donations, so their concerns were not considered important by this government.

As representatives we all share a bond of wanting to do good for our communities. What is sometimes forgotten is that as a representative we also reflect our community. We must represent all those in the electorate with diverse but significant interests and concerns: the families, students, businesspeople, pensioners and community groups to name a few. The responsibility of representation demands an MP understands what makes up the lives of the people and the way issues might impact on them. The community deserves to be served responsibly and I commit myself to stand up for them, show respect for them, not just in the community or in the electorate but also in this House where laws that affect people's lives and issues of concern are made and debated.

However good the intentions of MPs in this House, I am concerned—very concerned—that our parliament is losing the trust and respect of the people of Queensland. Respect—the due regard for the rights, wishes and feelings of others—is sadly seen as being lost in today's society. As a 17th century Spanish philosopher stated, 'Respect yourself if you would have others respect you.' How can we members of parliament gain the respect of the people we serve and represent if our behaviour inside and outside of this House is such that it would not be tolerated in our communities? Tony Fitzgerald, the man who brought integrity and accountability back to Queensland after the rampant corruption of the Bjelke-Petersen years, has made strong comments regarding poor parliamentary behaviour. My immediate predecessor, Dr Chris Davis, paid the ultimate political price by speaking out against the lack of accountability and changes to electoral funding laws. He too was subjected to appalling behaviour by his colleagues who should have been supporting him.

Many constituents ask why so many children do not give up their seats for the elderly on the bus or why does there seem to be less respect for our teachers and why do paramedics who go out to help people get attacked by others? There are undoubtedly many children and parents who do show respect for their elders and their teachers, but a fair and general observation could be that it is a custom in decline. How can we expect the general public to show respect for each other when members of parliaments, the highest representative bodies in the land, show such little respect for their fellow parliamentarians or for the general public? If we are to bring greater respect back into our community, we must start here with our behaviour both in and outside of parliament.

I will be active in the parliament, not only as the elected representative of the people of Stafford but also in my roles as opposition spokesman on education, primary industries, fisheries, science and information technology. Education is the foundation stone on which lives and careers are built. It

provides opportunity for all and is the path towards a successful society. As Labor's portfolio spokesman, I will not only be a champion for our students but also a champion for our teachers. I want to see teachers restored to their rightful and historical place as pillars of our society: teachers who are well educated, resourced and respected, not only by the pupils under their care but also by the whole community. Teachers are sometimes our last line of defence when families are unable to cope. Teachers should be thanked every single day for what they achieve in our state.

Science and information technology go hand in hand. The Smart State is one of the great achievements of Labor governments past. It has provided the backbone, the springboard from which current initiatives in technology and innovation have grown—initiatives that I indeed have been involved with as part of university research teams, including QUT's research facility at the Prince Charles Hospital.

It is with great pride that I will serve in the primary industries portfolio. I am passionate about the rural sector, not just the important role it plays in our economy but about protecting the quality of life for those in the bush. I will pay particular personal attention to this important and vital area.

I intend to work hard as the representative for Stafford and as a shadow minister, but I will always be first and foremost a Queenslander who cares about my community and is determined to make it even better. Along with many fellow Queenslanders, I hold concerns as to the path this government is taking, a path of pandering to vested interest groups, of listening only to those who have the resources to donate and of adhering to the politics of the lowest standards. I see Queensland as a strong and vibrant state which is economically sound, encourages the gaining of skills and provides the opportunity of employment. I see a Queensland that strives to conserve its precious natural and pristine areas and does not sell the rights to these areas to the highest bidder. I see a Queensland that protects its reef and nurtures its rich natural heritage. I do not see a Queensland where we sell off our precious economic assets for a mere temporary return. I also see a beautiful northside community, a community that pulls together in good times and in bad, individuals and families who have concerns and who want to be heard.

Madam Speaker, I wish to finish by once again thanking the people of Stafford, that diverse community from Newmarket to Stafford Heights, from Kedron to Alderley, for putting their trust in me. I promise to work hard and to be a strong voice in the community and in the parliament for them. Most importantly, as a husband, a dad and a worker with a broad range of life experience, I will be a voice that stands proudly for a community that deserves strong representation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (11.38 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Housing Act 2003, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013 for particular purposes, to repeal the Domestic Building Contracts Act 2000, and to make minor and consequential amendments to the legislation mentioned in the schedule. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 [\[5657\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[5658\]](#).

Construction is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy, employing around one-quarter of a million Queenslanders and contributing around \$60 billion to our economy each year. The government is committed to stimulating economic growth and we are doing our part by reducing red tape and regulatory requirements. The proposed legislative changes will enable the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the QBCC, to provide greater balance between the needs of consumers and licensees by providing more clarity around the management of disputes and establishing new processes to resolve them more efficiently.

The legislative and policy amendments for consideration include removing disciplinary proceedings against licensees or those who are dodgy builders from the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, QCAT, which will simplify the process with disputed outcomes subject to internal review by the QBCC and external review by QCAT. This means that, if a licensee wishes to have the original decision made by the QBCC reviewed, they can ask the QBCC to conduct a review of the decision rather than going to QCAT. However, the right to appeal any decision made by the QBCC directly to QCAT will be maintained.

The bill will clarify the minimum requirements for domestic building contracts and introduce two levels of contracts based on the value of the work being done. This will protect consumers against things such as contractors demanding excessive deposits or taking advantage of the fact that consumers do not have a lot of experience when it comes to negotiating contracts. The two-tier system will mean that the smaller projects are not as heavily regulated as bigger contracts, meaning less bureaucracy and less red tape.

The bill amends the licensing system so that people only need to renew their licence every three years, instead of every 12 months. Again, that is another big cut to unnecessary red tape.

The bill will introduce a demerit point system and heavier sanctions for dodgy contractors. This will be a significant deterrent to those trying to get around the rules but also helps protect builders who do act honourably, and they are by far the overwhelming majority.

The bill introduces an early intervention dispute process. This free service will allow the QBCC to mediate disputes within 28 days of them being lodged. In the past, disputes could drag on for months or sometimes years. This gives people peace of mind that any disputes that arise could be resolved quickly and that they can get on with their renovation or construction project quickly without having to resort to QCAT.

The bill empowers the QBCC to direct rectification when consequential damage occurs on adjacent residential sites. This means that, if your neighbour is having excavation work done and it undermines a retaining wall on your property, the QBCC can intervene and order the matter to be rectified. Currently, its hands are tied in those types of disputes.

The bill expands the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme to cover new swimming pool construction and manufactured homes, introducing optional additional cover and clarifying scheme provisions to provide more certainty for consumers. At the moment, people can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars building a house which is covered by the Home Warranty Scheme, but if they splash out on a swimming pool separate from the construction of the house and it turns out to be defective, they do not have a leg to stand on.

The bill proposes the introduction of amendments to improve the effectiveness of the commissioner and the commission as a regulator. These include allowing the QBCC to sort out defects under the Home Warranty Scheme while domestic building disputes are actively in QCAT. This is a big change and will be a huge win for mums and dads who have taken the plunge on building a new home. As things currently stand, if there is a dispute over defective building work, owners can be left waiting for months on end while the dispute works its way through QCAT before they can get money through the Home Warranty Scheme.

The bill extends the grounds for disciplinary action to include the failure of a contractor to pay a subcontractor in accordance with the contract. This is a huge win for all subbies who want and deserve security of payment.

The bill clarifies that the Supreme Court has the power to grant an injunction to restrain unlawful behaviour by a person that would constitute an offence under the QBCC Act and other related acts. This means people who continue to breach relevant laws can be made subject to an injunction that, if breached, can result in severe penalties, including imprisonment.

The bill gives QBCC inspectors additional powers to obtain identification information such as a person's date and place of birth. At the moment, building inspectors have no power to compel people to give their correct identity. The industry regulator cannot even be sure whom it is talking to when trying to investigate dodgy work practices. Dodgy builders often work under false names, sometimes multiple false names. These changes will make the QBCC a more effective regulator, because it will make it easier to identify people who are operating unlawfully. Inspectors also will be able to obtain this information if they suspect that the person has committed an offence, not just under the QBCC Act but also under legislation associated with the QBCC Act, such as the Building and Construction Industry Payment Act 1974, the Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974 and the Building Act 1975.

The bill will improve the way that the QBCC gathers evidence about unlicensed contracting and other serious offences, including phoenix directors operating behind other licensed building companies. The changes will allow the QBCC to access data from other government agencies and statutory bodies, such as Fair Trading.

This government also has a strong plan for social housing reform. The need for the non-government sector to play a greater role in the direct delivery of services is a key part of our plan. The government's Housing 2020 Strategy sets a number of objectives for the achievement of this goal, including the transfer of 90 per cent of public housing stock to the community housing sector by 2020.

The bill proposes amendments to the Housing Act to help facilitate this transfer, including: giving approved providers access to essential information held on the housing register and in the department's property and tenancy management database; giving the chief executive the ability to delegate certain functions to providers; extending the current statutory obligation on clients to update housing service information and not to give false or misleading information to providers; and allowing providers to maintain records on the housing register.

To address concerns about the management of confidential information, a further amendment to the Housing Act will ensure providers are bound to the same privacy and confidentiality protections that apply to the department. We want to ensure that the tenants are not caught up in the bureaucracy of this change. An amendment to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act will provide a mechanism for new tenancy agreements to be granted without tenants having to resign. This will address also adverse GST impacts as a result of the transfer of public housing tenancies.

First Reading

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (11.46 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (11.46 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee report to the House on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 8 October 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (11.48 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Immediately after question time today, the Minister for Education, Training and Employment made a statement to the House where he referred to and tabled an extract from *Hansard* within which the Leader of the Opposition outlined the new shadow portfolios. The minister sought to use the extract to support the statement he made in question time that I am no longer the opposition spokesperson for training. The minister failed to take the House to the document tabled by the Leader of the Opposition at the time, which provided the complete list of new portfolios. This document clearly states that I hold

the positions of shadow minister for justice and Attorney-General, disability services, housing and training. I table a copy of that document previously tabled by the Leader of the Opposition and a copy of my profile on the Queensland parliament—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Redcliffe, what is your matter of privilege suddenly arising?

Mrs D'ATH: The matter is that the minister sought to advise this chamber that I was not the opposition spokesperson.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Redcliffe, that is not a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Mrs D'ATH: It is correcting the record.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Redcliffe, that is not a matter of privilege suddenly arising. If you consider that the minister has misled the House, you can write to the Speaker and raise that matter with her in that manner.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Resumed from 6 August (see p. 2521).

Health and Community Services Committee

Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Health and Community Services Committee be adopted.

Mr RUTHENBERG (Kallangur—LNP) (11.50 am): I rise to support the motion that the Health and Community Services Committee report No. 52 on the 2014-15 budget estimates be adopted. Our committee met and welcomed four ministers and over 20 statutory authorities. I congratulate the ministers and their staff and their directors-general and staff for conducting themselves in a most satisfactory manner.

I also thank my fellow committee members for what was a relatively effective two days. I need to thank our committee secretariat, especially our research director, Ms Sue Cawcutt, who most ably supported me over the two days and ensured a smooth running of our proceedings. The other staff who helped ensure a smooth outcome included Lee Archinal, Kath Dalladay, Liz Sbeghen and Steph Cash. We examined the appropriations of what is approaching half of Queensland's state budget.

As good as the ministers were, I wish to report to members and to the residents of my electorate very specifically on one particular organisation that I think was the standout performer over the two days of our estimates hearings. We had the privilege to interview on the first day of estimates the director of the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. This is an impressive, world-class Queensland research organisation that every Queenslander can be very proud of.

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute has more than 600 staff working on cancer, infectious diseases, mental health and complex disorders under the guidance of their director, Professor Frank Gannon, who represented this fantastic organisation at the estimates hearings. The team is raising Queensland's global profile for research excellence. Crucially, I note that the institute is both willing and able to help to reach the specific health and economic targets outlined in the Queensland Plan. The Institute will receive \$18.9 million from the Queensland government in 2014-15, representing about 19 per cent of its total revenue. It leverages this funding to secure at least four times that amount in competitive grants and other income.

I want to introduce the name of Dr Andreas Moeller, who researches breast and lung cancer. His laboratory is the first in the world to identify how cancer communicates with other parts of the body, enabling cancer to spread. As we know, it is when cancer spreads that it proves deadly. This team's work is being watched closely around the world.

QIMR Berghofer has also established itself as a centre for immunotherapy. Personalised cancer treatments are regarded as the new frontier for cancer treatments. Essentially, immunotherapy involves harnessing the power of a person's own immune system to fight cancer.

Then there is QPharm and they provide a clinical trials facility where discoveries are tested on humans. Among the many trials underway are a range of international trials for new malaria treatments. This is an issue very close to my heart, as someone who has suffered malaria relapses since first contracting the disease while living in PNG as a child.

I was amazed to discover that Brisbane's own Professor James McCarthy has developed a unique way to test new malaria treatments and cures. This human challenge system is attracting enormous international interest and is leading the way in finding new drugs for a disease that kills nearly 600,000 people every year. The system involves giving tiny amounts of malaria to volunteers, amounts which cause no harm to the individual but which can quickly and efficiently provide information on whether a test drug has potential and should be tried on actual malaria patients.

In just six months, the human challenge system allows researchers to progress from knowing very little about a possible drug, to understanding whether it works and what dose would provide a cure. In conventional clinical trials it would take at least a year to gather this information. Professor McCarthy has been supported greatly by the Swiss based Medicines for Malaria Venture funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and is also gaining the attention of international funding bodies. In addition to the enormous difference this work can make to the burden of human suffering around the world, its export potential is clear.

It is both enormously comforting and deeply inspiring to know that some of our country's best and brightest are working together at this facility in Herston, taking discoveries from bench to bedside. Medical research has the power to transform our lives. QIMR Berghofer is doing Queensland proud and brings focus to Brisbane for all the right reasons. This is just one example of the excellent investment being made by this government for the wider benefit of all peoples of Queensland and the world.

Finally, can I say to my good friend the member for Murrumba that while he claims that Murrumba means 'a good place', and it does, I need to remind him that in fact the suburb of Murrumba is in the electorate of Kallangur which means 'most satisfactory place'.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (11.55 am): I rise to read into the record a contribution on behalf of the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. I thank the Health and Community Services Committee for the examination of the budget estimates in relation to my portfolio. I enjoy talking about the achievements in the National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing portfolio and how this government's strong plan is delivering a bright future for all Queenslanders.

We remain focused on our front-line services and delivering real outcomes for Queenslanders. Over the past 12 months we have delivered valuable initiatives to better manage and protect our parks, forests and protected area estates, to support and encourage physical activity and to ensure the integrity of the racing industry.

I am pleased to inform members that the Newman government is getting racing back on track. Our new 30-year wagering agreement with the Tatts group is expected to provide \$4.5 billion to the racing industry over the life of the agreement. This is an increase of \$850 million on the current term. Let me repeat that because it appears that those opposite just are not getting the message—\$850 million—a solid platform to help deliver the investment needed for racing to grow and prosper in the long-term.

It is a fantastic outcome, especially given that in this day and age there are interstate and international wagering options available through the mobile devices we all carry around. Even in this competitive and complex environment, the racing industry is \$28 million better off year on year. I can assure members that this investment into the racing industry will bring bigger and better dividends through the independent board structures that this government has put in place.

Let us take a moment to reflect on the outcomes of the racing commission of inquiry which found the industry plagued with serious management failures and has seen a number of former board members and senior racing executives investigated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. That is the legacy that Labor left for racing in this great state.

Unlike those opposite, the Newman government has been unwavering in its commitment to restore accountability and integrity to the state's racing industry. Now we have secured the financial platform to ensure the 30,000 people working in the Queensland racing industry can look to a brighter future.

The Newman government's flagship \$47.8 million Get in the Game initiative has helped thousands of Queenslanders to get active. The program is helping to lower the cost of living by providing affordable sport and recreation options. We have issued 54,000 Get Started vouchers to help children with the cost of club registrations, provided \$7 million to 960 clubs for equipment and training and paid \$18 million to 220 clubs for infrastructure projects.

The \$1.5 million Nature Play initiative is another practical way we are helping Queensland families to build the foundations for lifelong health and fitness. It is another way we are helping kids to get outdoors and active, more often at little or no cost.

This government also invests significantly to ensure Queensland has top level sports infrastructure for elite competitions and major events. This investment helps the Newman government to grow a four-pillar economy through sports tourism, with many of these major venues also supporting grassroots participation.

We have also continued our initiative to encourage ecotourism opportunities in our parks. We have conducted a state-wide expression of interest for ecotourism facilities on national parks and helped to secure major events and recreational opportunities including the UCI mountain biking world cup at Smithfield Conservation Park in Cairns, which attracted 300 competitors from 33 countries.

Our front-line rangers are custodians of more than 12 million hectares of protected parks and forests, working hard to ensure proper management and accessibility for Queenslanders and visitors alike. Cleaning up and reopening our parks after the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Ita was essential to keeping the tourism industry of Far North Queensland alive over the Easter holiday period, and I applaud our rangers for their selfless efforts. Their work will be complemented by a \$20 million-plus investment in infrastructure improvements—helping visitors to enjoy these world-class destinations.

Our marine parks will also benefit. The Reef Ranger, a new 24-metre long-range vessel, will better support field management operations in the Great Barrier Reef. The Newman government's strong plan is delivering great outcomes and a brighter future for the people of Queensland. Queensland is without doubt a better place to live now than it was three years ago.

I would like to thank the committee and, in particular, the chairman and member for Kallangur, who once again allowed for robust debate across my portfolio. I also thank the parliamentary staff, members and the staff of my office and the department for their work throughout the estimates process.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.00 pm): I rise to make a few brief comments about the report from the Health and Community Services Committee regarding the Appropriation Bill 2014. The opposition supports the committee's recommendation that the expenditure detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2014 be agreed to. I will now expand on several issues raised during the hearing.

Firstly, on behalf of the opposition and my colleagues in the Australian Labor Party who are represented here today, I want to say thank you to all the doctors, the nurses, the dentists, the dental assistants and the allied health practitioners for their efforts in reducing long waits for elective surgery, dental care and emergency department waiting time. That is because it is their hard work and the substantial increase in federal funding under Labor—under Labor's national partnership agreements—that have made these improvements possible.

The contribution of the Newman government has been to take credit for their hard work and at the same time attack these very competent health professionals who struggle every day to deliver safe and quality health care in our hospitals. Forcing senior health professionals, like our doctors, on to individual work contracts and cutting over 1,600 nursing and midwifery positions does little to build the trust essential for an efficient and effective health workforce.

The failure of the Newman government to invest in specialist outpatient services will mean that other gains in hospital performance will soon be lost. Waiting lists for these services are causing real pain in my local community. There are 246,970 people waiting for an outpatient appointment in Queensland today, and 23,000 of these people are category 1 urgent patients.

The axing of Labor's national health partnership agreements by the Abbott government will mean tough times ahead for all patients. I would like to thank all of our health workers, and their trade unions, for standing up against this Newman government. We all need to stand up for universal health care. We need to stand up to keep Medicare. We all need to stand strong and oppose the Americanisation of our health system.

Behind all the spin and rhetoric, this is what this Newman LNP government strategy is about. It is about contestability, outsourcing and straight-out asset sales and privatisation. We will not stand silently by while this LNP government privatises more and more services and sells more and more public assets by stealth. We will not cop it in Labor.

The minister's promise of no more ambulance ramping and no more hospital bypass came back to haunt him during estimates. The facts paint a very different picture. The minister knows it and so do we.

In the Health and Community Services Committee's budget consideration I asked the minister for his support for a coronial inquest into the circumstances of the death of a former patient at the Barrett centre. It is with deep sadness and great sorrow that I must now ask the minister and the Attorney-General to ensure that such an inquest includes the death of a third patient forced out of the Barrett Adolescent Centre. A third patient, another young girl of 18 years, a current student at the Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School at Yeronga, has taken her own life.

After patients, parents and staff were promised 'wraparound care' in transition out of the Barrett centre, three young people have now died, Minister—three young people. Minister, what has gone wrong? What has gone wrong? We all need to know. We need you to reverse this decision now, Minister. Please do that. Please consider reversing this decision. I will not stop caring for these precious young people. They are crying out for help. They are crying out for advocacy. They are crying out for answers. Minister, will anyone care?

(Time expired)

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.05 pm): I rise to speak on the Health and Community Services Committee's report on the budget estimates processes for 2014-15, which took place on 15 and 17 July this year. The estimates process for the Health and Community Services Committee was a shining example of the hard work of four ministers responsible for very challenging portfolios who have made huge strides in delivering for Queenslanders and residents of my electorate in Mudgeeraba.

First and foremost, the Health and Community Services Committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2014 for the committee's area of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. This is because in our four portfolio areas the ministers have delivered a responsible budget that sees better service delivery and sound financial management.

I thank the Minister for Health for his cooperation with the committee and for his updates on what he is doing to ensure that Queensland's health system is performing better than ever. As a registered nurse of over 30 years and as a member of this place representing the electorate that includes Robina Hospital, health is one of my passions, and it is fantastic that we have a hardworking Minister for Health who shares that passion.

Health in this state is now a \$13.622 billion portfolio, which has increased by almost \$1 billion on its 2013-14 adjusted operating budget, meaning better services and a huge investment for health services in electorates such as mine. Under this minister's leadership, we have seen waste stopped, services restored, great initiatives funded and, unlike under those opposite, our nurses actually paid. In Mudgeeraba, we have seen the benefits since 2012 of having a minister with vision and who can manage his department responsibly. We have seen at Robina Hospital huge increases in funding, while there have been tremendous decreases simultaneously in ambulance ramping and waiting times at the emergency department.

We are also very lucky in my electorate to have the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing at the helm of this important portfolio and managing it with absolute competence. I thank the minister for answering our questions during estimates, and it was great to hear him reaffirm his commitment to electorates such as mine.

As members are aware after my countless speeches in this place, my electorate is home to amazing World Heritage listed national parks such as Springbrook National Park, which, as I always say, is the green behind the gold. We have seen some fantastic announcements in recent weeks that highlight our commitment to this important area in my electorate and which underscore not only my commitment to unlocking Springbrook but also the minister's commitment to responsible ecotourism throughout our state. I thank the minister for being so open and frank about his commitment to Springbrook locals during estimates and the importance of ensuring that Springbrook Mountain is no longer ignored, as it was by the Labor Party, who for selfish political reasons made a deal with the Greens to buy up properties and lock away all that Springbrook had to offer.

Demonstrating a similar commitment to my electorate, and its community groups in particular, is the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, who is leading a very important portfolio. It is great to see our local community grants programs such as Caring for our Community being launched by the minister to ensure that funding is given to those organisations that need it most. In my electorate of Mudgeeraba, this means that some fantastic local groups are receiving the funding they need to continue to make an important difference in our local community.

Another important policy area that our committee had a chance to explore during this year's estimates is that of the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, who is making great strides in his work, with a focus on economic participation and improving the community participation of diverse groups throughout Queensland. In this portfolio, we see the government assisting aspiring homeowners in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to move towards homeownership, creating greater wealth and economic opportunity by facilitating expressions of interest with communities, conducting analysis of applications and working with Indigenous Business Australia and the Department of Housing and Public Works to progress loan applications.

These are important initiatives, and it is obvious that this minister is dedicated to improving economic and community participation within a diverse array of Queensland communities. I again thank all the ministers for their willingness to engage so openly and frankly with our committee during estimates this year and for their continued leadership of important departments which will no doubt continue to play an important role in the lives of millions of Queenslanders into the foreseeable future. This is a great state with great opportunities, and we are seeing the tangible evidence of all that we have been able to achieve, particularly in these four portfolio areas. I look forward to continuing to work with these ministers to achieve great results for the Mudgeeraba electorate.

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (12.10 pm): I rise today to speak to the Health and Community Services Committee's consideration of the Appropriation Bill 2014-15, specifically the consideration of the budget papers and hearings for the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Firstly, I would like to address the time allocations for this important portfolio. The time allowed for the consideration of the issues within Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services was completely inadequate. The government has made significant changes within this department since it was elected 2½ years ago, and yet we were allowed less than three hours to examine the minister's portfolio.

Contrary to this government's claim of openness and accountability, the estimates hearing for this department was an exercise in time wasting and avoidance. From the start it was clear that the minister was intent on avoiding scrutiny by simply providing information directly from the department's website and policy documents, rather than attempting to answer any questions posed by non-government members. On more than one occasion it was clear that the minister was simply reading from prepared statements handed to her by her chief of staff. These answers were often very lengthy and had no relevance to the questions posed by non-government members. Clearly even after more than two years the minister has not got across the finer details of her portfolio.

In the spirit of time wasting, the government members of the committee continued to ask questions that simply required the regurgitation of information provided in the SDS or on the department's website which the minister was happy to provide at great length. The estimates process was designed to enable members of parliament to gain further information and understanding of budgetary measures put into place by the government. Sadly, this government took it upon itself to spend two days providing publicly available information and giving itself a very public pat on the back.

An issue I tried to touch on during the hearing was my concern that, without a trial site for the rollout of the NDIS, Queensland is falling behind other states in preparation for the final rollout. When questioning the minister on what the government is doing with the \$50 million set aside for preparations for the NDIS, the minister was not able to provide any specific details on initiatives or programs that are to be funded by this money.

I also wanted to mention my concerns relating to the minister's responses to questions about the potential for individuals who require accommodation support and respite services to fall through the cracks in the transition away from Disability Services Queensland. I acknowledge the minister's efforts to work with individuals, their carers and families to transition clients into non-government services. My concern is that there are individuals in our society with extremely complex care needs who may be transitioned into a non-government service that is simply unable to provide the level of care the individual requires. As a result of this, the individual will be forced to leave that service and find a new one. What the minister and the director-general were unable to tell me is what the government will do to support these individuals when they are unable to find a non-government service willing to take them on as a client.

Finally, I will touch on the hearing for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs. My biggest concern arising from this hearing was in relation to changes to voter identification laws. I acknowledge that this legislation was not introduced by Minister Elmes, but I fear it is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are going to be impacted most as a result of these changes. I was disappointed to learn that the minister had not had any conversations with the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice about this legislation despite the fact it will have a negative effect on many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Despite these concerns, I would like to finish by thanking the ministers for their time. I also thank the other members of the committee and the very hardworking secretariat staff.

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (12.15 pm): I rise today as a member of the Health and Community Services Committee to speak briefly to our committee's report No. 52. For the record, I note my thanks to the four ministers whom our committee has oversight of and their DGs and relevant CEOs. While all these four portfolios are essential to the wellbeing of Queenslanders and the future of our state, I will in the main concentrate largely on the Health portfolio. I would also like to note for the record the work of the committee secretariat who always makes a difficult and arduous task such as budget estimates both efficient and pleasant. In particular, for the record I note the efforts of Sue Cawcutt, the committee's research director. The 2014-15 estimates process enabled a far greater level of scrutiny and time for all. It offered the people of Queensland a greater insight into good governance and budgeting of Queensland Health and, more importantly, the better health outcomes for Queenslanders across our state.

Before I get into the detail on Health, I must first address the opposition's accusations of imbalance during estimates and how they lament the lack of scrutiny, and I quote 'failed to allow adequate scrutiny of budget measures and the policy directions of the government'. Perhaps if the member for Bundamba, the shadow health spokesperson, had spent less time chasing blatantly wasteful political rabbits down holes she would have been able to spend more time pursuing for Queenslanders better targeted and insightful lines of questioning that deal with health outcomes, instead of wasting as a minimum almost 7½ per cent of our committee's time chasing political bunnies. Time today precludes me from citing other examples from the hearing of the member for Bundamba pursuing her folly of chasing those 'wascally wabbits'. Members would do well to read the transcript from our committee's estimates hearing on 15 July, in particular pages 8 to 12, to make their judgement on the arrogant and, in my view, bordering on disrespectful manner in which the member participated.

With respect, it would have been better had the shadow health spokesperson simple pursued this line of questioning with her newest colleague, the member for Stafford, whom we recently welcomed into this place, as he had potentially the most political gain from the release to the public domain of information he clearly would have known. I also note for the record of the House that the breakdown of time for questions and answers for the Health and Community Services' estimates was 43 per cent government to 57 per cent non-government members. That was consistent across most portfolio matters. With regard to the immediately preceding speaker, they had 10 per cent more time to quiz the Minister for Communities.

I turn back to the matters at hand. Since 2011-12 Health spending has increased by 18.6 per cent. Under this government, Townsville's local Health spending has increased by 13.6 per cent compared to Labor's last budget. That equates to an extra \$90.9 million a year being spent on our

local front-line health service. In Townsville we will see further increases in funding for our HHS. This year we will receive \$758.1 million to deliver better public health care for North Queenslanders. Some \$41 million has been allocated towards the Townsville Hospital expansion. More than \$4 million has been allocated to minor capital projects across the service. A total of \$1.8 million has been allocated to major subacute facilities and \$16.3 million allocated towards the cancer centre.

However, it is not just all about how much funding we can provide for health services; it is also about running the service more efficiently. We know from a number of examples set by the previous Labor government that you can throw a heap of money into programs and services but if they are not run efficiently and productively then you end up with a service that fails to deliver on its benchmarks. The figures speak for themselves, as members heard in my 'And then there were none' speech earlier this week. Surgery waiting lists have been slashed and emergency department waiting times have significantly improved. The latest figures show the incredible achievements made by the Townsville HHS over the last two years.

Our continued investment in dental care is also producing great outcomes. Again the results speak for themselves. The number of patients waiting longer than two years for an appointment in June last year was 693; in June this year, I can say 'and then there were none'. The former Labor government left in excess of 100,000 Queenslanders on dental waiting lists, with more than 60,000 left to wait two years or more for treatment. The achievement across Queensland's health sector has been possible through the decisions made by this state government, the success of our local hospital and health boards and of course the dedicated clinical and health staff within the districts.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (12.19 pm): I thank the member for Townsville for that thoroughly incisive and energetic contribution to this debate. I wholeheartedly support the recommendation of our committee to accept the budget estimates as presented. I thank the ministers who came to our estimates committee hearings—the Minister for Health, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, Minister Davis and Minister Dickson. We spent the whole day with the Minister for Health, Lawrence Springborg, to review the expenditure in the Health portfolio, which has gone up \$942 million this year to \$13.622 billion.

I must take issue with the complaints by some members of the opposition and crossbenches that there was not sufficient time for them to ask questions of the health minister and the other ministers. In fact I have some information here which shows that government members had 143 minutes of questioning for the Minister for Health, while non-government members—and there were only two of them—had 189 minutes of questioning. That is a big difference, with those two members having nearly 50 more minutes of questioning. There were some questions that I would have liked to have asked the Minister for Health and the other ministers as well, but in the interests of transparency and of giving the opposition the opportunity to ask questions about the portfolios, I and other members of the government forwent our opportunity to ask our questions.

For the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, there were 30 minutes of questioning from government members and 53 minutes from non-government members. For Minister Elmes, there were 53 minutes from government members and 60 minutes from non-government members. For Minister Davis, there were 58 minutes from government members and 75 minutes from non-government members. So there is absolutely no doubt that this estimates process has given a fair opportunity for opposition and crossbench members to actually question the ministers of the government.

I note in the Health portfolio that our nurses in Queensland have received pay rises totalling 10 per cent over the last couple of years since the election. The budget includes recurrent funding for a wide range of services in Queensland Health, including recurring funding for maternity services in my electorate of Beaudesert. We also discussed the commencement of maternity services in Cooktown. We also discussed the development of telehealth services across Queensland, which is now being rolled out in Boonah Hospital in my electorate.

There is a lot of money spent by the government on health. In the West Moreton HHS, it is \$457 million, which is up 9.2 per cent from last year; in Metro South it is nearly \$1.9 billion, which is up 7.9 per cent from last year. We spoke in estimates about the West Moreton HHS meeting its oral health targets; there is a zero wait list for patients waiting more than two years. I thank the Minister for Health for his fulsome answers. I can only reiterate something that was said to me at a function in Beaudesert some time ago by a professor from Griffith University, who said that he really is the best Minister for Health that Queensland has ever had. He is very much on top of his portfolio.

We also spoke to Minister Davis. The total expenses for her department are \$2.52 billion, including \$236.2 million for concessions, the pensioner rebates. I note that our government has stepped in where the federal government has made cuts and restored all pensioner rebates to what they were before those federal cuts. We also need to look at the additional money that is going into child safety as a result of the implementation of the Carmody recommendations. We heard how there will be 77 extra child safety officers, and I know that is important for elements of my electorate. I have a child safety office in Beaudesert.

We also spoke with Minister Dickson. I am excited about the funding that is being put aside for the Get in the Game program. It is benefitting so many sporting groups and other clubs in my electorate and across the state. We heard about the \$71.8 million for the racing infrastructure fund, and I am sure that the good people at the Beaudesert Race Club will be looking to improve their facilities. It is a great deal that the minister and the department have been able to put in place too with Tatts as part of the wagering agreement. I also make reference to the national parks portfolio under the minister's remit. Last week I attended the opening of a new lookout at Python Rock in Lamington National Park which was put there by our great rangers under Minister Dickson's remit. I table a photo from that day at the national park.

Tabled paper: Photograph of the member for Beaudesert, Mr Jon Krause MP and others at the new Python Rock Lookout, Lamington National Park [\[5659\]](#).

I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (12.24 pm): We in the PUP support the details of the spending proposal of this committee. I was a member of the committee and it was a very different set of estimates hearings to every other meeting that I went to, and I was co-opted to a number of them. I would like to thank the chairman, who is the Deputy Speaker at the moment, the member for Kallangur, the staff, the minister and his department. He answered the questions as best he could and he got his staff to do it. It was an absolutely good process and it was much better than every other committee. It was the example that every other committee should have followed, and I thank him for it.

The estimates process, however, was hopelessly abbreviated and condensed into such a manner that it would now appear it made the Premier and his advisers realise it was one of the components that strongly led to a dramatic fall in popularity for the government. It has reflected on the government so adversely that, five days after estimates, the Premier was trying to say sorry in a bizarre manner and was stating that estimates next year will revert to what it was before—which gives us 50 times the amount of available practical time to consider these issues. That is what democracy is about. It is good for the government to have its budget scrutinised generally. On this occasion, nine months out from an election date, there was a great opportunity for the government to be transparent. However, on the face of the evidence, they looked like a secretive government seeking to shield themselves from the public. This did not occur in this committee; it occurred in the other committees, and I acknowledge that.

This is a very bad example of governance and a dreadful precedent following on from a series of inexplicable decisions in a variety of areas, and they are the things I would like to raise. One of those was a medical one. Obviously, the doctor contracts issue is one matter that was very badly handled and it still remains unresolved. The other matter which it appears there is no preparation for is the cost-shifting effect of the GP co-payment issue back to the state. I did question this at length. I think the member for Beaudesert correctly raised this. I seem to be going back to these types of things because they are very important and they lead to very high costs for the state.

That last issue is very important and I think it did puzzle the health minister and, I suspect, even some of his senior non-medical advisers—he only has one adviser who is a doctor now; the rest are all effectively management. I was trying to explain that he needed to understand the average cost of being seen in hospital, which is about \$290. He constantly referred to this \$430 for a type 4-5 presentation, which is a lower average cost compared to other parts of Australia. The reality is you have got to understand your average cost across your system because a GP is effectively going to cost you a factor of 20 per cent of that. I am a GP, I am biased, but I have been in the system for 32 years. I worked for the health system as well and I know that you cannot transfer these costs without massive costs. It is a very big thing and it was not clearly understood. Every admission is going to cost \$4,700, and there is a one in four admission rate through accident and emergency. These are high costs and they are coming.

The health department is also a major business, with a \$13.6 billion budget within the wider \$46 billion. I note that 54 per cent of that cost excluding capital is labour and it is growing. My question on notice has revealed a four per cent annual uplift with a six per cent increase in annual expenditure. I note that 33 per cent of that 54 per cent labour expenditure goes directly to the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth is giving us a 25 per cent direct contribution so there is a gap. I asked the minister about the issue of business efficiency, efficiency of capital and efficiency of expenditure. I asked that in the other areas but it is more applicable in Health. There was literally a dearth of understanding about how important it is to understand that this is a business. I am not going to say that the minister was reticent on that, but he did not seem to understand that his department is a business.

There were also questions about advertising and the fact that far too much money is going into it when there are critical problems with regard to the X-ray issue on the Gold Coast and Pap smears. That question was not satisfactorily answered.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs. He gave wonderful answers to questions. The FRC is a wonderful thing and does us great credit. The Minister for Communities and her department were also very fulsome in their answers and I thank them for that.

I think the department of racing is very, very badly handled. I think the whole idea of trying to roll out some type of strategy with one press release from a Mr V'landys and saying, 'This addresses the whole Tatts issue,' is wrong. The minister would not talk about with whom he negotiated, why the share price had gone up or where the money was going. There were no answers, and that summed up that committee.

(Time expired)

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferny Grove—LNP) (12.29 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to give an overview of the Health and Community Services Committee's estimates hearing relating to the Appropriation Bill 2014. This year saw the time for the review of the Appropriation Bill almost doubled for each of the departments. It was encouraging to see that the ministers and their departmental staff arrived very well prepared for the additional scrutiny that the time allowance provided. The committee members unanimously agreed to the times allocated to each of the departments during the committee's discussion and voted on the allocation of times, which is odd, given the statement of reservation contained within the report and the statements made this afternoon by the members for Gaven and Woodridge. That said, it is encouraging to note that the recommendation of the committee is that the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Like the previous budgets of this government, within the volumes of responsible allocation of funds there are a few real gems that show our government is committed to ensuring that the delivery of front-line services is consistently improving and needless expenditure is eliminated. These measures continue to ensure that the overall productivity and efficiency gains are evident across departments and can, in fact, be witnessed within the electorate of Ferny Grove in numerous ways.

Within Health, at the Corrigan Street North-West Community Health Centre in Keperra, we have seen the direct benefits of the extension of the breast screening program and the community interactions through the Mums and Bubs programs. Mr Malcolm Stamp outlined, too, the great gains being achieved across the Metro North Health and Hospital Service through the use of the central patient intake model, which provides a single point of entry for all external referrers to specialist outpatient services. Within Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, we heard of the 4,000 Queenslanders who have been able to access community aids, equipment and assistive technology. That means that there are many people within the Ferny Grove electorate who will have, to some degree, normalised their lives and as a result of this have further enhanced and empowered lives through the use of these aids.

I was encouraged, too, when hearing about the \$406 million over five years as our response to the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, providing new family support services, revitalised child protection systems and an additional 77 child safety officers, in line with our government's commitment to revitalise front-line services.

In Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs we heard the minister speak of the Indigenous Economic Participation Action Plan and how programs such as that undertaken by Coles, through their new store at Brookside in the neighbouring electorate of Everton, have increased employment opportunities across the state. Minister Elmes also spoke of the cultural diversity grants program, which opened their second round on the day of the estimates hearing. I am encouraging a

number of organisations, such as Kupidabin Cultural Association, to apply so that they can receive the rewards brought about by their efforts in broadening the understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity.

Within National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing we heard of the outstanding success of the Get in the Game grants. To date, my local area has achieved a level of success, but of course I am hoping that a signature project that is to be submitted during the current round of funding will be successful. Not only are the benefits of this program evident within the sporting associations, but they will ensure that there is a tangible benefit in the health of future generations across the state.

Little justice can be done in a short, five-minute speech on the appropriations for 2014-15. Suffice to say that the outstanding efforts of the Treasurer and the entire cabinet team ensure that, as a government, we will continue to provide support and strength to our four-pillar economy; we will continue to revitalise our front-line services; and our community interactions, in line with our Queensland Plan, will ensure that we are the engine room of growth and prosperity.

In closing, I would like to thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, as chair of the committee. I also thank my fellow Health and Community Services Committee members, and, of course, the outstanding secretariat staff headed by research director Sue Cawcutt, who provide us with phenomenal support in undertaking our activities.

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.34 pm): I start by thanking all of the committee members, the chair, the deputy chair, the secretariat staff and also all the departmental officers who participated. It is a fairly significant and onerous task on departments to put that information together. They know that much of it will probably never ever have to be used, but I think it is also a very good truthing exercise to put the microscope over the internal detail within the department.

I also thank all of those people who work and dedicate their life to delivering a fantastic service within the Queensland Health portfolio including, since October last year, the Queensland Ambulance Service. There is no doubt about it; Queensland Health is now an organisation which is very much focused on getting the best outcomes for patients in Queensland. Indeed, the fundamental ingredient which was missing under the Labor administration in Queensland was good management. There is significant money in Queensland Health and not all of that had been applied to the efficient delivery of services. We have been very much focusing on getting better outcomes for Queensland patients.

I was interested in the contribution of the honourable member for Bundamba that we heard a little while ago in this parliament. Now she is not even able to say that Queensland Health is not functioning well. She indicated that the fact that ambulance ramping was better, that bypass was eliminated, that we now have very good, functioning emergency departments and that we have had good results with regard to elective surgery was all because of Labor. The great pity is that they are far more effective in opposition at delivering outcomes with regard to services than they ever were in government. Isn't it amazing? Imagine what would have happened if they had been put into opposition earlier; the place would have been able to be transformed decades earlier. So they can do all of these things in opposition, but they could never ever do them in government.

They have turned around and said that it was because of Labor's investment in health care. The only investment in health care that I can remember from federal Labor was \$104 million that was retrospectively ripped out of Queensland's budget in 2012-13 to which our hospital and health services did a remarkably good job at adjusting.

Ms Trad: How much has Tony Abbott ripped out?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Member for South Brisbane, if you are going to interject, you need to be in your seat, not walking to your seat. Thank you.

Mr SPRINGBORG: In answer to the interjection, there has been very little to date, but it will be after 2017-18 that we will have a significant problem—around the corner. Other than the national partnership agreements, there has not been any sort of retrospective cancellation of funding to Queensland Health such as that which we faced under the previous federal Labor government. The challenge for us is what happens in 2017-18.

It is quite remarkable. Even if you believe the thesis enunciated earlier today in this place by the honourable member for Bundamba that it was all to do with the federal Labor government, why is it that in South Australia they are struggling with their emergency departments, dental waiting lists and all of those sorts of things that we have all but solved here? Why is it that even our colleagues in Victoria stare with some degree of envy at what we have done with regard to elective surgery long

waits? Why is it that in Tasmania they are still languishing well and truly behind where Queensland is? It is fundamentally about management. Even if you believe the honourable member for Bundamba, the precursors for her thesis should apply universally across this nation and they do not. Queensland is the standout performer when it comes to lifting the performance of our health system.

There are the same doctors, same nurses, same allied healthcare professionals, same paramedics and same non-clinical support staff out there getting a different result because we have a different management regime which is very much focused on better outcomes for Queensland patients. Our budget again continues our record investment, and I thank the Treasurer for that. Since the change of government in Queensland there has been an 18.6 per cent increase and around \$2 billion extra is going into the Health portfolio.

It is not all about money; we understand that. We have to judiciously and responsibly look after taxpayers' money. But what we have to do is change the focus very much around outcomes, responsibilities and accountabilities, and that is what we have done. That is why we are reinvesting in re-opening maternity services, rural telehealth and making sure we have remote surgical vans. We are rebuilding those services which have been neglected over a period of time: better emergency departments, shorter waiting times for elective surgery in Queensland, and now we are going to be working on the outpatient waiting list—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. TE DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (12.39 pm): I would like to begin by expressing my sincerest thanks to the members of the Health and Community Services Committee for their examination of the expenditures in my portfolio of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I would particularly like to highlight the excellent chairmanship of the member for Kallangur, who I think was both fair and considered in his handling of the hearing. I would also like to thank the officers from my department and my ministerial staff for their work in preparation for the hearing. Acknowledgment of course has to be given to the Auslan interpreters who once again were present on the day.

Our government has a strong plan for a brighter future. We are supporting Queenslanders in need, and this financial year we have backed that commitment with \$2.5 billion across my portfolio. As the member for Bundamba pointed out in her statement of reservation, this \$2.5 billion is a significant investment, so it was very disappointing that the questions put to me by the opposition were rarely relevant to the budget papers. The questions really had not evolved from last year's hearing, despite all the hard work that my department has undertaken in the past 12 months to reform the child protection system, to prepare Queenslanders for the NDIS and to revitalise front-line community services.

In addressing the member's statement of reservation and the comments made by the member for Woodridge in her contribution, it should be noted how out of touch the opposition really is. If the opposition took the time to consult with the disability sector in Queensland or with the National Disability Insurance Agency, they would know that this state is preparing very well for the transition to the NDIS. Our government has made significant progress towards the scheme: we have committed \$868 million over the next five years; we have signed the heads of agreement with the Commonwealth; we have moved over 1,140 people onto the Your Life Your Choice self-direction program; and we have an agreement with the NDIA to share information. In fact, the major point that the member for Woodridge completely missed in her contribution is that the NDIA is actually here. The first officer from the agency started work on Monday along with staff from my department, so Queenslanders will absolutely be well placed for the scheme.

As part of these arrangements and preparations, in this financial year we have increased disability services by \$45 million to almost \$1.5 billion. The budget will give greater support to people with disabilities. It will include new and innovative accommodation solutions, as we are undertaking with the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial, and we know that accommodation will be crucially important ahead of the rollout of the NDIS.

Our government unashamedly wants Queensland to be the safest place to raise a child, and members will be aware that \$406 million has been committed over the next five years towards reforms that will be implemented as part of the recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. This year \$25 million will be allocated towards revitalising front-line child safety services and building stronger families. This is the largest ever commitment made by any Queensland government to support vulnerable families with early intervention services. They are landmark reforms, and the government is committed to working with families, communities and non-government organisations so that we can build capacity in families and keep families together

wherever possible. This is unlike the opposition, who not only has no plan for child protection, but left the system overburdened, unsustainable and, in the words of Commissioner Carmody, at risk of collapse.

One area that I really did not receive any questions on was community services, and that was very disappointing. This year I was very proud to launch our blueprint for the social services sector so that they can understand where government is heading in terms of the way we do business so that we can ensure that front-line services are delivered where they are needed at the right time and targeted to the right people, and we will continue to do that work well into the future.

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2014-15 state budget appropriation bills, and can I add at the outset thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, in your capacity as the member for Kallangur and chair of the committee, for your help and guidance and that of the other members of the Health and Community Services Committee for the thought and effort that they applied to their consideration of the budget estimates process for my portfolio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs.

You may recall that I informed the estimates hearing that the focus of this government and my department is fixed squarely on making sure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds should enjoy, can enjoy and must enjoy the same benefits and opportunities as all other Queenslanders. The 2014-15 portfolio appropriation provides the resources for us to achieve that. Of course, like everyone I would like more funding so that I could achieve more for our clients. Which minister would not want a bigger budget? Unfortunately, we do not have the luxury of spending what we do not have: unlike our predecessors opposite, who found spending so easy and responsible budgeting such a challenge.

The extra time allocated to my portfolio estimates hearings under the new system meant a greater number of issues within my portfolio responsibility were able to be examined. I was pleased to be able to advise the committee about how my department had been refocused to provide more effective and useful services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people from culturally diverse backgrounds. This will be achieved in large measure through the recently completed whole-of-government action plans for both client groups which I tabled at the hearings.

Notwithstanding the additional time allocated for my portfolio, there were still some initiatives I did not get time to mention. For example, I did not get time to cover the work we are doing on Cape York to support appropriate economic development opportunities and to protect Cape York's iconic natural areas and waterways. The Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program is an important part of that commitment by transferring land to Aboriginal ownership and establishing joint management of national parks. There also was not time to mention the new Economic Participation Grants Program, which provides a total of almost \$300,000 for projects to help migrants and refugees find employment or become involved in business ventures. These grants are part of the government's strategy to create pathways to employment and business ownership for people from culturally diverse backgrounds. I also wish there had been time to talk about Queensland Cultural Diversity Week, which will run from 30 August to 7 September. There will be opportunities for community groups to become involved in delivering local events, including regional events, supporting the week's aims to promote cultural awareness and celebrate Queensland's unity in diversity.

The committee's report notes that for my section of the estimates hearing the member for Woodridge was the replacement for the member for Bundamba—which was a relief. The committee's report included a statement of reservation from the member for Bundamba. It is not often that I agree with the member, but I agree with her that it was better for me to have more than twice the time for questioning this year under the trial revised estimates process, yet the member is part of an opposition team which was opposed to the extra questioning time afforded by this year's process. I fail to see how democracy is better served by having less time for a minister to be scrutinised by a parliamentary committee. I know the member for Bundamba only had the transcript to rely on for her comments about my portfolio, but I would have at least expected her to be honest in dealing with that. In her statement she makes the assertion that the Families Responsibilities Commission is not adequately staffed. If she had read the full transcript rather than just relied on a few opposition assertions, she would have seen that the FRC commissioner, David Glasgow, said—

I think we are well resourced for what we need to do.

...

If I needed more, I would go to the minister to ask.

Guess what? He hasn't. It is impossible to please some people. She certainly was not pleased that the government is providing an additional \$1 million a year to go into vocational education and training opportunities for Indigenous Queenslanders.

Report adopted.

Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee

Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): The question is—

That the report of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HOBBS** (Warrego—LNP) (12.50 pm): I am pleased to speak to this report. On behalf of the committee I thank each minister and their departmental officers for their cooperation in providing information to the committee throughout this process. I also thank the members of the committee for their hard work and valuable contributions and thank the committee secretariat for their assistance and support through this process.

On 15 July 2014 the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and other witnesses, and on 17 July the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience and other witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the two committee hearings can be accessed on the parliament's website. The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in budget papers, answers to the prehearing questions on notice, evidence taken at the hearing and additional information given in relation to answers—a very extensive estimates process.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined. Prior to the public hearing the committee provided the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience with questions on notice related to the estimates. Responses to all of the questions were received. Answers to the committee's prehearing questions on notice, documents tabled during the hearing, answers and additional information provided by ministers after the hearing, and minutes of the committee's hearings are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads is responsible for the Department of Transport and Main Roads, its commercialised business unit RoadTek and its statutory body the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. The Department of Transport and Main Roads aims to plan, manage and deliver Queensland's integrated transport environment to achieve sustainable transport solutions for road, rail, air and sea.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads' four service areas map directly to its operational divisions and align with the business objectives in the Transport and Main Roads Strategic Plan 2013-2017. The four services are: transport system investment planning and programming; transport infrastructure management and delivery; transport safety, regulation and customer service; and passenger transport services. In addition, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will administer funds on behalf of the government which for 2014-15 will include the state-wide driver licensing system, marine licensing, and vehicle and vessel registration systems.

In 2014-15, total capital purchases for the Transport and Main Roads portfolio are \$4.590 billion. The Department of Transport and Main Roads budgeted capital purchases for 2014-15 total \$3.913 billion. The Department of Transport and Main Roads capital purchases will primarily focus on critical investment in transport infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of a growing Queensland population.

The Minister for Housing and Public Works is responsible for the Department of Housing and Public Works, commercialised business units Building and Asset Services and QFleet, and the statutory bodies the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the Residential Tenancies Authority and the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority.

The Department of Housing and Public Works leads the government's capital works building program including building and maintaining public facilities such as schools, public housing, hospitals, police stations and courthouses. Service areas include housing services, which coordinates and

delivers a broad range of integrated housing support and services to Queenslanders most in need, including remote Indigenous communities and low-income and high-needs families; and building services, which delivers the government's office accommodation and employee housing and manages building and property initiatives and the building and plumbing laws in Queensland. Total capital purchases for 2014-15 are \$264.7 million.

The Minister for Local Government is responsible for administration of local government legislation and has responsibility for coordinating programs to build Queensland communities' preparedness for and resilience to natural disasters. The department of local government will continue to support the autonomy and accountability of councils and to lead the implementation of key resilience projects in partnership with councils, government and other agencies. In addition, the department will administer funds on behalf of the state including the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the Australian government financial assistance grants. Total capital purchases for the Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience portfolio are \$8.4 million. In addition, in 2014-15 some \$104 million is being provided as capital grants to local government authorities—

(Time expired)

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (12.55 pm): With respect to the Transport and Main Roads portfolio, the opposition holds serious concerns regarding the performance, transparency and accountability of the department under the stewardship of Minister Emerson. Our concerns were amplified by the porous information obtained during estimates and the minister's preference for obfuscation or outright refusal to provide information that the opposition and in fact Queenslanders are entitled to have about the expenditure of their tax dollars.

When the government came to office there were 178.3 million trips a year taken on the South-East Queensland public transport network each year. Last financial year there were 176.7 million trips. That is a reduction of 1.5 million trips since this government came to power despite significant population growth over the past two years, despite the opening of the Northern Busway, built by Labor, and the Springfield line, built by Labor, and despite more train services.

I asked the minister about the fact that his budget papers show that 300,000 trips were made in the 2013-14 year on the Gold Coast light-rail network, which had yet to be opened. The fact that these 300,000 trips were counted in official figures despite never having been taken calls into question the veracity and accuracy of other figures presented in the budget papers. The minister has failed at a number of projects with varying degrees of complexity, but this simple budget reporting mistake embarrassingly reveals that the minister is only interested in photo opportunities and not the detail required to run the portfolio of Transport and Main Roads.

In December 2012 the Premier promised, hand on heart, that a line in the sand had been drawn on mass public sector job losses. As we know, what the Premier and the LNP say is not necessarily what they do. This was revealed by Queensland Rail CEO's admission that the Queensland government had shed 617 jobs in Queensland Rail in the past year alone. Since the Newman government came to office, 1,439 jobs have been cut from Queensland Rail. That is a reduction of almost 20 per cent of its entire workforce. When added to the job loss figures in the Department of Transport and Main Roads and in RoadTek, we can say that Minister Emerson has personally overseen almost 3,000 job cuts in agencies under his control.

ABS labour force statistics are out today. They show that Queensland's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is up 0.5 per cent, from 6.3 per cent to 6.8 per cent. That is the highest unemployment rate in our state for more than a decade—driven by the LNP Premier and driven by LNP ministers and every single member of the LNP government, which has arrogantly cut and slashed jobs, services and programs throughout this state. Queenslanders know that it is not just about job losses; it is also about a reduction in service delivery and in the quality of services that they get and expect from the Queensland government.

In relation to the transport and road infrastructure program, again the transport minister has allocated less and is taking credit for transport and road infrastructure initiated and funded by either the previous state government or the previous federal Labor government. They are quite brazen but almost misleading and dishonest in their approach in this respect. They like to bleat about the debt while they are racking it up themselves and then smile broadly for the cameras when opening the infrastructure that has been funded by this debt.

In terms of the underground bus and train tunnel, what can I say? This is shaping up to be a complete and utter disaster—a disaster that defines the minister and defines the Premier. It has been designed by the Premier, it has been resoundingly criticised by public transport experts, it is inferior to Cross River Rail and it is still unfunded. The rail crisis is due to hit South-East Queensland in 2016, and this government sits on its hands without any solution to the rail capacity crisis.

In conclusion, I place on record my thanks to the committee and the chair, the member for Warrego, for allowing me to attend and also to the committee secretariat and all of the parliamentary staff who put in extra effort to support the truncated estimates process this year.

The portfolio of Transport and Main Roads is too important to hand over to someone more interested in media profile than in how to build the public transport and road systems that Queensland needs for the future.

(Time expired)

Debate, on motion of Ms Trad, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Health, Sexually Transmissible Infections

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.30 pm): Containing HIV, viral hepatitis and other sexually transmissible infections, or STIs, is a key function of Queensland Health and a major responsibility of the Minister for Health. This public health function can only be effective through meaningful partnerships with health professionals, community organisations and community members. The LNP sexual health strategy for Queensland is seriously flawed. Despite the launch of the Queensland HIV Strategy in September 2013, no strategic plans have been published for STIs or viral hepatitis since the LNP took office. Closing the state's largest public sexual health clinic, Biala in Roma Street, has been widely condemned as a disastrous decision among other health service closures and staff cuts. Cost shifting STI service delivery responsibilities to Medicare funded GPs is in fact no substitute for state funded sexual health programs and effective partnership with community organisations for at-risk populations.

While I welcome Queensland's participation in the national END HIV campaign and the creation of the new HIV Foundation Queensland, I have concerns about how rapid HIV testing has been rolled out. The re-formed Queensland AIDS Council provided the first rapid HIV testing services in Queensland some years ago. I welcome the subsequent establishment of rapid HIV testing services at the Stonewall Medical Centre in Newmarket and the Gladstone Road Medical Centre in West End. I also acknowledge the services provided by the Queensland Positive People from its offices and the new QPP testing clinics at The Den in Fortitude Valley.

I do, however, question why these community services are provided free HIV rapid testing kits by Queensland Health but the Queensland AIDS Council's expanded Clinic 30 in Teneriffe is forced to pay private suppliers for testing kits. One has to ask why. The budget papers indicate that Queensland Health was provided funds in 2013-14 for 6,000 testing kits but only 1,300 tests were actually conducted. That is an awful lot of spare kits that have been paid for that could have been distributed to community organisations. Perhaps the minister would care to explain why barriers are placed in front of some community groups in the rollout of rapid HIV testing. It is these types of primary care partnerships that the minister should be fostering if he is serious about ending HIV.

Gold Coast Titans, Cartwright, Mr J and Searle, Mr M

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.33 pm): Today I rise in the House to pay tribute to the Gold Coast Titans founder, Mr Michael Searle, and foundation head coach, Mr John Cartwright. John and Michael have been key contributors to the creation, development and success of the iSelect Gold Coast Titans, which have established a powerful rugby league franchise in Australia's sixth largest city, the Gold Coast. With both Michael and John deciding to step down from their roles and integral positions with the club, it is only fitting to congratulate them on their overwhelming success with the Titans but also their true grit and determination to see the creation of a new club come to fruition all those years ago and grow into the success that they are today. Michael Searle will not only step down

from his role as founder of the Titans but also his role as executive director of football when the current season ends. John will coach his last game on Monday night when the Titans take on the Roosters at Allianz Stadium in Sydney. He will stay on with the club in a non-football role.

John has been a model of community involvement throughout his tenure as founding coach and we thank him sincerely for his great dedication and personal investment in the Gold Coast. For Michael it all started back in 1999 and came to fruition on Friday, 27 May 2005 when David Gallop, then CEO of the NRL, called Michael and said, 'You're in the NRL competition.' This was the beginning of what is now the mighty Gold Coast Titans. At their home ground of Cbus stadium the Titans have given the Gold Coast some memorable moments, all thanks to Michael and John. As the Titans move to a new phase of administration we can only say thank you to these two men for their belief in the Gold Coast and their promotion of rugby league in our wonderful city.

On another issue regarding the Titans games and crowd numbers, I would like to see the Gold Coast City Council work with the Titans club to look at opening up the 16-hectare site behind the stadium for public car parking on game days which would open it up to hundreds of car parking spaces with access to the north of the stadium and alleviate congestion worries at the entrance to the stadium. I have advocated for this outcome from the day the stadium was announced, and to assist the Titans game day patronage this simple, low-cost solution should be trialled. It does not have to be a bitumen mass; it can be, as it was in Moore Park for many years in Sydney, just a mowed grassed area. It would be nice and flat. Unfortunately you would not be able to use it on wet days, but on other days it would provide a much needed car park for the Titans to increase their patronage. I want to personally thank both Michael and John for all of their hard work, dedication and commitment to the Titans and I wish them every success in their future endeavours, whatever they may be.

van Vree, Mr P; Everton Electorate, School Fetes

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (2.36 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to speak about some of the things that are happening in my electorate. Firstly, I want to pay tribute to a constituent from my electorate who also happens to be a parliamentary security officer who is retiring next week. Mr Peter van Vree is somebody who has given great service here for the last eight years. Anybody who has come in contact with Peter would realise what an absolutely delightful man he is—somebody who makes people incredibly welcome and who has carried out his duties here as a security officer in a way that has really brought honour to this parliament. Peter has had eight years service here, but previous to being here he had 22 or 23 years as a police officer. So he has had an outstanding career as a public servant—somebody who has literally served the public in so many different ways. I wish Peter and his family all of the best as he retires and thank him very much for the outstanding service that he has given to this parliament and wish him all of the best as he, I believe, makes an investment in a campervan and plans to enjoy his retirement travelling around Queensland and exploring some of those parts that he probably did not get to see as a policeman. Peter, I look forward to seeing you in the electorate continuing to give me advice about some of the things that we need to get done. I have appreciated that and wish you well for the future.

I also want to acknowledge some of the great community events that have occurred in my electorate over the last few months, and of course winter is the school fete season. There was a fabulous fete at Albany Creek State School with some wonderful events. One of the highlights was my sponsoring of the Tim Mander pork and crackling stakes, which was one of the pig races. I was also fortunate enough to actually draw the pig that won, which was a bit embarrassing but I donated the prize to the second prize pig, which was the pig in the yellow apron. I had the blue apron. That was great. I also spent some time in the dunking machine's incredibly freezing cold water when people donated money to dunk me. That was a great experience as well and it was great to get into the spirit of the day. It was a very successful fundraiser. There was another fete at the Prince of Peace college, which is one of the private schools.

Mr Ruthenberg: Good school!

Mr MANDER: That is right; it is a Lutheran school that the member for Kallangur would know a lot about, as would the member for Murrumba, who used to work there. It was a fantastic day. It was a great celebration and a great community event. It is great to have those organisations in the electorate.

Nanango Electorate, Rail Trails

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.39 pm): Today I would like to highlight the role and importance of rail trails in my electorate of Nanango, in particular the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and the Kingaroy to Kilkivan Rail Trail that my electorate shares with that of the Deputy Premier of Queensland, the member for Callide. Rail trails are shared use paths created from former railway corridors. They have become a magnet for hikers, cyclists and horse riders. They are great for tourism, small business and economic growth. They are a great place to exercise.

Our government knows that turning former rail corridors into recreation areas is a huge part of the success in growing the tourism pillar for regional Queensland. In our latest budget, our government set aside \$3.5 million to be allocated over the next four years for a new Recreational Rail Trails Grants Program, which will be open to councils to help them maintain and upgrade sections of rail trails. This is a fantastic announcement that I know councils in my electorate are very excited about.

I would also like to highlight and congratulate Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney, for last week announcing just outside of Kingaroy that \$2 million has been granted to the South Burnett Regional Council for the 60-kilometre long Kilcoy to Kilkivan Rail Trail. This is a major announcement for the South Burnett and one that I truly welcome. It is an extremely positive and exciting announcement for tourism for our great area.

I am now pushing for further funding from the Deputy Premier for the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, set in the Somerset region of the Nanango electorate. I have spoken to the Deputy Premier—and it is unfortunate that he has just stepped out of the House—about this length of rail trail and the need for the Somerset section of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. This rail trail is Queensland's largest converted rail trail, with approximately 70 kilometres currently open between Wanora and Toogoolawah and another 44 kilometres between Moore and Yarraman. About 30,000 people a year use this part of the trail. Unfortunately, the section between Toogoolawah and Moore remains closed, mainly due to the major damage that was experienced during the 2011-13 floods.

Extra funding for this rail trail would be a huge boost to the Somerset region and one that I know would be warmly welcomed by the rail trails and the many supporters and ambassadors of these great tourism paths for all Queenslanders and all of our international visitors who come often to the beautiful Nanango electorate, but we need them to come more often. This extra funding would really go a long way.

Mount Coot-tha Electorate, Schools; Queensland Education Accord

 **Mrs RICE** (Mount Coot-tha—LNP) (2.42 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to provide the House with an update on an incredibly busy winter season of local community and school activities in the electorate of Mount Coot-tha. As members are aware, education is central to the economic prosperity of Queensland and creates opportunities for every student. To meet the expectations of Queenslanders and to deliver for students, we must work together on a shared vision that sets clear priorities for the future.

The Queensland Education Accord is an historic 30-year vision for school education in Queensland. Across the Mount Coot-tha electorate, there is a lot of interest in this subject and local school communities and other stakeholders are very keen to participate in considering the seven key questions that came from the Queensland Plan. Around 10 days ago at Rainworth State School, together with the member for Brisbane Central, I was very pleased to facilitate an open forum. There was representation from all school communities across the Mount Coot-tha electorate. I would like to thank all participants in the forum and each of the local principals, teachers and parents for giving up their Sunday morning. It was most valuable to hear their feedback and creative ideas. I look forward to presenting that collective feedback at the summit.

As a demonstration of the strength of my local community, I would also like to highlight the enormous contribution that the community has made over the winter period in support of local schools and kindies. In May, the Bardon State School held its annual Bardon Mayfair, which was an outstanding success. In June, the Rosalie C&K held its annual fair with a fabulous Alice in Wonderland theme. In July, the Red Hill kindy excelled itself by holding its 32nd annual fair at Woolcock Park. Later this month I am looking forward to the Rainworth State School's Rainbow Carnival and in October the Milton State School Fair on the Green. These events do not happen by

accident. They happen because a community of very dedicated parents and families pull it altogether. They also happen thanks to the very generous support from the broader community who sponsor the events, donate prizes or auction items or provide support in kind. These whole-of-community events are major events on our local calendar and are valued by all.

Finally, I have some sad news to advise the House. It was with great sadness that I learned about the closure of the Flower Project Foundation, an organisation that for the last three years has performed an invaluable community service for people who are going through difficult times or who have gone out of their way to help others. The Flower Project Foundation was established to perform a random act of kindness—the selfless gift of a Bouquet of Kindness from someone who would never anticipate receiving anything in return.

Shannon, Karen and the team have worked tirelessly to deliver over 2,700 bouquets, putting a great deal of time, energy and care into every single one of them. The Flower Project Foundation has assisted with projects throughout the electorate, including the Mount Coot-tha Volunteer Awards. This lovely service has instilled a great deal of kindness into the community and I am very said to see it go. I wish each member of the Flower Project Foundation all the best and thank them for this amazing service that they have provided to so many deserving members of the community.

Canefields Clubhouse

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (2.45 pm): The disgraceful defunding of Canefields Clubhouse in Logan City by this health minister shows a callous disregard for people living with mental health issues and their families. This is a highly acclaimed international program and this clubhouse has received full accreditation for the fantastic work it does, which has been nurtured and guided by Jennifer Fulcher over the past 15 years.

The health minister needs to understand that he is trashing a program that is multifaceted to meet the needs of in excess of 1,000 members. With its three levels of employment programs on offer, transitional, supported and independent, Canefields not only offers huge support and training to its clients but also has established a significant list of employers who are able to offer training, work experience and, in many instances, permanent employment.

In the last two years Canefields' five-bedroom transitional house has offered stable, supported accommodation to 20 people with training in life skills, thus enabling them to move into their own accommodation, which often has their lease agreement held by Canefields when necessary. When a member attends this customised clubhouse, they attend a daily team meeting with all members and paid staff and volunteers on an equal footing. They are all part of making the Canefields Clubhouse work for the improvement of the lives of all. Everyone is assigned tasks for the day, be it administration, preparing lunch or planning for the many programs, social outings, shopping and the myriad tasks required.

As I sat in my first meeting, I was moved to tears by the story of one of their members, a former engineer who is getting his life back together. As he volunteers, his own life is enriched. Canefields Clubhouse's support extends to Centrelink, advocacy, healthy lifestyle programs, pharmacological and substance abuse services, assistance in accessing quality psychology and medical services but, importantly, Canefields is about friendship, belonging, walking through the door into a place where everybody knows your name and respects you, and feeling needed.

The value of this service simply cannot be measured. Should Stepping Stones take over the role and Canefields not operate in this way—and I ask members to remember that many with mental health issues do not deal with change very well—expect to see more admissions to the mental health unit, more unemployment, more homelessness, increased incarceration, greater stress on family members and, in the case of those rescued from suicidal thoughts, I simply hate to go there.

I say to the minister that there is no shame in reversing a disastrous decision. We would applaud him. Without Canefields, there will come more expense to our medical and hospital services, more stress in our communities and a service operating in Brisbane, completely foreign to this service, simply cannot pick up where Canefields may be cast aside. For the new manager, Jak, and all his members—

(Time expired)

Mundingburra State School

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.48 pm): In the upcoming weeks a major milestone will take place in my home city of Townsville when the Mundingburra State School celebrates its 130th anniversary. It is a school that has a proud history but an even more prosperous future ahead. I pay tribute to principal Lesley Pecchiar and her dedicated band of teachers but, most importantly, the mums and dads who give this school a real vibe, a real sense of pride. It really is a beacon in the community.

The school opened on 22 September 1884. The original building consisted of only a single room constructed of hardwood with a large veranda. In its first week in September 1884 there were just 42 students enrolled at Mundingburra State School. At the time Mundingburra was an outlying area; it was a rural area. In many ways the school formed the hub which my community grew around. Its grounds housed one of the early wells that serviced not only the school but also many of the surrounding properties. It was installed for convenience as it saved the long walk down to Ross River. It is wonderful to think of a time when the school grounds were the hub of the community. We are starting to see that come back with a bit of commonsense in terms of the way our grounds are used by our communities. As surrounding suburbs urbanised, the school was used as a focus point for development. Testimony to this is that Ross River Road, today one of the city's largest arterial thoroughfares, runs at the front of the school.

The first headmaster, John Cunningham, arrived in Queensland from Scotland one week before starting work at Mundingburra State School. No doubt the climatic changes tested Principal Cunningham. In 1954 when uniforms were introduced for students, enrolments stood at 754. Former students include Libby Trickett, world-record-holding Olympic gold medallist, who did her schooling in the nineties; there was also W J Heatley, a former mayor of Townsville between 1926 and 1933; and Gordon Tallis was regularly seen honing his football skills while growing up a stone's throw from the school in Swales Street in Mundingburra.

The student numbers have been as high as 900 in 1952, increasing to more than a thousand in the early seventies. However, with the opening of additional schools in the area the enrolments have varied but stayed relatively consistent until in recent times. I am particularly proud of this. The school has seen an increase in numbers. It has been on the back of a couple of things: some urban renewal in that part of the city where young families have moved in, but also the great environment the school is providing for its student. In 2010 there were 573 students, 680 in the year after, 666 in 2012 and 697 in 2013. I look forward to the up-and-coming celebrations on 22 August and, as the school motto says, 'Act well your part'.

Burleigh Electorate, Crime Statistics

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.51 pm): I rise today to talk about some great crime statistics for my seat of Burleigh on the Gold Coast. When I was first elected in 2012 one of the very first phone calls that I received was from Miami Seniors Tennis Club. They had had 13 break-ins in two weeks. A young gang of thugs had gone around and smashed windows and kicked and broken down doors. They had actually managed to get inside the club and had done quite a bit of damage—\$10,000 to \$20,000 worth of damage. The members of the club asked me whether there was anything the state government could do to help them or if I could liaise with the council and we could do something about security screens. Fortunately the week before I had run into somebody from a company called DNA Solutions. They provide a marking solution that sprays actual DNA onto a criminal if they break in. This device is fitted into the roof above a door or in a bar or somewhere like that. It is triggered by somebody breaking in. It has a movement sensor and when somebody walks under it they are sprayed with DNA. The DNA is specific to the site. I went back to DNA Solutions and I asked them if there was something we could do for the Miami Seniors Tennis Club. They were kind enough to install some machinery that had a value of about \$4,000. That was two years ago. We put some signs on the windows. We told people what had happened. They have not had a break-in in two years. What a great result!

That is just one of the great results that we have had in my electorate. Because of the rapid action police response and the wonderful work that the police at Palm Beach, Broadbeach and Robina police stations do we have had a fall in robberies in my electorate. They are down by 37 per cent. What a great result that is! We have had unlawful use of motor vehicles fall by 29 per cent and assaults are down 24 per cent. Overall total reported offences are down 21 per cent and unlawful entries are down 20 per cent. That is an indication of what a great job this government is doing on law and order for electorates like my electorate of Burleigh. I commend the ministers involved.

Coomera Electorate, Events

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.54 pm): So much is happening by way of celebration in the northern Gold Coast region, not the least of which is this weekend the eighth Ormeau Lions Fair. The eighth Ormeau Lions Fair was first instigated to help mums and dads and their back pocket. It was an alternative to the Ekka. It was the brainchild of one of the local Lions club members. He put it together with the Ormeau Lions Club which does a fantastic job year after year after year. As far as the stalls are concerned, they are sold out yet again this year. They sold out months before the opening. It has turned out to be so successful that it has completely exhausted the man whose mind turned to it in the first place and he has retired now down towards the border. The Lions club has taken it on with gusto again this year and it is doing a fantastic job. Importantly, it is a big relief to the back pockets of mums and dads; they do not have to take their kids to the Brisbane Ekka because they can take them to the Ormeau ekka. They do not know the difference. There are so many things for them to do at the Ormeau ekka and they thoroughly enjoy it.

Next weekend we have the fourth birthday celebration of Twin Rivers Mallet Sports, a fantastic group of around about 70 people. They also have a youth program. The mallet sports club is the brainchild of a local who just dreamed it up, formed a partnership with the local cricket club and from there the rest is history. It is a completely different type of activity and one that the young people in the area are certainly taking on as well.

A celebration of another sort is the opening of the new Pimpama Primary School. Congratulations to Donna Gosling, the principal of the new school. We joined to meet for the first time with the local parents to discuss names and uniforms and so forth and to give them a bit of an overview. This is Principal Donna Gosling's fourth new school. Can you believe that? It is also her second independent public school. I met with her last Monday. She is so enthusiastic about where to from here. She will bring a wealth of experience to this brand new school on the Gold Coast—in fact, the northern Gold Coast and the Coomera electorate, the fastest growing electorate, has seven new schools in six years.

Gold Coast G:link

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.57 pm): Just over two weeks ago the first Gold Coast residents hopped on board the G: as the doors opened on a brighter transport future for our city. The Gold Coast community has embraced the trams with the *Bulletin* on Monday reporting that there were more than 184,700 paid passenger trips on the G: in the first 11 days of operation. There is no denying the construction phase was tough for all businesses and residents in the light rail corridor, however Southport and Surfers' businesses and retailers are already reporting an increase in foot traffic and property prices in the corridor are on the rise.

This is the world-class transport network our city had to have. I have fought for the light rail since I was a city councillor a decade ago. I have always been a supporter of the light rail and an advocate for its connection to the heavy rail. I have not wavered in this view since my election to Gold Coast Council in 2004. This was my stated position as a mayoral candidate in 2008 and it has been my continued position every day since my election to parliament in 2012.

Labor bungled stage 1 and the opportunity was lost. Instead of getting on with the project back in 2000, their procrastination and meddling led to huge cost blow-outs, particularly in respect of land acquisitions required for the realignment of the corridor.

This week I have sponsored a petition at the request of Southport Chamber of Commerce regarding the delivery of the second stage of the light rail, the connection to the heavy rail at Helensvale or Parkwood. Laird Marshall, the president of the Southport Chamber of Commerce, has been extremely vocal about the clear necessity of a heavy rail connection and the potential city-wide benefits. I thank Laird and the chamber for their initiative on this issue and note that, as of two o'clock today, over 1,250 Gold Coast residents had already pledged their support.

Last month, the Premier was in my electorate and confirmed the state government's support for the project, but he said that it is up to us Gold Coasters to show our support for it. If we want it, we need to use it and we need to let our government know just what we want in the future. Only an LNP government with a strong plan for better finances can deliver the extension for the heavy rail.

I also want to reflect very quickly on a few things that have happened in the electorate since we last met. It was my great pleasure to welcome the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games and Mayor Tate to the opening of the new Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in the electorate of Southport. I also had the pleasure of chairing the annual AGM for the Southport

CWA. I was able to take the Premier on a tour of the Gold Coast radio centre, of which I used to be general manager, and introduce him to Tim Davenport and Nick Scott. Of course, Tim is the Queensland manager. We even got him on air with one of my old program managers, Jason Matthews, which was a lot of fun. Like the Minister for Housing, I too have been dunked since we last sat. It was my great pleasure to join with Gold FM in their Give Me 5 for Kids Appeal and help raise \$10,000 for the privilege of being dunked.

Redcliffe Electorate, Events

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (3.00 pm): I rise to talk about some of the great events that have been happening in the electorate of Redcliffe recently. As all members would know, between 2014 and 2018 around this country many events will be held to commemorate 100 years since the First World War. On Tuesday of this week, the Brisbane North RSL district and the Redcliffe RSL sub-branch held a World War I centenary event at Jamieson Park, Scarborough. The event started at one o'clock on Tuesday. The event included displays of war animals, the Light Horse Association, the French Foreign Legion Association, vintage military vehicles, a TAVAS restored World War I plane, a QPA cannon that was fired at sunset, BattleFront Australis, Southern Cross Camels and a donkey.

I had the pleasure of attending the sunset ceremony on Tuesday afternoon. The MC was well-known poet Rupert McCall who is very much a Redcliffe local. He did an amazing job. The brigadier spoke beautifully. I have to say that it was a very moving ceremony as we watched the sun go down as the cannon was fired over Scarborough and Moreton Bay. I congratulate everyone involved in putting on that great event. Schools were involved. The displays were incredible. It was great to see that it was not just a ceremony, but a whole day where the community could come, have a look at different things, talk to a lot of the service men and women and hear about some of the history. We heard some very personal stories of people who had signed up even though they were younger than they were supposed to be, how they ended up volunteering and serving for our great country. I acknowledge all those wonderful people.

This year is the Australian Red Cross centenary. The local Redcliffe Red Cross asked me to plant a rose bush to commemorate those 100 years. I had the pleasure of doing that last Saturday. I thank the wonderful women who do so much even in peacetime, especially in times of natural disaster, to help with the Red Cross.

On Friday night, the young people of the Redcliffe Church of Christ had a winter sleep out to lift awareness on homelessness and to raise money for street swags, which we know are very important. It would be great if we did not have homelessness, but the reality is that we do. It is great to see young people stepping up and doing their part to lift that awareness.

World War I, 100-Year Commemoration

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.03 pm): This week as we mark 100 years since the start of World War I, I rise to reflect upon the sacrifices and contributions made by Australians to the war effort and the impact the conflict had on shaping our then fledgling nation. On 4 August 1914, little more than a month after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, the world descended into war. Australia embraced the call to support the 'mother country' Britain and its allies with Australian men enlisting in the military in droves. From Australia's population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted. In the four years of bloody conflict that followed, over 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. As a result, our nation was stripped of many of our fittest and finest: those fathers, husbands and sons who never returned and may well have gone on to be our nation's future leaders. For those who returned home from the field of battle, a return to civilian life was seldom easy with many bearing physical and psychological wounds. Limited understanding of post-traumatic stress, which was simply referred to as 'shell shock' at the time, often meant that battlefield trauma took a heavy toll on the minds and bodies of returned servicemen and their families.

However, from the midst of the horrific conflict and loss of life, our young nation's identity began to develop. As Australians stood up and defended our freedoms and way of life, so too did they forge a national identity built upon the ANZAC ideals of mateship and self-sacrifice, born as a result of the abhorrent wartime conditions thousands of miles away from Australia's shores. All of us in this august House will be familiar with the bravery displayed by Simpson and his donkey, which is a story that has come to embody the ANZAC spirit of mateship. However, as extraordinary as that story is, it is merely representative of the courageous, selfless feats of many of Australia's soldiers whose stories were

never told. And that is the essence of true Australian mateship as we understand it today: going that extra step, that extra mile, to support others while expecting nothing in return. In the words of the famous Australian writer and poet, Henry Lawson—

True mateship looks for no limelight ... it is the instinct that irresistibly impels a thirsty, parched man, out on the burning sands, to pour the last drop of water down the throat of a dying mate, where none save the sun or moon or stars may see.

A century on, sadly, we do not live in a world devoid of war and post-traumatic stress is still a heartbreaking reality for many of our nation's returned military personnel, their families and friends. However, a century on, Australia is a free, democratic nation with a national identity firmly grounded in the ANZAC notions of mateship and self-sacrifice. For this we owe an eternal debt of gratitude to those who fought to defend our nation in WWI and all conflicts since. I am proudly wearing a lapel pin which is inscribed with the following: 'Their Spirit, Our Pride 2014-2018'. Members, lest we forget.

Burtenshaw, Mr G

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (3.06 pm): In this year when we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, the personal sacrifice of war has been highlighted in my own electorate. On 5 July, the Noosa community lost George Burtenshaw, a World War II veteran and a victim of the infamous Changi prisoner-of-war camp. Mr Burtenshaw was born in Newport, near the border of Wales and England, on 23 December 1911. He immigrated to Australia alone at the age of 16 under the Church of England settlement scheme. In 1940 he married Eva and together they produced a family of three daughters, Dorothy, Gwen and Grace, and a son, John, now deceased. Over time the family blossomed into 16 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In June 1940, married life was interrupted when George enlisted at Toowoomba to become a gunner in the 2/10 Field Regiment. He was posted overseas only to be at the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942. George then endured three-and-a-half years as a prisoner of war in Changi, slaving on the notorious Thai-Burma railway. At the time of his release in 1945, he was so emaciated that he could feel his backbone through his stomach. It took him a further six years to recover his weight at enlistment.

George returned to Australia and for the following 37 years farmed pineapples in the Mary Valley. At 60, he stood successfully for the Widgee Shire Council. He retired after seven elections and 21 years as a councillor. At age 99, he walked six kilometres to the Tewantin-Noosa RSL from his home in the Laguna Retirement Village to pay his annual dues, and then walked home again.

It was at the Laguna Retirement Village that I came to know George, whom I met while visiting my parents there. I would pass George's unit, which I remember had the lushest and best kept garden I have ever seen. My memories of George are of a quietly spoken, life-loving gentleman. Those who knew George well speak of his good character. Most remain in disbelief that, despite his treatment as a POW, he never hated the Japanese. That is testament to the stamp of a man regarded as a living treasure and remembered for his dignity, generosity and spirituality.

The Tewantin-Noosa RSL sub-branch commissioned a portrait of George by Noosaville artist, Frances McLeod, to celebrate his 30 years of membership. The montage of aspects of his life, including his time as a POW, will hang in the McArthur Museum in Brisbane. George is survived by his three daughters. George Burtenshaw: a community leader, a role model and an exemplar of the sort of people who have made our community and our country so great.

Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce

 **Mr KING** (Cairns—LNP) (3.09 pm): I rise today to talk about the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce. It is a topic that I have spoken about numerous times in this place because I am incredibly passionate about the work that it does. After just 12 months it is having a fantastic impact on crime in my electorate of Cairns and also across the broader Cairns area.

Before I talk about the task force, I need to talk about why it was introduced just over 12 months ago. The reason was that the former Labor government repeatedly denied that there was a problem with crime in Cairns. They refused to acknowledge that there was an issue, particularly with youth crime. Judging by the endless comments I got during the election campaign and in the months after being elected, it really was the No. 1 issue of concern for my constituents. They were angry that no real, tangible action had been taken on this in Cairns for so many years.

The Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce was established in early July last year. The reason it has been so important and so groundbreaking is that it co-located seven or eight different state agencies in the one office. They are now physically located next to each other. This involved police, education, health, ATSI and a range of other agencies that had a stake in the issue of youth crime in particular.

After it was established a bunch of initiatives were rolled out. Some of them were the first of their kind in Queensland, if not Australia. I speak of things like the co-responder initiative where police would join with housing and education officers and go door to door looking at issues such as overcrowding, truancy and potential criminal activity.

The Mooroolool Community Centre that was closed for a couple of years was reopened by the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce. It is having fantastic success in what is a very difficult area. Problems were left to develop over many years.

I am very pleased to say today that following the 12-month trial of the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce it has been confirmed that it will continue for another 12 months. I am absolutely thrilled about that. I thank the ministers and cabinet for making that very important decision. It is groundbreaking work and it is having a real impact in my community after so many years of neglect and inaction.

I pay tribute to Detective Senior Sergeant Glen Horan who, for the first 12 months, was the project manager or the leader of the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce. He has now moved back into his role in CPIU and passed the baton on to a fellow detective senior sergeant. On behalf of the people of Cairns, I say thank you to Glen Horan for his amazing work on the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce. I look forward to working with the task force over coming months to continue the fantastic work that it has achieved.

(Time expired)

Maryborough Electorate, Health Services



Mrs MADDERN (Maryborough—LNP) (3.12 pm): Last week the dream of around 7,000 people in the Maryborough electorate came one step closer to being realised with the announcement by the board of the Wide Bay Health and Hospital Service and our LNP government that a dedicated six-bed palliative care facility will be developed in the Maryborough Hospital for the Fraser Coast.

There is quite a bit of history that sits behind this announcement. Some three to four years ago, under the former government, most of our local renal patients were forced to travel to Gympie—a nine-hour round journey three times a week—to have their treatment because the services in the Maryborough Hospital had been ripped out.

The community rallied, set up a group to lobby government and kept at it until a dialysis unit was developed at the Maryborough Hospital. Then came the change of government, the establishment of local hospital boards and the appointment of experienced and qualified senior management. There have been magnificent changes to the Maryborough Hospital in the last two years, including the development of the rehabilitation unit, the establishment of a centre for orthopaedic surgery linked to the rehabilitation unit, the centre of excellence for endoscopies, a specialised program to maximise the utilisation of subacute care beds and an increase in dental chairs from six to 15 and some really great statistics around waiting times for these services.

But the community was still concerned about the need for a dedicated palliative care facility for people. People like Judy Allen, a former palliative care nurse, were well aware that some terminally ill patients were falling through the gap and not receiving the treatment and support they needed. The community stepped up to support Judy with almost 7,000 people signing a petition which was presented to the government requesting palliative care.

The Wide Bay HHS carried out a consultation process in the development of their strategy plan. This process also identified a high need for palliative care. So the announcement of \$800,000 in capital funding to create a dedicated palliative care facility and the \$750,000 recurrent funding for staffing was received by the community with excitement and satisfaction. It is estimated that that unit will be operational around May-June next year and there will be nine additional medical staff to support the unit.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to and thank the palliative care staff working in the hospital. I also pay tribute to those volunteers who fundraise to provide equipment to lend to patients and to support the work of the palliative care nurses. This dedicated facility on completion will greatly enhance the special care which can be provided to those at end of life and their families.

Naughty But Nice

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferny Grove—LNP) (3.15 pm): I rise this afternoon to bring to the attention of the House an alarming situation which I have only been made aware of in the last hour of so. Dawson Parade is the road that separates the electorates of Everton and Ferny Grove. A couple of weeks ago a shop moved into a vacant location on that road without any community consultation or without seeking application approvals from the Brisbane City Council.

Over the last couple of days they have done a mail drop around the local area indicating that today there would be a 20 per cent off store-wide sale. Unfortunately, the store is Naughty But Nice. I am sure most people are familiar with those stores. At 161 Dawson Parade, the location of the latest Naughty But Nice store, there is also the Kindy Patch Grovely Early Education Centre. Within 150 metres of this location is Grovely State School and 500 metres away is St William's Primary School.

Mr Johnson: It should be in an industrial centre.

Mr SHUTTLEWORTH: Absolutely. I take the interjection from the member for Gregory. I would like to draw attention to a rather succinct document, which I have in my possession and which I am happy to table, entitled 'State planning regulatory provision (adult stores)'—final copy of July 2010. It states in relation to adult stores that they have to be—

- a) more than 200 metres according to the shortest route a person may lawfully take, by vehicle or foot; or
- b) more than 100 metres measured in a straight line.

I believe these regulations have been passed on to the Brisbane City Council for their management. Adult stores must make an application to the Brisbane City Council. I have had it confirmed that the new store has neither made an application under that legislation nor undertaken any community consultation. I find the situation quite alarming.

Whilst it is not physically located in my electorate, it is on the road that divides two electorates. I think for the 110 families that send their 140 children to the Kindy Patch Grovely Early Education Centre that the store should have respect for the law. Naughty But Nice should cease operations immediately and adhere to the provisions of the law as they stand.

Coroner's Act, Section 29

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.18 pm): Today I tabled a petition requesting section 29 of the Coroner's Act be repealed as it is no longer relevant to modern day industry. It is detrimental to justice and can be used by unscrupulous companies to delay coronial inquests. Adopted to prevent the coroner being swamped by inquests, the introduction of stricter workplace regulations and restrictions has negated the need for this particular section. There are very few reportable deaths.

However, the retention of section 29 has become a tool for companies and individuals to delay justice through the premise of a defence, stalling any potentially lifesaving findings, as well as prolonging the suffering for the victims' families. Any answers families may achieve through an inquest are legally delayed for years through section 29. This is traumatic and soul destroying for the families of the victim.

On 27 February 2012, Jason Garrels, aged 20, left for work never to return. The next time his parents would see him he was fighting to live—a fight that he lost. Since that fateful day, the Garrels family have sought answers. Instead, they found archaic legislation. They will not know the truth for years. The employing company, the very same individuals that could possibly have contributed to Jason's death, have available to them the luxury of section 29 of the Coroners Act which enables them to appeal court decisions time and time again, delaying the inevitable inquest.

The Garrels have found sympathy however in a judicial system frustrated by the legislation they are bound by. The Attorney-General himself told the Garrels family that the coroner is the best placed person to call an inquest. However, the coroner is hobbled as to when he is able to call an inquest because of section 29. This is an insult to the victims and their families.

An eminent Queensland QC agreed with the Garrels family when they stated there was no reason that an inquest could not be held independent of any court proceedings. At the very least the coroner should have the right to call for an inquest whenever he sees fit. However, because of section 29 the victims' families are forced to sit and wonder when the truth is going to come out and when anyone who knowingly contributed to the death is going to be brought to account. They are forced to endure years of wondering when they will be able to at least try to gain closure and deal with the life they now have without their son and brother.

The Garrels family deserve answers. Their son and brother Jason died at work—2½ years on they are still suffering, still in pain from the loss of their oldest son and older brother. The Clermont community still mourns the loss of a lovely genuine caring young bloke. This petition, which I tabled today, is the collective voice of a community and a family in mourning. This is not a witch-hunt, nor is the motive revenge. The motivation is for answers to enable an inquest to explore how and what happened, to highlight an unjust and redundant section of legislation. The motivation is justice for Jason.

(Time expired)

Social Housing

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.21 pm): I table an article in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* of questions asked by the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, which states—

Shadow Housing Minister Jo-Ann Miller has accused the State Government of having an "unfair and mean tenancy policy".

I table the correspondence surrounding this, including my own response.

Tabled paper: Bundle of emails to the Hervey Bay electorate office regarding housing commission tenant holiday policy [5660].

Quite clearly it says that I have provided a response to the shadow housing minister, Jo-Ann Miller's, comments about public housing rules, as well as provided a response to a number of questions.

I table the article 'Snooping gone too far' in Saturday's paper, which highlights Mr Lindsay Miller's anguish about rules that would have never affected him in his very sad circumstances.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, dated 2 August 2014, titled "'Snooping 'gone too far'" [5661].

There is no mention of the shadow minister, Jo-Ann Miller. I have come to expect this sort of rhetoric from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*—story-line posturing and agenda setting. This would be an all-time low though. I could have reassured this gentleman that he would not have been affected by these rules whatsoever.

Why was I asked questions that were presented by the shadow minister and not by the constituent in desperate uncertainty? It is just scaremongering all the time. I get sick and tired of the opposition scaremongering old people all the time. That is how they get their votes. They go out there and scaremonger these people. It is a disgrace.

I would like to set the record straight on another article yesterday. The shadow Attorney-General talked about the Fraser Coast boot camp and that it was ranked as the 10th tenderer and that it was 'the same organisation that reportedly started building residences before the tender was awarded'. What an absolute load of rubbish! The Hard Yakka program has been operating since 2008 and has successfully helped at-risk youth gain life and work skills. Bob Davis has been conducting training programs for nearly 30 years. Yet we get that type of garbage in this House by the shadow Attorney-General. I think that is an absolute disgrace, to try to ridicule somebody who has been helping people for 30 years. I am totally disgusted with those types of comments.

Moloney, Sergeant M; Port, Mr B

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (3.24 pm): Sergeant Matt Moloney is the officer in charge of Coen Police Station in remote Cape York. It is fitting this week that I acknowledge this exemplary serving police officer and, in so doing, show my sincere respect to Barry Port. Barry is the last serving Aboriginal tracker employed by the Queensland Police Service who recently retired after serving in excess of 30 years. He epitomised the dedication of trackers not only in their unique tracking skills but in their roles in community work. At Barry's retirement celebration in Coen recently, I was honoured to present him with an award marking his service.

Back to Sergeant Moloney, sworn into service on 12 December 1991. Matt served in Rockhampton, Winton, Thursday Island, Aurukun, Lockhart River and Cairns. Matt had a brief stint in plain clothes in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, investigating offences committed by and against children, later relieving in the Water Police and other Cape York stations including Cooktown, ending up in an OIC position in Coen on 20 August 2012.

Matt realised that 2014, being the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Queensland Police Service, provided a unique opportunity to highlight the contribution of Indigenous people who have served as law enforcement officers, get them some long overdue recognition and highlight the positive interaction between law enforcement and Indigenous people. There is a real history of cooperation between police and Indigenous people in Queensland, and this event gave an opportunity to shine a light on that positive cooperation.

Indigenous trackers have been used by law enforcement almost since the time of first contact. The invaluable law enforcement duties these men provided side by side with European officers should not be underestimated, forgotten or glossed over. These men in the past, and the continued service of Indigenous members of the QPS today, prove that a sense of duty and a concern for law and order is shared by both cultures. At the commemoration ceremony at Coen, Matt Moloney said—
These men, such as Police Tracker Barry Port, have proven their loyal sense of duty to not only the QPS but also to their communities and they have proven, time and time again, their strong desire for law and order is shared by both cultures.

Matt is a copper through and through and completely dedicated to living the values of the Queensland Police Service. Matt has recently won the Churchill Fellowship. I congratulate him for his achievement and wish him a long and distinguished career in the Queensland Police Service.

Youth Suicide Prevention

 **Mr TROUT** (Barron River—LNP) (3.27 pm): Run by Rotary Sunrise Cairns and Avanti Plus Cairns, last Sunday's Pirate Family Bike Ride saw families from all over Cairns gather in the early morning sun on the Esplanade to raise money for youth suicide prevention initiatives in Far North Queensland.

One woman, sporting a black tricorne and sword, watched the kids, young and old, cycling away along the esplanade, skulls and crossbones in abundance, giggling and ringing the bells on their trikes and bikes with not a care in the world. She would be remembering her own son riding his bike at the same age as these kids, wobbling as he waved, his mischievous face grinning back at her. But Declan, Ruth Crouch's son, is gone. He is not grown up, not flown the nest; he is gone and nothing Ruth or anyone else can do will bring him back.

Her life changed course when her 13-year-old son, Declan, disappeared on 9 March 2011. Cairns, Queensland and Australia prayed that he would be found safe and sound, but weeks passed then a month and then two months, and people prayed for closure for the family as every glimmer of hope faded with not a lead or clue to his whereabouts in sight. After a huge widespread and very public search, young Declan's body was found very near his Machans Beach home. Declan had taken his own life, and with it all the dreams his mother had for her youngest child.

Declan's suicide was, sadly, a real eye opener for the majority of us blissfully unaware of the incredible prevalence of teenage suicide. In the aftermath, in those dreadful days when reality would turn most people's lives into quicksand, Ruth battled her way through the misery of losing a child to channel her energies into supporting others through the Dr Edward Koch Foundation youth suicide prevention initiatives in Far North Queensland.

In 2012, Ruth joined with the foundation to launch the Declan Crouch Fund. Shortly afterwards, she put together a petition lobbying for a youth mental health facility in Cairns. Nine thousand people signed that petition—9,000! Daily I received stories from parents who had lost their children to suicide and was floored by how many more are struggling to keep their kids alive. Ruth said that, if her young son had been diagnosed as being depressed and suicidal, there would have been nowhere for him to go anyway to recover or to be kept safe. She was right. Youth suffering mental health problems in Cairns are placed in an adult mental health ward, which is totally inappropriate and for a bewildered, depressed teenager downright terrifying. We cannot address these issues from an adult perspective. We cannot put our kids into adult environments when they are compromised, expecting stupidly that they will come out of this experience unscathed. Suicide is the leading cause of death. Our kids desperately need a YPARC in Cairns. YPARC is a short-term step up-step down residential facility for young people with serious mental health issues. We owe it to our kids to give them the very best possible help in an appropriate environment.

Brisbane Central Electorate, Events

 **Mr CAVALLUCCI** (Brisbane Central—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise this afternoon in the chamber to use this time to update the House on some of the fantastic things that are happening in my electorate of Brisbane Central both this weekend and in the last couple of weeks. I am quite excited that on Saturday I will stand beside Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and local Brisbane City Councillor Vicki Howard.

Mr Gibson interjected.

Mr CAVALLUCCI: It is very exciting. What we are going to do this weekend is reopen and relaunch a \$4½ million refurbished Brunswick Street Mall. That is exciting for a number of reasons and I will go through those individually. First of all, back in 2011 there were five commitments I made as a candidate that I took to the election. I will not go over all five. I have delivered all five, but one of

those happened to be the meaningful redevelopment of the Brunswick Street Mall. That was very important to me for a number of reasons. It is important because the Brunswick Street Mall refurbishment means so much to reinvigorating and activating the businesses of the daytime economy that have been crippled with inaction over the last 20 years by former representatives.

Also what is quite important is how this environment that is now changing in Brunswick Street plays into positive outcomes in relation to the government's alcohol reduction related harm strategies, the Safe Night Out Strategy. I know there is a bill before the House so I will not get into it, but the environment that our young people go out in is of critical importance to ensuring their safety. Now the clutter, the obstacles and other factors within the mall have been removed. It is an open space which will deliver great outcomes for our young people who are going out and enjoying themselves.

I know that the member for Mount Coot-tha touched on this a little earlier: I was fortunate to join with the member for Mount Coot-tha, Saxon Rice, a few weeks ago to hold an education forum in relation to the 30-year vision for education, at the Rainworth State School. We heard from a speaker from CSIRO in relation to futures and we had a lovely lady Nicky Akanaro who facilitated the day. We had representatives of our of all schools there—teachers, parents, P&C chairs and principals. It was a fantastic outcome, and I look forward to some of the reports that will come out of that as part of the process of the Queensland Plan.

Finally, in relation to education in my electorate I had the great privilege of being able to work with the education minister and deliver a master plan process for all of my state schools in Brisbane Central. It is the first time that it has been tried because it is the only way we can ensure we have a plan for the next 20 years as to how education will be delivered and the infrastructure required to ensure that.

Gold Coast Cruise Ship Terminal



Dr DOUGLAS (Gaven—PUP) (3.33 pm): The Deputy Premier in his letter to the Gold Coast mayor dated 12 February states—

... a binding agreement reached that any gaming licence reached is conditional on the prior establishment and ongoing operation of a successful cruise ship terminal.

I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 12 February 2014, from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Jeff Seeney MP, to Mr Tom Tate, Mayor, City of Gold Coast, regarding establishing a cruise ship terminal in the Southport Broadwater [\[5662\]](#).

The prospect of a successful cruise ship terminal is all but blown out of the water with the announcement of a megacarnival terminal in Brisbane catering for megacruise liners now that they are dredging to over 16 metres throughout the bay to port those ships. Quoting yesterday's *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 'Carnival Australia are in talks with the state government and Brisbane City Council to build an expensive new terminal at the mouth of the Brisbane River.' The ambitious plan is to position the river city as the country's cruise ship capital. From next year Brisbane will have the same number of P&O cruise ships calling the city home as Sydney does, and other shipping lines are keen to follow suit.

Will the Deputy Premier allow the proponent of the Gold Coast Broadwater proposal, ASF, to build a high-density resort development with a casino in the Broadwater without the 'successful cruise ship terminal' that was put in as a condition? The many opponents of the Broadwater development have said all along this was never about a cruise ship terminal. It was purely a land grab and a very murky one at that. The draft city plan for the Gold Coast on display at the moment does not mention a megasuburb in the Broadwater. It talks about the need for open space preservation for recreation on The Spit and the Broadwater. When questioned on this glaring omission, the deputy chair of city planning, Councillor Bell and a former member for Surfers Paradise said that it could be amended if the project got up. How is it that a project the size of this one that introduces at least 15,000 more residents and a megaresort capacity on a small, vacant sand island is not included in a draft city plan? The draft city plan should have had this included. Three bridges, road widening, retail shops, a casino, resorts, up to 30 high-rise buildings including a 50-storey building are all left out of the plan. It tells me the community is being treated like mushrooms while the proponent, the Chinese government backed and Chinese government owned ASF, is given free reign to build over our public open space.

Now we have the government's own representative of the Broadwater asking in this week's *Gold Coast Sun* for the project to be scrapped, realising her own political future is well and truly on the line. It is interesting to see the different treatment by the Premier to dissenting members. I recall

being told that I was not fit to be in the LNP when I spoke against this even though there had been numerous resolutions by former Nationals and Liberals to leave the space as recreational space for future generations. We even had a verbal and stamped environmental guarantee by Mr Springborg that the area would not be touched for 40 years and 40 years beyond that. I table that.

Tabled paper: Photocopy of Queensland coalition flyer titled 'Save our Spit' [5663].

The time is right, Deputy Premier, to put a halt to any more discussion about the development of the Broadwater to allow the busy cruise liners to enter and exit the Brisbane River leaving the pristine waters of the Broadwater alone.

Life Education Centre

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (3.36 pm): I rise today to speak on the Life Education Centre's great work across Australia. I have been involved with them since my kids were in primary school in Sydney. Closer to home a week ago they paid a visit to Eight Mile Plains State School. I joined the years 6 and 7 class and sat in on a mobile classroom. We all learned about the dangers of caffeine drinks and how two children have died from drinking less than two cans. What impressed me most was the process they go through to get kids thinking about how they make decisions; to think about whether their decision in any given situation will be a safe one for themselves or their friends. I am sure the strategies learned will serve them well in their futures in many circumstances. I highly recommend a visit from the LEC bus to your school. I was so humbled to be given a beautiful award as a life education ambassador. These three drawings from students were framed with an acknowledgement—a very special presentation.

A couple of weeks ago as part of the Queensland Plan outcome I sponsored an education accord breakfast for all the schools in Stretton. Almost 50 people attended. We had great representation from principals, teachers, P&C parents, members of the public and even students. We asked for input on the future of education in Queensland and received some great ideas from five different aspects. We have compiled the contributions totalling 11 pages to submit to Education Queensland and distribute to the attendees.

There was an overwhelming desire by most of the attendees to see external exams as the main method of assessment because students are under enormous pressure to complete assignments and sometimes have four or five assignments due within days of each other. As a former psych nurse, I have to wonder what this does for their mental health. It was brought out that Queensland is the only state that has no external examination, and it was felt by parents, teachers and, more importantly, students that 50-50 internal-external assessment as used in other states would be a welcome reform. I close with one of the great quotes given on that day: you cannot teach creativity but you can kill it.

Sarina Show Society

 **Mr MALONE** (Mirani—LNP) (3.39 pm): The Sarina Show Society celebrated its 50th anniversary this year when its annual show was held last weekend on 2 and 3 August. It was officially opened on Saturday evening by Emma Crozier, who is the 2014 Miss Sarina Showgirl and also the 2014 Central Queensland Chapter Miss Showgirl. I am very proud to be attending the Queensland Miss Showgirl awards dinner this Friday in Brisbane to support Emma, the Sarina Show Society and the Central Queensland Chapter.

There has been a huge commitment by the committee led by President David Lemberg, who has been supported by his wife, Gillian, in the catering arena and Miss Showgirl program. Not only do they produce one of the best rural shows in Queensland, they also organise and host monthly markets—which are very popular and see both visitors and stallholders come from all over the district—and many other community events throughout the year which bring in an array of activities that are enjoyed by many.

All of us in this chamber know the value of volunteers within our communities—we simply would not exist without them. The Sarina Show Society is no exception. Apart from the elected committee members, they have a large contingent of volunteers who help out all year round, specifically during the show week. They also have a wonderful group of sponsors from right across the local business and corporate sector that enable the committee to bring such a professional event and entertainment to our community.

A major highlight of the official opening on Saturday night was the honouring of President David with not only one but two major presentations, much to his surprise. The first was a presentation by the Central Queensland Chapter of a meritorious award for his dedication and commitment to the

Sarina and Central Queensland show movement over many years. The second was honorary life membership of the Sarina Show Society which was presented by Miss Emma Crozier. Congratulations to Dave on his personal achievements and commitment over many years, and to his wife, Gillian, and the entire committee, volunteers and Emma on that spectacular show to celebrate 50 years. I am also very proud to have been patron of the Sarina Show Society for many years.

Curtis Island

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (3.41 pm): I was quite relieved that this morning the Deputy Premier acknowledged the pressures that the Gladstone community has faced and has, in great measure, accommodated—but not without cost. We have lost a lot of families as a result. I note that the community has done this with very little help, particularly from the former Labor government in its conditioning of the licences for the three LNGs, and nor since.

The council, which is the conduit for the Royalties for the Regions program, has been successful only once—and I am hesitant to say that, but it did come through its application—and that was for the Kin Kora roundabout which is a state controlled road. I certainly hope that the acknowledgement of these pressures is given tangible form with success in Royalties for the Regions, particularly for the community services one-stop shop, a hub in Phillip Street. I know that is going to be on the next application.

Yet another potential disadvantage being spoken of in the community is the possibility that when shutdown maintenance happens on the island the crews will be permitted to reside on Curtis Island. This is totally contrary to earlier undertakings and the conditioning that the camps were only for construction and at the conclusion of that construction they would be totally removed. The approvals, as I said, were conditioned accordingly. Now there is talk that turnaround workers will live over on the island. As I said, this is totally unnecessary. There are two construction camps on the mainland—one in Calliope, just up the road from where I live, and the other on the Calliope River-Yarwun Road. This latter camp is a very large camp and it is well serviced. Additionally, there will be considerable private rentals available.

The LNG companies would not agree to a bridge being built from the mainland to Curtis Island during the initial development discussions. The lack of a bridge, therefore, and the cost of getting workers over for the shutdowns should not be the justification for contradicting the original conditioning. In my discussions with Gladstone Regional Council, Mayor Gail Sellers and the council share my and the community's concerns that the earlier undertaking cannot be compromised. The Deputy Premier this morning agreed to discuss these concerns, and I am very grateful for that. I am sure I can say that the Gladstone Regional Council and I look forward to further discussions with him regarding these concerns. I reiterate that, after the construction is completed by next year, all maintenance workers need to live in the community.

Bundaberg Hospital, Centenary

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (3.44 pm): It is an honour to stand here today as the member for Bundaberg to acknowledge the achievements of the Bundaberg Hospital, which recently celebrated 100 years servicing the good people of Bundaberg. Last month I had the privilege of joining distinguished guests, past and present staff and members of my Bundaberg community at what I believe to be the heart and soul of our great city—the Bundaberg Hospital. Marking 100 years since the opening of the hospital is an occasion worthy of noting here today. The centenary plaque we unveiled is not only about celebrating the bricks and mortar of the hospital; more importantly, it is about celebrating the people who have served in it to provide health care to Bundaberg.

The hospital is the lifeblood of Bundaberg, and the centenary of the Bundaberg Hospital provided an opportunity to look back and reflect on what our hospital has meant to generations of Bundaberg people—the people who have had their bodies mended and been nursed back to health, the parents who have had the joy of giving birth in the maternity ward, and the many who have served the people of Bundaberg through a dedicated career at the hospital. One hundred years ago on the very spot where we celebrated its centenary, the hospital began servicing the Bundaberg community as a two-storey, 16-bed surgery and operating theatre. Today it remains in the same location, but now it is a bigger, more advanced and better facility with more than 200 beds, four operating theatres, specialist services and a 24-hour emergency room. While this government has continued to revitalise front-line health services, the resilience and professionalism of the staff at the Bundaberg Hospital have always shone through. When you look back through Bundaberg Hospital's history, you see time

and time again that it is the staff who have consistently displayed the same unwavering characteristics of professionalism, resilience and performance under pressure. The sacrifices they and their families make to contribute to the community deserve credit, and I would like to thank all the staff and their families for their dedication.

I would also like to congratulate the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Board chair Dominic Devine, the board members, the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service chief executive Adrian Pennington, the hospital's executive team and all the staff on their recent achievements. For 100 years, the Bundaberg Hospital has stood serving the Bundaberg community—through wars, disasters and the many happy times in between. I am so proud of its staff who have provided an outstanding service to generations of people and I congratulate them on their ongoing good work, providing health care to the people of Bundaberg.

Algeria Electorate, Schools

 **Mr SHORTEN** (Algeria—LNP) (3.47 pm): I am proud to be a member of a government that puts so much focus on education. But we do more than just focus on it; we put money where our mouth is. In the recent state budget, two schools in the Algeria electorate benefitted from increased funding for prep teacher aide hours. Algeria State School got a further 45.1 hours on top of the 45.1 they got last year, and Boronia Heights State School got an extra 26 prep teacher aide hours on top of what they were given previously.

I think we would all agree that our schools are a thriving, energetic community asset, and the safety of the children who attend our schools is certainly paramount in my mind. I am very happy that we as a state government have been able to contribute financially to increasing pedestrian safety around Grand Avenue State School. The total cost of the improvements will be about \$55,000, and the state has contributed \$28,000—so just over half—and this comes on the back of a set of flashing lights which we installed last year at the school. That has led to a fantastic improvement in safety in that school zone.

While I am speaking about Grand Avenue State School, I wish to give credit and pay tribute to its P&C, which understands that there are a lot of families in our community who are doing it tough at the moment. We all know that the Exhibition is just around the corner and a lot of families will find it tough to find the money to send themselves or their children to the show. So the Grand Avenue State School P&C have come up with an ekka day that they will run on the public holiday. That ekka day will contribute to the fund of the P&C. It will have rides, show bags and a petting farm. I encourage all residents in and around Forest Lake to make a beeline for the school on that particular day.

This coming Sunday the Markets on Grand will be held. It is another P&C initiative at Grand Avenue State School. It will have a wide range of stalls and there will be a wide range of bargains. Constituents can come along and have a cup of coffee from the Lions Club or the Rotary Club. Then they can come and have a chat to me at my stall at the Markets on Grand.

Townsville, Community Safety

 **Mr COX** (Thuringowa—LNP) (3.50 pm): Queensland families are the safest they have been in half a decade because of the revitalisation of front-line police, smarter technology and stronger laws. We have heard from Premier Newman and Police Minister Dempsey that the rate of Queensland reported offences has reduced dramatically, down 11 per cent for the 2013-14 financial year.

It will not be news to anyone here that I have been a strong advocate for targeting crime in this state, especially in the Townsville region. I am proud of everything that this government has achieved so far. There are now 800 additional police on the beat as part of our election commitment, and 38 of those are within the Townsville area. These numbers are to be boosted further with another 22 officers coming to the dedicated rapid response police hub that will be based in my electorate of Thuringowa. Those police are armed with better resources such as the QLink tablets to help them keep our streets safer. This is an example of smarter, borderless policing that we are now seeing across the state and the results are there to be seen.

The rate of reported offences against property has dropped 11 per cent across Queensland, a reduction of almost 22,000 offences. In Townsville, the rate is even higher. The crime clear-up rate has also reached record levels, thanks to the dedicated officers investigating these crimes. Earlier this year, I joined John Hathaway and David Crisafulli in congratulating the Townsville Property Crime Unit for referring 1,509 charges against 520 offenders within the 2013-14 financial year. The majority

of charges related to home burglary and car theft. As Premier Campbell Newman stated earlier this week, 'When we were elected we promised to be tougher on crime and we promised to boost front-line policing and that is exactly what we have done.'

Mums, dads and their children can sleep easier at night knowing their streets are safer. The community is also responding well to these changes. They are embracing a more positive relationship with their local police officers and feel confident reporting crimes. Tools like the myPolice blog and the relaunch of Neighbourhood Watch are an important part of that community engagement process.

With all of the achievements we have seen so far, there is always more that can be done. This week we further strengthened our state's laws by passing the Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2014. The bill will introduce new stronger penalties for those who torture animals and for sex offenders. It also introduces the new double jeopardy rules. I commend the work of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Jarrod Bleijie, for pushing these reforms through. Many of these reforms are groundbreaking, putting Queensland ahead of the rest of Australia when it comes to tackling the criminal elements in our community and ensuring swift, efficient access to justice. Some of those reforms include: a new offence of serious animal cruelty, with a maximum penalty of seven years in jail; amendments to Queensland's double jeopardy rules retrospectively, allowing offenders who got away with serious crimes in the past to be retried if new and compelling evidence emerges; mandatory minimum term of one-year imprisonment up to a maximum of five years for a sex offender who removes his or her GPS monitoring bracelet; allowing the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender even if he or she was caught by a police officer pretending to be a child.

I am proud to be part of an LNP government that has a strong plan to empower our police on the front line and ensure that suitable penalties are in place for those offenders who break the law.

Australian Red Cross

 **Mr STEWART** (Sunnybank—LNP) (3.53 pm): As many in the House would be aware, the Australian Red Cross is celebrating its centenary—100 years of helping people in need. This year is our chance to thank those who have served our nation during times of war, disaster or personal crisis. Recently I had the pleasure of joining President Meg Arthur and the Sunnybank Red Cross to commemorate this important occasion. Our local Red Cross branch began in 1914 after the outbreak of World War I and continued to serve our local community for a few years while there was a local need. It was reformed as the Sunnybank branch in 1963. Members immediately began raising funds and have continued to do so to assist those in need by providing medical equipment hire service, as well as providing aid and comfort to the community, especially in our local QEII Hospital and nursing homes. One of the more famous methods of fundraising was the annual Chelsea Flower Show, which continued for 17 years as a major feature on Brisbane's events calendar. For several of those years I was fortunate enough to be a volunteer at this event, and what an event it was with the beautiful displays and the great opportunity for our community to come together.

More recently, we have seen the Red Cross man police and emergency hotlines as well as manage the blood bank service. In 2013 the Sunnybank branch celebrated 50 years of continuous service in the community at the Sunnybank Hotel. Among those present were the national Red Cross chairman, Mr Michael Legge, and Queensland chairman, Mr John Pinney, along with Heather Chinchen who is now the branch patron. Recently the Sunnybank Red Cross branch celebrated the centenary of the establishment of the Red Cross Society in Australia and in our local area. Special mention must go to three members of the Sunnybank branch who took part in making this event ever so important. They were Mary Boland, Dot Donald and Heather Chinchen. Each shared the distinction of being local serving members of the Red Cross who are 100 years of age or more.

Across Australia, the centenary of the Red Cross is being marked by celebratory lunches, dinners, fashion parades and receptions hosted by officials, all designed to highlight the work and achievements of the largest humanitarian organisation. I thank Meg Arthur, president; Gail Farlow, vice-president; Chinta Singh, Beryl Skinner, Treasurer; and Peter Knight, the secretary of the Sunnybank Red Cross branch for their service. I also thank the past and present serving members and volunteers of the Sunnybank Red Cross branch for always responding as volunteers to national emergencies such as droughts, bushfires, floods and cyclones. For a hundred years Red Cross volunteers have epitomised ordinary people doing extraordinary things to help the most vulnerable in our communities.

Townsville, Bruce Highway



Hon. AP CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (3.56 pm): The northern beaches area of Townsville in my electorate of Hinchinbrook from the Bohle River to Bluewater is growing rapidly. In fact, it is identified as one of the fastest growing residential areas in Queensland. It is important that the infrastructure servicing these communities keeps up with this growth, and this includes the road infrastructure. There has been a staged approach to upgrading the Bruce Highway between the Bohle and Black rivers including the Townsville ring-road project and the upgrade to the intersection of the Bruce Highway and Mount Low Parkway. However, I have spoken in this House before about the need to upgrade the Bruce Highway between the Black River and Bluewater and this is now becoming more urgent.

Today I tabled a petition on behalf of 436 people from Townsville's northern beaches about the urgent need to upgrade the intersection of the Bruce Highway and Church and Bowden roads north of the Black River bridge. I have written to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads about this matter and have met with him personally to discuss the importance of this issue for my constituents of Townsville's northern beaches. The safety concerns of my constituents have not abated. So today I have written to the minister again and tabled this petition on their behalf. In the minister's response to my previous representations I was pleased to learn that the Department of Transport and Main Roads has developed a proposal to upgrade this stretch of the Bruce Highway as part of the Queensland government's Bruce Highway Action Plan. I noted and accept the fact that, as the Bruce Highway is part of the national road network, the Queensland government is seeking funding from the Australian government for this particular project. Nevertheless, this petition from my constituents requests that this intersection be upgraded immediately, citing numerous accidents and near misses that have occurred at this location. This petition confirms that the concerns I have previously raised with the minister in writing and in person are shared by many of my constituents on Townsville's northern beaches.

The long-term solution is the full signalisation of the intersection of the Bruce Highway and Black River Road with adjacent service roads down to Bowden Road and Church Road. However, I have been working with the Townsville office of the Department of Transport and Main Roads to develop an acceptable and effective interim solution to improve the safety of the intersection of the Bruce Highway and Bowden and Church roads. I have requested that, in responding to my latest correspondence and to the petition which I have presented to the Queensland parliament on behalf of my constituents, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads investigate this viable alternative and potential funding to deliver this important road safety project on behalf of my constituents on the northern beaches of Townsville.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee

Report

Resumed from p. 2572.



Mr GRANT (Springwood—LNP) (3.59 pm): In commenting today on budget estimates, I would like to begin by mentioning the fact that the three ministers, being the ministers for transport, for housing and for local government, all demonstrated an extremely high level of commitment and performance as ministers in their respective portfolios. Today I have decided to focus on matters of interest for the residents of my Springwood electorate.

In the portfolio of the Minister for Education, Training and Employment I would like to just share that these schools have shared in \$10 million for safety improvements which has been spent on the installation of flashing lights: Springwood Road State School, Springwood Road State High, Eight Mile Plains State School and John Paul College. My schools are doing extremely well with increased

funding for building and maintenance: in the case of Shailer Park Primary School, the recent installation of web access throughout the whole school campus. I would also like to share this interesting statistic. Departmental staff advised the minister that the proportion of children enrolled in kindergarten back in 2008 was 29 per cent, but in 2013-14 that has risen to an amazing 97 per cent.

Moving to the area of the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, in the electorate of Springwood the police officer in charge has advised me that now we have an extra 11 full-time positions in the Springwood and Loganholme stations. We know that over 800 extra police positions have been established right across our vast state of Queensland. At an operational level, 1,200 criminal gang participants have been arrested on 3,000 charges.

Moving now to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, he has informed us that whereas Labor had a program for a 20 per cent increase, then 15 per cent, then 15 per cent in the price of bus and train fares et cetera, the LNP government immediately halved that to 7.5 per cent and has now capped the increase to just 2.5 per cent. Compared to Labor's 20 per cent, this is very good news for Springwood commuters.

The Minister for Health confirmed that the Mums and Bubs program will continue, which provides home visits for new mums. This program has \$28.9 million in funding over the four-year period.

Finally, we come to the portfolio of the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Back while serving as a councillor in Logan over many years, I suffered the sting of the effects of the preferred practice at the time of locking everybody out of state forests, but I say today how pleasing it is to hear a very different approach now. When Minister Dickson was questioned about opening up access to our large parkland reserves he answered with a raft of initiatives that he is implementing to encourage more people to visit our national parks and state forests. These are initiatives that range from commercial leasing or ecotourism—that required legislative change—to funding the construction of new mountain bike trails.

I simply acknowledge the huge effort put in by all ministers, their staff and departmental officers over the estimates period.

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (4.03 pm): I rise to speak on the 2014-15 budget estimates report No. 48 of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee. My portfolio committee looks after transport, housing and local government, so I will speak to the individual portfolios in detail today. The first one I will touch on is the transport portfolio.

During the estimates process it was great to hear the minister talk about the cost-of-living initiatives offered by this Newman government, such as the freezing of motor vehicle registration for a period of three years and the reduction in public transport fare increases that were planned under Labor. Honourable members in this parliament will know that this government made an election commitment to freeze motor vehicle registration for the family vehicle for three years. Throughout the process the minister confirmed that this was the case. This year motor vehicle registration will be frozen once again.

With regard to public transport fare increases, we made the election commitment to not only halve Labor's 15 per cent increases every year but also offer free trips after nine journeys. For residents of my electorate who travel to the city Monday to Friday from the Morayfield train station, this means they are \$920 a year better off because of this initiative. That is a very welcome cost-of-living saving to people in the Morayfield electorate. The transport minister also gave some details regarding the flashing school zone lights program that the government is delivering. In our electorate we have had three sets of these flashing school zone lights installed around local schools, and it is a great child safety initiative around our local schools to ensure that children get to school safely.

I move on and talk about housing. It was great to have the housing minister, the Hon. Tim Mander, out in the Morayfield electorate last week to announce the over \$3 million, 17 one-bedroom unit complex at Frank Street. What was most impressive about the minister on that day was that he spoke a lot about the government's initiatives to put roofs over people's heads. To give honourable members an idea of the success that this government has had, when I became the member for Morayfield in March 2012 we had 431 people on the public housing waiting list and that number is now around 307. There has been a dramatic drop in the number of people who have been placed into social housing around the Morayfield electorate.

There were a number of initiatives, including underoccupied rooms and moving people around to suitable accommodation, that the minister outlined in detail during the estimates process. He outlined some of the initiatives that the government has used to free up rooms and houses to ensure that everyone, particular those in priority sections of the waiting list, has a roof over their head. It was also great to have the minister meet with Pine Village residents down at our manufactured homes park to give them an update with regard to the review of the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003. Those residents wanted to pass on their thanks to the minister for coming down and fielding some questions with regard to what is happening in that space.

I will finish up today with local government. It was great that the local government minister spent a lot of time during the estimates process talking about natural disasters and the recovery and resilience of the areas he visited with regard to the natural disasters that have occurred in Queensland over the last five years. One of the areas around the Morayfield electorate that has been affected is Dale Street, and I have spoken about that two or three times now. To remind honourable members about the process, we have teamed up in a three-way split with local, state and federal governments to deliver a \$5.8 million flood levee, or resilience program, for the Dale Street area in Burpengary. I personally went down there and saw the heartbreak that these families were going through. This has provided those residents, who have been flooded year after year and suffered through extreme conditions, with some comfort that this government is doing something and coming up with a sensible solution with regard to the betterment program and building infrastructure to ensure they do not keep getting flooded year in and year out. I am very proud to be part of a government that has been able to work with all levels of government to deliver that project.

I would just like to say thank you to the ministers who took part in the process. It was very worthwhile. I look forward to next year, and I commend this report to the House.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.08 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate this afternoon in relation to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee estimates. I would just follow on from the contribution made by the member for Morayfield where he stated something about looking forward to being in the House next year. Looking around this parliament this afternoon, I am just looking at all the oncurs who will not be back. I tell you what: it will be absolutely brilliant when you are all out! I join with my colleagues here this afternoon—I see the Leader of the House is giving hand actions to those over there as if to say, ‘Quieten down.’ Well, you will never quieten me down because I tell the truth in this parliament!

Let us look at the Minister for Housing. What has he done? He has attacked and continued to attack people who live in public housing. They have had a gutful of it. They are sick of it. This is a government of punishment, a government of no compassion and a government of no heart. I really enjoyed being at estimates with this minister. It was very interesting that I had to announce a government tender because he did not have the bottle to do so. He already had the tender in place in his department but he refused to announce it, so I did it for him. I was advised by many sources that Compass, a New South Wales organisation, had been selected to run the Logan Renewal Initiative.

Over time we will see about 90 per cent of the state’s public housing being managed by the non-government sector. But what happens to those lifelong public servants in the department of housing? Will they be sacked? The officers do not know, but they believe that they will be sacked. Will they be transitioned over? Probably not, because the LNP does not give a toss about public servants.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, I ask you to keep your language within the parliamentary framework.

Mrs MILLER: Thank you very much for your guidance. I appreciate it. It is my view that this LNP government has an ideological hatred of public servants in Queensland. Will they keep their entitlements and their conditions? Probably not, because the government has routed the conditions of the Public Service ever since it came to power.

I have a message for members opposite: you sack 20,000 or so public servants and you sack these people in the department of housing and—guess what—they are going to sack you back next year because they have had a gutful of it. The clients have had a gutful of it, too. You sack them; they will sack you back. That is what happens. They are waiting with baseball bats to come after you—and good on them!

Mrs Ostapovitch interjected.

Mrs MILLER: I take that interjection from—who are you? What’s your name?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me, member for Bundamba—

Mrs MILLER: I am just asking her.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, your comments will be addressed through the chair and you will also use appropriate titles for people in the chamber.

Mrs MILLER: I am sorry, but I think the member for Stretton has made—

Mrs Ostapovitch interjected.

Mrs MILLER: I have just—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member for Bundamba, or I will sit you down.

Mrs MILLER: Thank you very much. She is just so rude in interrupting me. She would not know what it is like.

I will now go on to the temporary absence policy. What we see here is another session of punishment of people who live in public housing. Only this afternoon I read something in which the Minister for Housing was carrying on about the fact that people in public housing do not deserve to be able to go away; they do not deserve to be able to go into hospital. They have to fill out forms. We have seen continual mistruths from this Minister for Housing. I tell you what: the housing service centre officers know the truth, and so do the people who live in public housing. In fact, we believe that there will be a special branch set up within the department of housing. There will be peeping Toms all over the place who will be knocking on the doors of public housing tenants asking, 'Are you home?' And if they are not they will get a notice to get out. I am absolutely sick of it. So are the public servants in the housing department and so are the tenants, many of whom have been lifelong tenants of public housing. They deserve respect.

(Time expired)

 **Mr SHORTEN** (Algera—LNP) (4.13 pm): Whenever the member for Bundamba speaks I am reminded of that old saying 'empty vessels make the most sound'. I rise today to make my contribution to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee's report titled *2014-15 budget estimates*. The consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of both the responsible minister and the chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio area. This examination was undertaken through a process of questions on notice and through a public hearing. The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in the budget papers, answers to prehearing questions on notice, evidence taken at the hearing and additional information given in relation to those answers.

The Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee had three ministers to grill on one day: the Minister for Transport, the Hon. Scott Emerson; the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Tim Mander; and the Minister for Local Government and Resilience, the Hon. David Crisafulli. I will start with the Minister for Transport.

In 2014-15 total capital purchases for the Transport and Main Roads portfolio are in the range of \$4.590 billion. The Department of Transport and Main Roads' budgeted capital purchases for 2014-15 total \$3.913 billion. The Department of Transport and Main Roads' capital purchases will primarily focus on critical investment in transport infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of the growing Queensland population. Some of the highlights of this capital program are: \$177.3 million for the \$590 million duplication of the Bruce Highway; \$41.1 million to widen a portion of the Centenary Highway to six lanes; \$30.4 million of an estimated \$1.6 billion for the Toowoomba second range crossing; and \$25.5 million for the New Generation Rollingstock project to construct a new maintenance facility and new rolling stock. I know that the member for Ipswich West is very keen on that.

I would like to give just a couple of highlights for the Department of Transport and Main Roads in areas other than capital works. They include commencing light-rail passenger services on stage 1 of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project; implementing public transport plans for the upcoming G20 Leaders Summit; developing the heavy-vehicle action plan as part of the implementation of the Moving Freight strategy; and the common-sense things we do as a government such as reducing red tape for customers with the removal of registration labels.

Some of the key issues that were raised with the minister at estimates related particularly to our government's savings for families through the freeze on vehicle registration costs; the benefits for customers, including young drivers, with the introduction of the new Queensland driver's licence regime; a list of schools which have benefited from the government's flashing school lights scheme—in my electorate Boronia Heights State School and Grand Avenue State School have both benefitted from the installation of flashing school lights; and the federal-state contributions for the Ipswich Motorway upgrade between Darra and Rocklea.

The Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister Mander, was very forthcoming with answers to the committee, particularly in response to questions from government members. He was very knowledgeable in his portfolio area. I commend the minister on his work over the last year and a half to put roofs over the heads of needy Queenslanders. If I remember correctly, when we came to government there were well over 30,000 people on the waiting list and now that number is just under 20,000. I commend the Minister for Housing and Public Works.

I also commend the Minister for Local Government. He is endeavouring to continue to rebuild the relationship with local governments that was smashed under the former Labor government.

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (4.18 pm): It gives me pleasure to rise today to briefly speak in favour of the budget estimates 2014-15 as part of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee. I firstly want to take the time to thank the very hardworking secretariat that ensures we the committee have all that is required in such a timely manner week after week. Their hard, tireless work does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated. I also thank the committee chair, the member for Warrego, for his work in leading this committee and note that during the estimates hearings he ensured that opposition members were given their fair share of question time throughout the two-day process. The estimates process showed how all three ministers have continued to get this state back on track. The Minister for Transport has got this state back on track within his portfolio with things like the best on-time public transport in the country and by reducing what would have been 15 per cent year on year fare increases, not only halving them over the first two years but now more than halving the increase yet again. The people in my electorate of Nudgee cannot thank the minister enough for that.

The housing minister has dramatically lowered those on the public housing waiting list and initiatives such as the three-strikes policy have cleaned up problems that we would see in our electorate offices, but no longer. Public housing tenants now get it and are treating their affordable public housing with respect and this has resulted in a dramatic drop in complaints to our office in Nudgee. I commend the local government minister for the great work he has done with the ongoing flood recovery and the work he has done with all councils and note that he has taken the time to visit all 77 councils to ensure that they have all been heard and continues to work with all of them.

I congratulate the Minister for Transport and member for Indooroopilly, the Minister for Housing and member for Everton, and the Minister for Local Government and member for Mundingburra for the way they calmly and methodically addressed questions from both sides and took questions on notice and came back within a more than timely manner to ensure all questions were answered and corrected the record where needed. No matter how rude the questions asked sometimes were, they kept calm and articulated their and their departments' great work. I again thank the secretariat, the departments, the ministers and their staff and the members of my committee.

 **Hon. SA EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.21 pm): I thank the members of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee, in particular committee chair, Howard Hobbs, for his leadership. I also want to thank the parliamentary staff who supported the committee in their work and those from my department. It was an important opportunity to discuss the work undertaken within the Department of Transport and Main Roads to deliver on this government's strong plan for better infrastructure and better planning. It was an important opportunity to show the work that is underway to get more people onto a public transport system that is becoming more affordable, frequent and reliable under an LNP government.

The total budget expenditure for 2014-15 is \$9.3 billion. The current year will include a \$4.8 billion QTRIP program—37 per cent more than Labor was planning to spend in the same year. That includes a record \$770 million towards the Bruce Highway—that 1,700 kilometre lifeline and economic backbone of our state. It comes on top of the investment in major road projects completed in 2013-14, including the southern approach to Cairns, improvements at the Mains and Kessels Road intersection, the deviation at Cardwell Range north, and a new interchange of the Bruce and Dawson

highways at Calliope Crossroads. Driving to shopping, to work or to school on the north side of Brisbane will become easier with the new road-over-rail crossings at Robinson Road at Geebung nearing completion and the crossing at Telegraph Road at Bracken Ridge, which is on track to open to traffic in late 2014.

We are now into our second year of our two-year \$350 million Road Safety Action Plan. Our road toll is down and for the first time the state has a clear blueprint for safety on our roads. The Join the Drive to Save Lives campaign has rolled out over the past year and has struck a chord in the community with high recognition and interaction. This combines with 60 other safety initiatives including our \$10 million flashing school light program at 300 schools, helping to protect our schoolchildren and their parents.

We are planning for a growing population with the awarding of the new generation train rolling stock contract. This 32-year contract is for the design, construction and maintenance of 75 six-car trains for South-East Queensland, helping to ease congestion on our busy road networks. Work is also well underway for our once-in-a-generation BaTT project, with the design, the business case and the EIS being finalised. Compared to Labor's unfunded alternative, it saves billions, delivers solutions for bus and train and does not raze more than 100 family homes and properties in suburbs like Yeerongpilly. It will support a train network that is now operating at an all-time high for peak on-time reliability. We have also added more than 3,000 additional weekly train and bus services since 2012 and tackled Labor's fare affordability, capping fares at 2.5 per cent for the next three years. The successful free travel after nine weekly go card journeys is benefiting 80,000 regular weekday passengers and is a testament to this commitment.

During the committee hearing we heard the acknowledgement from the member for South Brisbane that the LNP government has to sort out the mess in public transport—a legacy left by her leader, Annastacia Palaszczuk, when she was transport minister. I was also interested that the member for South Brisbane would point out that my department has spent about \$9,000 on corporate hospitality in 2014 compared to more than \$60,000 spent by her leader when she was transport minister. As my colleague the local government minister stated, 'Here, Annastacia. Hold this. It's ticking.'

I can assure those opposite that public transport has improved, and it has taken a strong plan by the LNP government to do it. Public transport is on the mend and for the first time since the first of Labor's annual 15 per cent fare hikes in January 2010 we have seen patronage increase. It is a great result. We are also working on additional public transport infrastructure including the Moreton Bay rail link, the Browns Plains bus station, the Victoria Point jetty bus station, the Warrigal Road Greenlink, the Kawana bus station and the Nambour park-and-ride. As well as a focus on passengers, the Moving Freight strategy released in 2013-14 aims to improve the efficiency of our network. Once again, I thank the committee for the opportunity to show that this LNP government has a strong plan for a brighter future for all Queenslanders.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (4.26 pm): It is a great privilege to rise to speak on the debate of the estimates committee report. One thing we did learn from the estimates committee process was what the Labor Party is very good at. It is very good at misrepresentation and it is very good at scaremongering, and nobody does that better or exemplifies that better than the member for Bundamba. Let us look at the track record of the member for Bundamba. She has scared the living daylights out of nursing home residents, she has scared the living daylights out of caravan park residents, she has scared the living daylights out of those in the private rental market, she has scared the living daylights out of public housing tenants and of course now she has moved on to the Housing Service Centre staff—those very hardworking departmental staff who do a fantastic job.

What is different about this government compared to the previous government is that we have actually engaged with people and we have engaged with public servants. I have been to the 22 housing service centres at least once and I have been to Woodridge three times and I have been to Robina two times because they will be directly affected by the policy that we have of transferring 90 per cent of property and tenancy management to the community housing organisation. In terms of those discussions, the first thing is that they are shocked that a minister has taken the time to speak to them and talk to them about the changes that we are making. The issue that has been at the forefront of my mind is to ensure that we look after them in terms of their employment conditions into the future, and I am extremely confident that at both Woodridge and Robina, where the first two transfers will take place, those staff will be totally looked after and will have a job in the community

housing sector and in five years time they will look back and say, 'Thank goodness we actually did this.' So we can put away all of that scaremongering from the member for Bundamba because it is total rubbish.

Where else does this scaremongering apply? It applies to the temporary absence policy where people have been abusing the system for years—taking three months, six months, nine months or 12 months off in heavily subsidised public housing where they are subsidised at an average of \$8,000 a year. One example that was mentioned in the debate on Tuesday is one woman who has just applied for three months leave but who has already had 12 months off in the previous four years—25 per cent of the time she is not in her home. The compassion that those opposite are trying to show is totally misdirected. It should not be towards those who are actually in houses at the moment receiving heavily subsidised rent; it should be directed to those who are on the waiting list who want to get into a house. When they see houses that have been vacant for six to nine months they are coming to me and asking, 'Why are these houses vacant when I'm sitting here on the waiting list?'

Let us look at the record of this government with regard to social housing. The social housing waiting list has dropped—

Mr Cox interjected.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! Stop the clock, please. Member for Thuringowa and member for Bundamba, your comments will be made through the chair. If you want to take your conversation outside, please do so.

Mr MANDER: Let us look at the record of this government with regard to social housing. By far the biggest achievement is being able to reduce the social housing waiting list from over 30,000 to below 19,000—around 18,600. There is no trickery in this at all. The opposition has claimed that we have tricked the housing waiting list. The system that we apply today is the same system that was applied in the days of Labor. That is why these results are real results. We are comparing apples with apples. There has been no trickery. We have put people into homes and, very importantly, we have diverted people away from the public housing system by providing incentives for them to go into the private rental market. That system is working and the 14½ thousand people who were put into housing over the last couple of years are incredibly grateful for that.

We have also introduced a very successful antisocial behaviour policy, the three-strikes policy. It is working. People now understand that, if they are in public housing, they have an obligation to their neighbourhood, they have an obligation to the property they are in—that they must look after it, that they must respect their neighbours. If they do not do that, we will give them a warning. We will give them plenty of chances to change their behaviour but, ultimately, if they do not respect that, they have no future in public housing. The system is working. The second strike rate is low—at 25 per cent. People are getting the message. Under this government, social housing is far better off.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (4.31 pm): I am delighted to make a contribution. I should start by placing on record my deep thanks to everyone involved in the process, and that includes the departmental staff, my ministerial staff, the committee, the chairman and all of the parliamentary staff. I commend all members on the committee for the manner in which they conducted themselves during the debate—and I mean all members. I include the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The debate was certainly done in an intense manner, but it was done in a very fair manner.

I contrast that with the behaviour that I have seen in the last half an hour from the member for Bundamba which, quite frankly, has been a disgrace. She has done no service to herself or this parliament. To come in and screech and yell at people—

Mrs Miller: Who are you to talk?

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am sorry to interrupt you, Minister, but the interjections from my left and specifically from the member for Bundamba are loud and intrusive and I ask you to cease.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I applaud all members of the committee. The hearing was held in an excellent manner. Nobody wins when you have people screeching like parrots. It is disrespectful to the entire parliament.

This was my third estimates hearing. Again, the recurring theme, for the third year, seemed to be around the finances of the Brisbane City Council—the council in Queensland with a strong financial rating and a neutral outlook. As I repeated, I only wish that all other 76 councils in the state were in a similar financial position. For some reason it is the one that seems to attract the attention of the opposition year after year.

I spoke to the committee in two parts. One was about the achievements in local government and the other on the Reconstruction Authority. In terms of local government, there have been sweeping changes to the act. We have put mayors and councillors in charge. We certainly spoke in depth about my visits to the regions and empowering councils. We spoke about the deferrals being down and delivering on the ground.

I was very upfront with councils. From the start I said that this was going to be the year of delivery and that those councils that were not able to deliver should not have applied for funding. I am very firm on that, because no resident benefits from a dream, a project that is planned and sits on a shelf. People benefit only when it gets delivered. That is why I was very firm that this year would be the year of delivery. There was a big turnaround and I give credit to all councils.

Following a question from the member for Nudgee, I also spoke about fitness equipment and our desire to increase people's activity. If I can just digress for one second: today I read with aghast an online *Courier-Mail* article about that fast food giant McDonald's desire to push home deliveries into the Hervey Bay area. The article goes on to talk about the fact that it is a region that has been identified as having some problems on the health front. Quite frankly, at a time when we want to get people into using their local council parks, which was a big theme of this estimates hearing, that is a deadset disgrace from McDonald's. I understand absolutely that companies have a right to market as they choose. But they have said clearly that this is a trial and that they have chosen the Hervey Bay region. I call on the residents of Hervey Bay to give this proposal the cold shoulder. It is not right.

Surely, it is not too much to ask somebody to leave their home if they seek to get fast food. In an era where councils and the state government are doing all in their power to get people to leave their homes and go into the community and take advantage of all that is beautiful about living in Queensland, I wonder when McDonald's will stop its push to try to get people to stuff their mouths on a regular basis with their greasy food. So I say to the residents of Hervey Bay: please treat this proposal the way it should be treated and that is to ignore this with every ounce of their energy.

In the time that I have left, I want to talk about the Reconstruction Authority. We have unashamedly put people on the ground. We have unashamedly got to work. We have turned around the turnaround times on delivery. We have spun them around by putting local people back in charge. I want to commend everybody involved in the Reconstruction Authority. They have done a magnificent job. I commend the chief executive officer, Mr Graeme Newton, for his tenure and the excellent job that he has done. I commend the councils for embracing the new opportunities that have come with working with us rather than against us. In conclusion, I thank everyone who is involved as we have empowered local government on a journey over the course of the last few years.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Committee of the Legislative Assembly

Report



Madam SPEAKER: The question is—

That the report of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly be adopted.

I will take this opportunity to speak as chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. I will make a few comments on behalf of committee members in relation to the committee's report of its examination of the budget estimates contained in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill for the 2014-15 financial year. I am confident that all members of the 54th Parliament, no matter the political affiliation they have, go about their business in this precinct mindful of their service to the state as they seek to

represent their constituents. In this we are supported by the many excellent staff that the Parliamentary Service has—from the chamber services, to committee staff, to finance and administration personnel, to function staff and many others. The role of the non-political staff of the parliament who ensure the smooth operation and the institutional integrity of the parliament is vital to allow the Legislative Assembly to function. I speak on behalf of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly and on behalf of each member of parliament when I express my sincere appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by each and every staff member. Through the Clerk of the Parliament, we convey our thanks to everybody—to the Clerk and all of his supporting staff, everyone who makes working in this parliament possible.

In conclusion, I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their contribution throughout the year as we worked together for the good of the parliament and for Queensland.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.39 pm): I rise to make a few brief comments about the report from the Committee of the Legislative Assembly regarding the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2014. My comments will be on behalf of the opposition. The opposition supports the committee's recommendation that the expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2014 be agreed to. I will now expand on several issues raised during the hearing.

Firstly, one of the matters raised by the opposition was the amount of time and money wasted when this House considers legislation that ultimately ends up being declared invalid or is overturned through the court system. In particular, the opposition raised the matter of the Criminal Law Amendment (Public Interest Declarations) Amendment Bill 2013. This bill was introduced on Wednesday, 16 October 2013 with a seven-minute speech from the Attorney-General. Then there was a 42-minute debate and subsequent division over the urgency motion that accompanied that bill. That was followed by the second reading debate on Thursday, 17 October which started at midnight and went for two hours and seven minutes.

The Clerk was kind enough to take the question about costs on notice and provided the committee with a considered response regarding these costs. The Clerk calculated that the total direct and indirect costs for additional parliamentary staffing on the evening of Thursday, 17 October 2013 would equate to approximately \$1,601.17 per hour. Therefore, by my calculations, the staffing costs associated with this legislation—mind you these are laws that were ultimately ruled invalid by the Court of Appeal—was more than \$4,000. Of course, this calculation does not include the costs associated with the members of parliament being here, all of the public servants and the lawyers in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Premier and Cabinet and, of course, the Parliamentary Counsel, who were obviously involved in preparing the legislation at the government's direction. These costs could amount to many thousands of dollars. It could, in fact, amount to tens of thousands of dollars. This is all money wasted by this government.

The answer highlights the fact that the Attorney-General wasted valuable government and parliamentary resources on these laws—laws that anyone with a basic understanding of the law knew never had any chance of success. We may not yet have seen the end of this wanton waste, with the High Court challenge to the Attorney-General's VLAD laws due to be heard next month. These are just two of the many examples of why the Attorney-General is not suitable for this high office. The Leader of the Opposition, and the opposition generally, have called on the Premier to sack the Attorney-General.

The opposition also raised questions during the estimates hearing about the proportion of in-house and contracted staff employed within the parliamentary precinct. My questions on the day of the hearing about workers installing shower heads created a slight stir on social media, with some comments seemingly inferring that it was a relatively trivial matter. However, the main thrust of my questions had not to do with what work was being done but how it was being done and by whom. It seems that the Parliamentary Service is being subjected to the same pressures to outsource and privatise services that other government departments and agencies face. Labor will always stand up for the rights of workers. We will always do our utmost to protect their wages and conditions. We will not stand silently by while this LNP government privatises more and more services by stealth.

I would like to thank the Speaker and the Clerk and officers of the parliament for their efforts during the estimates process and for providing detailed responses to our questions.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (4.45 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (4.45 pm): I move—

That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Question put—That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

FORESTRY AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 20 March (see p. 835).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (4.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Health and Community Services Committee for its prompt consideration of the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014. I note that the committee tabled its report on the bill on 26 May 2014.

The Newman LNP government has a strong plan and we are working hard to achieve a brighter future for all Queenslanders. Part of that plan is to ensure a consistent and streamlined approach for commercial operators who want to conduct business on our protected estate. This is why this bill amends the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 to insert new streamlined provisions for commercial activity permit renewals to ensure complementary arrangements across all legislation administered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the QPWS. The bill also makes a number of amendments to the Forestry Act 1959 that will facilitate the remaking of the forestry legislation which is scheduled to expire this year. As outlined in my speech when I introduced the bill to the House in March of this year, the amendments in this bill fall into five categories which I will briefly outline.

The first category of amendments involves transferring officer powers into the act from the regulation. Officers appointed under the act are either forest officers or plantation officers. Forest officers are appointed Public Service employees, such as officers of the QPWS and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, who manage areas such as native state forests. Plantation officers are employees of HQPlantations, the company licensed to manage plantation timber within specific state plantation forests. The majority of officer powers are already specified in the Forestry Act, so it makes sense to transfer the remaining powers currently in the regulation. This will result in a consolidated set of powers in the act in line with modern standards.

The second category of amendments in this bill relates to the insertion of officer powers into the act for the management of camping and animals. For example, in an emergency, such as an approaching severe storm or wildfire, officers will have the power to direct people to leave a campground to ensure their safety. Inserting these provisions in the act will provide the same powers for officers managing state forests as the powers that QPWS officers currently have for managing national parks and recreation areas which have been in place since 2006. This will provide a consistent approach across the different land tenures for our rangers to manage our customers in an emergency.

The third category of amendments relates to bringing the maximum penalty for offences under the Forestry Act up to date to ensure consistency with contemporary legislation. In many cases, the maximum penalty able to be applied under the Forestry Act for offences is significantly lower than what may be applied for the same offence under more recent legislation. Some examples of these

offences include unlawful lighting of a fire, polluting a watercourse, dumping waste and unlawful possession of traps, firearms or explosive devices. Those offences are located in the Forestry Regulation with a maximum penalty of only 10 penalty units, which amounts to just over \$1,100.

The Newman government does not believe a maximum fine in the order of \$1,100 is a sufficient penalty, for example, when someone unlawfully lights a fire that subsequently spreads and destroys native forests, commercial timbers, public infrastructure and private property. Therefore, the bill will increase the maximum penalty for such serious offences. However, in order to provide for those higher penalties, the offence must be moved into the act. Amendments in this bill will not always result in increased penalties. In several circumstances, the existing penalties in the forestry legislation are higher than the equivalent offences in other contemporary legislation and the bill will reduce those maximum penalties to achieve consistency, while still maintaining sufficient deterrence.

The fourth category of amendments involves simplifying arrangements associated with commercial activity permits. When conducting a commercial activity in state forests and recreation areas, businesses must hold a commercial activity permit. This requirement enables different activities occurring in our estate to be more effectively managed to avoid potential user conflict and overcrowding, particularly in popular locations for visitors. The permit also ensures that the state obtains a financial return for the commercial use of the state assets. Currently, there is no ability to renew commercial activity permits. Instead, a new application must be lodged and assessed, even where the permit activities are the same as authorised under the expiring permit. This unnecessary paperwork costs business valuable time and money that could be better spent on growing our tourism industry. That is why I am pleased to advise the House that this bill will simplify arrangements for commercial activity permit holders by introducing a simple renewal process. This bill will also reduce the red tape for small scale commercial filming and photographic activities in state forests by removing the need to obtain a permit where there are less than 10 people and no structures involved in that activity.

The fifth and final category of amendments is miscellaneous provisions to clarify the improved operation of the Forestry Act. Briefly, they include such things as allowing officers to produce an identity card instead of their letter of appointment, enabling a warrant issued to a forest officer to be executed by another forest officer if necessary, improving consistency across legislation by increasing the term of a stock grazing permit from seven years to 10 years to align with the Nature Conservation Act 1992, amending the definition in the act of 'recreational purpose' to include recreational services provided to forest users by a business and including provisions for booking camping permits for state forests over the internet or by telephone.

The Newman government has a strong plan for a bright future in Queensland. This bill delivers real results for Queenslanders by making it easier for tourism operators to conduct business in our state forests, allowing our rangers to manage protected areas more efficiently and ensuring that those who would do our forests harm are appropriately punished. Again I thank the Health and Community Services Committee for its report on this bill. The committee's report recommends that the bill be passed and the government is certainly happy to accept that recommendation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.53 pm): The opposition will not be opposing the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014. For the most part the measures contained within it are eminently sensible and we are happy to support them. There are a small number of issues about which we have reservations. I will be asking the minister to provide further clarification on a number of issues and we reserve the right to divide on particular clauses should we consider the explanations to be insufficient. In particular, clause 41 represents a real difficulty for the opposition, not so much in the language that is used but in the potential and particular application that may come.

The bill transfers a number of provisions currently contained within the Forestry Regulation 1998 to the primary legislation. The regulation itself is set to expire on 31 August, in accordance with the Statutory Instruments Act 1992. In fact, the regulation was due to expire in 2009, but it was extended as the Forestry Act itself was under review. Obviously, that process has taken some time, which I think is understandable given the need to conduct a comprehensive review of the legislation. The result of the 2012 election also delayed the process, with the Newman government prioritising other issues such as the retrograde changes to the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

The bill makes a number of changes to the powers of forest officers and plantation officers, all of which the opposition supports. The bill allows forest officers employed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to direct campers to vacate a campsite if they have degraded the environmental conditions of the site or have been camped at the site for more than 30 days. The bill allows forest

and plantation officers to direct a person in charge of an animal in a forest or a plantation to remove that animal. It will also allow forest officers to be provided with laminated ID cards, doing away with the outdated requirements for officers to carry their letter of appointment with them at all times. The bill will allow a warrant issued to a forest officer to be acted on by another forest officer. Frankly, it is absurd that currently the powers enabled by the warrant can only be exercised by the individual officer to whom it was issued and I am glad to see that this bill rectifies that anachronism.

The bill transfers many offence provisions from the regulation to the act and brings them into line with similar offences in the Nature Conservation Act 1992. I agree with the minister that many of the maximum penalties set out under the regulation are inadequate and should be increased to better match comparable offences in other pieces of legislation. I do know that there are a small number of offences for which the penalty will actually decrease. The maximum penalties applied to camping without a permit or failing to display a camping tag are significantly higher than logic would suggest is necessary and I have no problem with their reduction.

The changes to commercial activity permits will exempt photography activities from needing to apply for a permit if they involve fewer than 10 people and do not require structures. That brings it into line with the permit system for national parks. It will also allow for people to apply for an extension to an existing permit, rather than having to submit a new application as is currently the case. The opposition has no objection to those changes.

We are more hesitant about the provisions in this bill that specify that permits can be issued to explore state forests for quarry material. It is my understanding that it is already possible to explore for quarry material within state forests and forest reserves. In fact, according to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, annually some 15 per cent of quarry material comes from state owned resources. I note that the explanatory notes state that this amendment is to clarify the existing wording but also state that it is necessitated by increased demand for quarry material from the mining, CSG and construction sectors.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! Member for Rockhampton, please hold for a moment. Members of the House, if you would like to have a conversation I ask you to take it outside, please. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Rockhampton.

Mr BYRNE: These justifications, while not mutually exclusive, are not evidently related, so I would ask the minister to answer the following questions during his speech in reply: can he explain why there needs to be increased clarity on this issue? Secondly, how many permits have been issued for such activities in the last four financial years? I would also like the minister to address a significant inconsistency between the justification for this change in the bill and the government's own budget papers. The Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has a performance measure for the amount of quarry material sourced from state forests. The amount is expected to fall in 2014-15 and the reason provided is that—

The reduction in 2014-15 Target/Estimate reflects the projected decline in quarry material removal as a result of reduced investment spending by the mining industry.

This is contradictory to the explanatory notes to this bill which talk about the increased demand for quarry material. I would ask the minister to explain the contradiction and inform the House whether the government's budget commentary in the SDS is correct or whether the legislation is correct.

The bill also amends the act's provisions in relation to the sale of forest products and quarry material. As the explanatory notes state—

Clause 21 also amends section 56 to remove the sub-heading 'public competition' and in section 56(3) to replace the words 'or otherwise' with 'or other method of sale' to clarify that the methods of sale for forest products are not limited to auction, tender or similar competitive processes.

It is of some concern to the opposition that the explanatory notes seem to suggest that forest products and quarry material will be able to be sold through a non-competitive process. I ask the minister to provide the House with an explanation of how the chief executive officer will ensure Queenslanders receive fair market value for the sale of forest products and quarry material under the new wording.

We are also concerned about the changes this bill makes to the meaning of 'recreational purposes'. Let me make it clear, the opposition thinks that it may be appropriate—and I say, may be appropriate—for some areas of state forest to be set aside for recreational purposes. We agree with that in principle.

We also accept that on some occasions it may be desirable to allow commercial operators to manage that recreational purpose. However, it is unclear from the explanatory notes, the minister's introductory and second reading speeches and the bill itself what probity processes will be followed if the chief executive does set aside an area of state forest for a recreational purpose operated by a commercial entity.

It is not apparent from the legislation before the House or in any other supporting material whether a recreational activity delivered by a for-profit company will be subject to commercial activity permits or assessment against the act. The explanatory notes say in relation to commercial activity permits—

The Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006, Forestry Regulation and *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* require commercial activities in protected areas, State forests and recreation areas respectively, to be authorised by commercial activity permits or agreements. This enables regulation of these activities and generates a return to the State in return for the commercial use of these lands.

This is as it should be. Commercial activities on public land should generate a return to the state. The opposition is concerned that the process to ensure a commercial entity operating a for-profit business within a state forest pays an appropriate amount of money for the use of that forest. It is entirely unclear at the moment how that will occur.

We know that the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing has called for expressions of interest on the development of part of Beerwah State Forest for an off-road motorcycling facility. I believe the department would currently be assessing invitation to offer documents.

It is perhaps the application of this part of the bill, particular to Beerwah State Forest, that raises the greatest concern with the opposition. Beerwah is the subject of agreements made by previous Queensland governments, supporting forestry agreements as well as expectations from many members of the local community.

The opposition has been unable to establish a precise basis of environmental attributes for Beerwah nor been able to establish what environmental safeguards will be mandated associated with these commercial events on state forest that may have elevated levels of environmental value. So the intentions and conditions relevant to ensuring the preservation of environmental attributes are not necessarily reflected in this bill as it stands and that is of great concern to the opposition.

This amendment does provide a clearer legislative framework for the construction of a facility but leaves valid questions, as to the return to the state from the operation of the facility, unanswered. We have significant concerns that this provision will allow the government to appoint or enable sympathisers to profit from the use of state land without proper oversight or financial contributions. I would ask the minister to comment on how commercial operations, approved by the chief executive, will be assessed, how they will pay for the use of that land and what process the government would embrace to ensure that any environmental attributes and commercial probity processes and financial returns are assured.

The bill also extends regulatory notices which can currently only be used in state forest timber reserves. The opposition does not have a particular problem with this change. I would appreciate it if the minister could provide further detail on this amendment during his speech in reply. I would also invite him to detail the process for transitioning timber reserves to any tenure types as necessitated under the Nature Conservation and Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013.

There are a number of other changes to the legislation within this bill that the opposition has no objection to. These include changes to booking a camp site and increasing the term of stock grazing permits from seven to 10 years.

I would like to thank the staff from the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing for their work in developing this legislation. I would also like to thank the committee staff for their diligence in examining the legislation. As I stated at the outset, the opposition has no objections to the bulk of this bill and will not be voting against it.

I did, however, highlight a few elements with which the Labor opposition has some reservations or problems. I hope the minister responds to them in detail in his speech in reply. For his benefit, the areas that I have asked him to speak on are: the permits for quarry material; the provisions for the sale of forest products and quarry material; the changes allowing commercial enterprises to operate recreational activities within state forests, particularly in relation to the Beerwah matter that is currently with the government; and the current status of timber reserves. I look forward to hearing his response on those matters.

 **Mr RUTHENBERG** (Kallangur—LNP) (5.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Forestry Amendment Bill. I want to thank the members of the committee. I would also like to thank Ms Sue Cawcutt, our researcher director, and the staff of the committee for spending time on this bill and putting this report together.

There have been some bills that have come from the minister's department that we have unfortunately had to write back to the department seeking clarification on. Can I say that in this instance the department's briefings were fantastic and their explanatory notes associated with the bill were very clear. There was not much that we had to seek clarification on. We want to pass on our thanks and congratulations to the minister and his staff. Minister, I am just letting you know that the staff did a really good job and you should congratulate them for us, thank you.

This bill was noncontentious. In fact no-one wanted to come to hearings. We asked several folks and no-one felt there was enough in it to come to hearings. We did not have any hearings. We did receive some submissions. The reason for that is, as I just mentioned, that the bill was very well written and the explanatory notes were also very well presented. There was not a lot that we had to guess. This bill was pretty well presented.

The majority of the amendments transfer provisions about the powers of forest and plantation officers from the Forestry Regulation 1998 to the Forestry Act 1959 to comply with modern drafting practices and principles set out in the Legislative Standards Act 1992. It was a major upgrade.

The bill also inserts new officer powers into the Forestry Act 1959 for the management of camping and animals, standardises the offences and penalties under the Forestry Act 1959 to remove inconsistencies in the way some activity is managed across different classes of land and simplifies commercial activity permits required in both the Forestry Act 1959 and Recreational Area Management Act 2006 to allow for more effective management and generate a financial return to the state.

Again, we made one recommendation, and that was that the bill be passed—nothing contentious. As I indicated, we called for submissions by notice on the website. We wrote to eight stakeholders to invite submissions. Two submissions were received. The committee did not hold public hearings. We could not find anyone who wanted to come to a public hearing.

I want to point out a couple of things in the bill. The minister has covered most things in his second reading speech. There were four policy objectives here. The first objective was to update the Forestry Act 1959, which I just referred to, to apply current legislative standards and ensure consistency with contemporary legislation. The second objective was to simplify commercial activity permit requirements to reduce red tape, which was very effectively done. The third objective was to clarify and improve the operation of the Forestry Act, which I think was also done very well. The fourth objective was to make amendments required to allow the remake of the Forestry Regulation 1998. Again, it is fairly straightforward and very well explained. The explanatory notes are good and the bill is well written.

The majority of amendments transfer provisions about the powers of forest and plantation officers from the Forestry Regulation to the Forestry Act, for the reasons that we have already outlined. The bill also inserts new powers into the Forestry Act for the management of camping and animals. Further amendments standardise offences and penalties in the Forestry Act with more contemporary legislation, such as the Nature Conservation Act 1992, to provide higher penalties for more serious offences and remove inconsistency in the way the same types of activities are managed across the different classes of land. Again, that is common sense. A third set of amendments simplify commercial activity permit requirements in the Forestry Act and the Recreational Areas Management Act 2006 to improve permit administration and allow permit renewals.

It is pretty hard to speak for too long on this bill given what the minister has already spoken about, so I will restrict my comments to those few contributions. Again, I compliment the department on a job well done. We support the bill.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (5.11 pm): This bill, as the member for Kallangur has just very well set out and the minister before him, is about bringing about some consistency between the Forestry Act and other acts of parliament and also, to a certain extent, reducing red tape and regulatory requirements under these acts of parliament. If there is one thing that in a broader sense people in the community dislike about government it is when there are inconsistencies between the way different acts deal with the same situation and also if there are inconsistencies in the way different departments of the same government deal with different situations. It creates some uncertainty. It increases the amount of time and cost that people have to expend in order to fulfil the

purpose that they want to fulfil. So in this bill, by bringing about consistency between the Forestry Act, the Nature Conservation Act and also the Recreational Areas Management Act, we are reducing that uncertainty and reducing the potential costs to people who are utilising the provisions.

As the member for Kallangur stated, the majority of amendments do transfer provisions about the powers of forest and plantation officers from the Forestry Regulation to the Forestry Act. Again, I note that the committee did invite submissions on this bill from eight stakeholders who may have been interested in the provisions. We received two submissions—one from the Queensland Tourism Industry Council and also one from HQPlantations. They were both broadly supportive of the bill. It was good that they did make a submission about the issues in this bill that affect them.

Further amendments, apart from the ones transferring powers from the regulation into the act, standardise offences and penalties in the Forestry Act with more contemporary legislation, such as the Nature Conservation Act, to provide higher penalties for more serious offences and remove inconsistency in the way the same types of activities are managed across different classes of land, whether it be a state forest or a reserve or a national park. I think it is sensible to have that consistency across different areas of land. A third set of amendments simplify commercial activity permit requirements in the Forestry Act and the Recreational Areas Management Act. But I will deal with a couple of the provisions as they relate to the powers of officers in the Forestry Act.

Clause 4 of the bill replaces existing section 17 of the Forestry Act to clarify matters relating to the appointment of forest officers and to provide for officer identity cards. In particular, proposed sections 17C to 17E introduce new identity card requirements for forest and plantation officers, and these replace a certificate of appointment under the existing sections. So this is about modernising the provisions dealing with forest and plantation officers as well. As it says in the explanatory notes, identity cards are 'far more practical for an officer to carry and use than a paper certificate'. So this is about moving with the times. The Forestry Act, as the minister said when he introduced the bill, is an old act, and we are going some way with this bill to bring it up to speed with the modern day.

These identity cards can be used by officers for a range of purposes. A ranger might be a forest officer under the Forestry Act or a conservation officer under the Nature Conservation Act and then also have powers under the Marine Parks Act. We are making things work and making things easier for those officers so that they do not get caught up in red tape or loopholes which restrict their ability to do their job.

This bill consolidates officer powers in the act. This is designed to ensure compliance with FLPs, fundamental legislative principles, of the parliament. Clause 6 of the bill amends section 18A of the Forestry Act as it deals with the powers to direct. New sections update the powers that forest and plantation officers can exercise in a state forest, timber research or plantation licence area. There is a variety of powers, and they include powers to direct people about the use of a vehicle or a vessel in order to prevent or remedy harm to forest products and waters to ensure the safety of people. Where it is reasonably suspected or found that people have committed an offence, they can be directed to leave an area and not to return for up to six days. So it is good that these specific powers are being placed into the act and taken out of the regulation.

Powers dealing with fire are also dealt with in the bill. Clause 7 omits section 18B of the Forestry Act which specifies the powers of plantation officers in relation to fire. It is replaced by another clause which enables an officer to direct a person to put out a fire or to reduce its intensity if the fire is not authorised or if the officer considers that it might become a hazard. Normally these powers need to be exercised by the officer warning the person whom they are directing that they should desist from their activity or to make changes to their activity. But there is always the overriding provision that can be exercised without such warning if it is necessary to ensure that nobody is endangered.

Other provisions also deal with managing pollution, waste, camping and grazing. Clause 31 inserts a new part 7A into the act to make provisions about managing pollution, waste, camping and grazing consistent with equivalent provisions in the Nature Conservation Act. Part 7A lists a whole range of activities that will be regulated. They include, for example, provisions about polluting a dam, a lake or a watercourse; taking water from a dam, a lake or a watercourse; or abandoning a vehicle in these sorts of areas.

I note that, while HQPlantations made a submission about this, it was considered that the powers that will be included in the act after this bill is passed are sufficient to deal with the removal of vehicles. I might also add that I think there is possible scope in a broader sense for regulations relating to the removal of vehicles that are abandoned to be streamlined. This relates to where the

police and local government interact with each other to deal with that, and I think there is some scope more generally for that process to be streamlined. That does not relate strictly to the Forestry Act here, but I just note that in passing.

Part 7B also includes new sections 69K to 69S which deal with camping activities. Of interest is the fact that clause 12 provides that there can be e-permits and self-registration undertaken for people who are camping in areas of state parks and state reserves where they are permitted to camp. Again, this achieves consistency with equivalent camping areas in protected areas such as national parks.

Clause 14 of the bill amends section 25 of the Forestry Act to allow the chief executive to grant an occupation permit, a camping permit, a stock grazing permit and an apiary permit in a timber reserve. This brings consistency with the Nature Conservation Act. I note that the beekeeping industry is a very important industry for Queensland. In my electorate of Beaudesert, there are a number of people who are involved with and interested in the beekeeping industry. In fact, we had a reception here for them at Parliament House not that long ago.

Mr Choat: It was wonderful.

Mr KRAUSE: It was wonderful. I will take that interjection from the member for Ipswich West. Access to state land, whether it is national parks, state forest or other state land, is an important matter for people involved in the beekeeping industry. I have had dealings with the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to ensure that our beekeepers continue to have that access to state land.

Commercial activity permits are also dealt with. As a sensible measure, proposed section 73B will increase the threshold for the undertaking of filming and photography. At the moment, it is permitted in these forestry lands only if there are three or fewer people involved. That is a pretty small crew. To make it a bit more practical, the amendments will permit filming or photography where it involves 10 people or fewer and does not involve the building of permanent structures, using large generators or power sources or using vehicles, except for transport or camping. This is good for promoting our state as a place to film; it will bring business into our state. We have wonderful natural assets in our state and I tell you what, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Beaudesert electorate has some fairly wonderful natural assets in its environment. We should be promoting the use of our state lands across the length and breadth of Queensland for those types of commercial activities, always keeping in mind that we need to conserve areas that deserve conservation. Increasing the number of people who can be involved in filming from three to 10 is a sensible measure.

The bill reduces the red tape involved in extending a permit. At the moment, once permits for commercial activities come to an end, they need to be reapplied for in full and a full application fee needs to be paid. This bill introduces a measure for the renewal of a permit, and there is a methodology set out in the bill at clause 17. It states that a permit holder may apply to renew a permit before it expires and that the existing permit will continue for three months until a decision is made about that extension application. The chief executive or their delegate may put conditions on that permit, and they can change the conditions that were in the original permit if necessary. After people have been undertaking that commercial activity for a time, it may be that the conditions do need to change and it is sensible that that renewal process has been put in there. It is also sensible that there is flexibility for the department so that the people administering these regulations are able to change provisions if necessary. I note that the Recreation Areas Management Act contains similar provisions and there are similar amendments in this bill.

The recommendation of the committee was that the bill be passed. As I said at the beginning, this bill is about increasing consistency across all acts of this parliament that deal with these types of state land. It also reduces red tape and regulation in dealing with that. There is only one Queensland government, so when we have different acts of parliament doing different things it is confusing, it adds costs and it adds time. This bill reduces that and the bill should be supported.

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.24 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014 and to foreshadow two amendments that I have circulated and that I plan to move at the appropriate time during the consideration of this bill. I will confine my comments to those two amendments and the reason why they have been presented to the parliament in the manner that they have.

There has been an issue for quite a long time in a number of regions across Queensland in relation to the ability to access timber that has been damaged by natural disasters or other such events. I know that my parliamentary colleague, the member for Hinchinbrook and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, has had a longstanding view about that. He has expressed the frustration felt by many members in the communities across North Queensland on a number of occasions in this House, as North Queensland has been regularly subject to those sorts of natural disasters. I know that both he and the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will make a contribution to this debate to deal with the detail of that.

I wish to inform the House, as I have informed the opposition spokesman, about the reason why this particular amendment has been brought to the House this afternoon. It arises from a situation on Cape York that involves an Indigenous corporation, a group of Indigenous people. I say at the outset that our government has been particularly keen to develop job opportunities on Cape York. Economic development opportunities and the job opportunities that they provide are very scarce indeed on Cape York, so every job is very precious.

The Aboriginal corporation in particular that has initiated this amendment today is the Cape York timber hardwood mill at Cooktown. It has been funded in partnership between the Queensland government and the Commonwealth government in the Cape York Partnership and some venture capital. They have been able to establish a sawmill with a considerable grant of money from both the state government and the federal government, and the mill has been commissioned following its acquisition in April this year. The business is 100 per cent Indigenous owned, and 75 per cent of the employees are Indigenous. It has the potential to create between eight and 10 jobs. The submission that was made to me in regard to this particular mill is that, in the short term at least, it is not expected to make a huge profit but it is expected to be able to provide the job opportunities for those eight to 10 people and invaluable training.

In order for the mill to succeed, it obviously needs access to timber, and there is a considerable amount of fallen timber that was damaged by Cyclone Ita earlier this year. The Aboriginal corporation involved in establishing this sawmill in Cape York has come up against the same frustrating difficulties that have afflicted people in North Queensland, in the electorate of Hinchinbrook, in the electorate of Burdekin and indeed in my own electorate. They have come up against these same frustrating difficulties in getting access to timber that has already been damaged by a natural disaster and that in time will rot or burn and be lost and wasted.

It behoves us as a government to move quickly to address that situation not just because providing those eight to 10 jobs for the Indigenous people on Cape York fits with what we are trying to do in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning in developing job opportunities in a place where job opportunities are very limited, but because it is common sense to do so. There were a number of occasions under the former government when these types of situations were not able to be resolved and extensive amounts of timber were wasted.

The amendments that I will move in the parliament later today will provide the minister with an opportunity to grant an exemption to the act to allow the minister to make a decision with regard to these sorts of situations. I do not suggest—and I certainly have not suggested to the minister—that this exemption should be used in a broadscale fashion or a long-term fashion. I think the exemption that we are seeking to put in place today allows the minister to move quickly in particular situations where it is difficult to go through the proper processes for a sale contract. For larger areas or a longer term timber supply, it is right and proper that we go through the processes for sale contracts to be established.

To enable the minister to move quickly to address some of the nonsensical situations that we have seen develop in the past, we believe that there should be a provision in the act for the minister to grant an exemption to the provisions of the act so that common sense can prevail and this timber that is damaged by natural disasters or other particular situations can be used. It is particularly pertinent because of the situation that has developed in Cape York. The amendments that I will propose will allow that situation to be addressed very quickly.

In the longer term, I think the provision needs to remain in the act so that we can solve the broader problem. I would be recommending to the minister that regulations be developed that build a framework around the sorts of situations where exemptions may be granted so that we never again see the sorts of situations develop where large volumes of a valuable natural resource are not able to be accessed by people who have an ability to make a valuable use of it and are, therefore, wasted needlessly.

I know the member for Hinchinbrook will talk about those particular issues in North Queensland. Even in the area where I live a lot of people have been frustrated by the fact that they have not been able to access this sort of timber from state forests. Some years ago I dealt with a local woodworking group which, after a particularly bad storm, wanted to go and salvage a very small amount of timber from a local state forest. The bureaucracy and process that was involved was—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr SEENEY: They are now involved in a men's shed, although they were not at that stage. They were not able to access what was a very small amount of timber. The process involved made it impossible and that timber subsequently burnt and was wasted.

In anticipation of their support, I thank the opposition; I have spoken to the opposition spokesperson. It is a sensible solution, we believe, to a longstanding issue. It will provide an opportunity for the minister to develop a longer term solution to something that I think everybody wants to see fixed.

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (5.33 pm): I rise to support the Forestry and Other Act Amendment Bill 2014. The main objectives of the bill are to update the Forestry Act 1959 to apply current legislative standards and ensure consistency with contemporary legislation, simplify commercial activity permit requirements to reduce red tape, clarify and improve the operation of the Forestry Act and make amendments required to allow the remake of the Forestry Regulation 1998.

The section of the reform contained in this bill that is probably most pertinent to my electorate is those amendments dealing with simplifying commercial activity permit requirements. The nature of these amendments has been canvassed already in the second reading debate by the Minister for National Parks and by the shadow minister, the member for Rockhampton. The amendments relating to the Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006, the Forestry Regulation and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 will all require commercial activities in protected areas, state forests and recreation areas respectively to be authorised by commercial activity permits or agreements. In my opinion, the ability to modernise and streamline the availability of permits for commercial purposes and activities in these protected areas and recreational areas will be complementary to the amendments that the Minister for National Parks brought to this House previously that allowed for limited and low impact commercial activities to take place in the protected area estate, in particular in national parks.

During the debate on that bill I spoke about that particular opportunity and what it means for my electorate of Hinchinbrook in North Queensland. Of course, as I have said in this House many times before, two-thirds of the land mass of my electorate of Hinchinbrook is protected area estate: World Heritage area, national park or state forest. That is a double-edged sword for communities in my electorate. On one hand, it provides outstanding opportunities for ecotourism, and that has been underscored and supported by the amendments that the Minister for National Parks has brought to this parliament previously. It provides great opportunities for outstanding recreational opportunities for local residents, and we welcome that. We know we have a wonderful environment in the Hinchinbrook electorate and in North and Far North Queensland. We celebrate and respect that and we want it to be protected and conserved. On the other side of the argument is the fact that having two-thirds of the land mass of my electorate being protected area estate limits opportunities for economic development, whether that be agricultural economic development, commercial, industrial or residential development, limiting the rate base of the local government authorities involved and limiting the commercial opportunities for the community to be viable in the long term. Finding a balance in terms of managing the protected area estate and allowing for sensible economic opportunities in these communities is rather important. I welcome the amendments in relation to the simplifying and streamlining of commercial activity permit requirements. I believe that they will complement earlier amendments brought to the House by the Minister for National Parks in relation to ecotourism opportunities in the protected area estate.

That brings me to the amendment that has been foreshadowed by the Deputy Premier. The proposed amendment has been circulated in his name. Its objective is to amend the Forestry Act 1959 to provide for an exemption from the requirement to obtain an authority in certain circumstances. The act currently provides that it is an offence to interfere with forest products without an authority under the act or another act. Forest products include, amongst other things, vegetable growth and material of vegetable origin—that is, basically vegetation—whether living or dead and

whether standing or fallen. It is that part of the description of that vegetation, whether standing or fallen, that brings us to the substance or the nature of the amendment that the Deputy Premier has foreshadowed that he will move during the consideration in detail of this bill. He explained to the House that, as a result of Cyclone Ita in April 2014, there are state-owned properties on Cape York Peninsula with a significant amount of damage and fallen native timber resources that are suitable for salvage. That timber, if not salvaged in a timely fashion, will rapidly deteriorate and possibly in time present a fire risk to the environment in the area. I can see the shadow minister, the member for Rockhampton, nodding his head in agreement. He would be aware of the drying conditions throughout the state of Queensland. When you have a natural disaster like a cyclone move through a heavily vegetated area, the fallen timber can certainly accumulate and provide a substantial amount of fuel. In order to facilitate the salvage of these natural resources on Cape York Peninsula or for other unforeseeable circumstances more generally—and that is a key interest of mine as the member for Hinchinbrook speaking in this debate—it is desirable to enable persons to be exempted from the need to obtain an authority under the act.

I can speak from experience about the need for this amendment to the legislation. In 2006 my electorate unfortunately suffered a great deal of damage following Cyclone Larry, and then once again in 2011 my electorate felt the full force of Tropical Cyclone Yasi. Subsequent to those two cyclones moving through the area of North Queensland and my electorate in particular, we as a community embarked on a very significant clean-up operation. One of the most significant problems that we faced was the enormous volume of fallen vegetation that had come down as a result of the category 4 and category 5 winds respectively that were suffered from Larry and Yasi. One of the most frustrating things that we faced was the inability of people in the community to salvage the fallen timber for not-for-profit non-commercial purposes. The frustration that was expressed by my constituents for years afterwards that sensible productive use of those resources could not be made, despite the fact that they were rotting in the scrub and in the bush, was really palpable. I even had a gentleman involved in the Innisfail wood-turners' club who, at the recent Tully show, came up to me and continued to complain that this was still the case and that no sensible productive use of this fallen timber could be pursued following a natural disaster. It was really sad, during the clean-up operation following both Larry and Yasi, to see the enormous volume of resources that were chipped and just put into piles at nominated areas right across my electorate.

A government member: Red cedar!

Mr CRIPPS: There were great pieces of timber, valuable pieces of timber, beautiful pieces of timber that rotted after being chipped because of an outrageous, backward-looking ideological view about how to manage these natural resources. They were so massive that in 2006 we called them 'Mount Larry'. I can remember Mount Larry particularly at Goondi Bend in Innisfail and at MARCS Park in Mission Beach. We replicated these mountains of unutilised resources in 2011 following Cyclone Yasi again at Mission Beach, at Goondi Bend in Innisfail and at other locations right throughout the region and my electorate which were affected by those events. There were literally physical mountains of material that had to be put through the chipper because of the restrictive legislation that was in place at the time.

This is a very sensible and timely amendment that has come about as a result of the government's attention being drawn to a particular and similar situation. I thank the opposition for the indication they have previously given that they will support it. If you speak to the member for Mulgrave, who is my neighbour in North Queensland, I am sure he could testify as to the accuracy of that frustration. The amendment that has been tabled provides for the minister to issue an exemption to certain persons for a particular purpose, where that purpose will be and for how long, and that is a comprehensive ability through the regulation for the minister to specify that exemption.

I thank the Deputy Premier and the Minister for National Parks for allowing the passage of the amendment through his legislation, and I commend it to all members.

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (5.43 pm): I certainly find it a pleasure to rise in support of the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014. Like the member for Hinchinbrook, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, and the Deputy Premier, as Minister for Forestry I take this opportunity to address some comments specifically towards the amendment that the Deputy Premier has foreshadowed here this evening. In doing so, what I am keen to share with the House is some extra focus—some broader perspective, if you like—on the importance of this particular amendment. As Minister for Forestry representing the state government in relation to our very important and regionally focused timber industry, I for one

recognise the importance of the focus that our government has taken on that four-pillar economy approach to our state's development. I obviously refer to agriculture, resources, construction and tourism.

Our natural resources in particular are key to two of those pillars from a forestry perspective: construction and agriculture. It is my job, my department's job and this government's job to ensure that we are providing assistance to the timber industry to provide for the state's economic future and make a decent contribution. From a commercial forestry perspective, as I have shared with the House on previous occasions, this is particularly the focus of the Queensland timber industry plan that we successfully developed with the timber industry over recent years.

As this amendment foreshadowed by the Deputy Premier highlights, the reality is that in certain circumstances, such as responding to natural events, the process required by forestry legislation in terms of access to timber resources can be an impediment to doing the right thing to aid community recovery when and where it is needed, and the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Natural Resources have talked about some particular examples in that regard. As part of our overall continuing reform agenda, this amendment will provide greater flexibility for industry and communities in those times of need. The amendment will allow an exemption to allow us to manage forest products and quarry material from state-owned land quickly and efficiently. The concern in regards to fallen timber, which not only poses a risk to health and safety but would be wasted if not dealt with in a timely manner resulting from a natural disaster, is an obvious concern. The exemption could apply to a range of reasons, including allowing industry to maximise use of the state's important resource base, or, if delays to the commencement of harvesting operations exist, could lead to the permanent loss or wastage of those various resources.

A good example—and I think it is appropriate that we reiterate the example on how these provisions could be applied—is currently playing out in Cape York where Cyclone Ita, as the Deputy Premier outlined, swept through areas of state land, devastating a significant timber resource. A major portion of this fallen timber is still able to be salvaged, but due to current legislative restrictions it cannot be accessed and it would, if this amendment did not proceed, continue to deteriorate and be lost to local communities, to the timber industry, to the state, and of course in some cases provide significant safety and health concerns going forward.

Equally, other examples are bound in relation to other potential and previous natural events such as cyclones and severe weather events where such an amendment would be most valuable. In this way we can be responsive to such events, but those in the future that we cannot predict—those unforeseen circumstances, if you like—can be picked up by this amendment, and we should be preparing for those sorts of events in the future. In fact, this sort of approach is very much in line with the preparedness and the responsiveness—the need for resilience, if you like—that is espoused by the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience and quite rightly so.

The LNP government is committed to common-sense reform to support our primary industries, fisheries and forestry, and of course at the same time we are committed to supporting our local and particularly regional communities such as those examples provided in this debate tonight and the local economies and industries that underpin necessary regional employment.

 **Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (5.49 pm), in reply: First of all, I thank all honourable members for their participation in this debate on the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014.

As I outlined in my introductory comments, this bill has been developed to facilitate the remaking of the Forestry Regulation, improve the administration and operation of the act and ensure consistency with other legislation. The bill makes amendments to transfer officer powers into the act to consolidate these powers and comply with fundamental legislative principles. New officer powers are inserted into the act to provide the same approach for managing camping and animals on forest areas as currently exists for protected areas and recreation areas in Queensland.

I am always keen to continue with the Newman government's plan of simplifying arrangements for people using our forests and protected areas. This bill achieves this by introducing simple arrangements for renewing commercial activity permits and removing the need for permits for undertaking commercial filming and photography when there are 10 people or fewer and no structures involved. This will result in savings of both time and money which deliver real outcomes for our tourism operators.

The bill also amends the penalties for a number of offences in the Forestry Act—increasing the maximum penalty for serious offences such as contravening fire safety requirements—in order to align with existing penalties for offences under related legislation such as the Nature Conservation Act. In a few other instances, maximum penalties in the Forestry Act have been reduced to achieve similar consistency.

A number of amendments are being made to the act to improve its operation regarding the exercise of warrants, to introduce contemporary identity cards for forestry officers and plantation officers and to ensure that the term of stock-grazing permits and the arrangements for camping are consistent with the Nature Conservation Act.

This is a non-contentious bill which has been considered by the committee with no changes recommended. It simply makes the necessary changes to the legislation to allow for the remaking of the Forestry Regulation and also provides for sensible and reasonable improvements, as I have previously detailed to the House.

This bill clarifies and simplifies legislative requirements for the management of forest areas, including their recreational and commercial use, and improves consistency between the forestry legislation and legislation for other areas such as national parks. These amendments deliver significant benefits to the people who use and enjoy our forest areas and to the dedicated staff who manage them. I would like to acknowledge the hardworking and dedicated staff in my department, especially Todd Kelly and Bob Hoey. I do commend the bill to the House.

I will respond to some questions asked by members. The member for Rockhampton supposedly supports this bill. It is a shame that he did not raise these issues at the committee. It would have been much simpler to walk across these issues in that forum. The need for the amendments contained in clause 21—to clarify that permits can be issued to search for quarry material—was identified previously, when the mining industry was expanding rapidly. The clarification made by the amendments will be useful regardless of any future fluctuation in demand for quarry material. We have to plan for the future. Earlier the member asked a question relating to DAFF and estimates. They gave an answer relating to what is happening today. This is about planning for 10, 20 and 30 years down the track. We have to be prepared. I know that in the future the opposition will be in exactly the same situation.

I refer to recreation activities in state forests. These types of activities have always been allowed. The amendments provide clarification and definition of recreation activities in line with contemporary activities—for example, downhill mountain bike riding and abseiling, which previously may not have been considered recreational pursuits. There are so many different activities that we are starting to pursue and that so many Queenslanders want to be involved in—particularly downhill mountain bike riding. I am sure the member is aware that even around Rockhampton it is a popular sport. We have business operators now doing exactly that. If you go up to Townsville you will see it. Not so long ago Cairns hosted the world championships. There were 300 competitors from 30 different countries involved. This is a really big business and a healthy business. These people want to be involved in our forests and national parks—and they are helping to preserve them into the future. I can assure the member that the environmental values in our state forests will always be considered and that we will ensure that the provisions of the state planning regulation, the Environmental Protection Act and the guidelines are responsible and balanced.

Likewise, in keeping with the current process and protocols, commercial activities will be sought through an expressions-of-interest process. The member specifically asked about the Mooloolah Logging Area. We have gone through an expressions-of-interest process. We are still assessing it at the moment. People have put their names forward but it is commercial-in-confidence and I cannot talk about it publicly at the moment. The member will get that information in due time.

The member also asked a question about the number of permits that had been issued for extraction of materials from state forests. I cannot give the member that information at the moment—I do not have that to hand—but I will get it to the member at the earliest possible convenience.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): I note that the Deputy Premier's amendment No. 1 proposes to amend clause 2, which relates to a proposed new clause in amendment No. 2. Therefore, consideration of clause 2 is postponed until after all other clauses and amendments have been considered.

Clause 2 postponed.

Clauses 3 to 36, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr SEENEY (5.56 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 36

Page 52, after line 30—

insert—

36A Insertion of new s 76A

After section 76—

insert—

76A Ministerial exemption for forest products and quarry materials

- (1) The Minister may, by gazette notice, exempt a person or a class of persons from compliance with a provision of this Act in relation to forest products or quarry material.
- (2) An exemption may be subject to the conditions that—
 - (a) the Minister considers appropriate, including the period for which it applies; and
 - (b) are stated in the gazette notice.
- (3) A person must not contravene a condition of an exemption that applies to the person.
Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

I table explanatory notes to my amendment.

Tabled paper: Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Jeff Seeney's amendments [\[5664\]](#).

The purpose of this amendment was addressed in the second reading debate. I commend it to the House.

Mr BYRNE: This amendment was proposed at pretty late notice. The first thing that occurred to us was the very broad nature of this amendment. Fortunately, the Deputy Premier kindly explained the intent of this. As far as the opposition is concerned, we are very comfortable as long as we have this stated, rolled-gold guarantee that this amendment is to be applied in circumstances of natural disaster or community safety.

I took note of some of the comments made by ministers, and I have had extensive experience dealing with a large piece of real estate in prime condition after large cyclones had come down the coast. I know exactly what happens two years later if such vegetation is left in place. I know of the intensity of fire and the danger that presents to rural firefighters and everyone else if measures are not taken to mitigate that. So I am entirely sympathetic to the genuine safety issues that exist about two years after one of these events if people are forced to go in and try to deal with those fires. The intensity is something that you could not imagine, even in a tropical area.

There is sympathy from our side on this matter, but I think the amendment could have been done a different way and could have been more precise to give greater comfort to those scrutinising it. But based on the Deputy Premier's briefing—I, personally, take that as a rolled-gold guarantee that this is about natural disaster and community safety—we are prepared to support the amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 37 to 40, as read, agreed to.

Clause 41—



Mr BYRNE (5.59 pm): I posed a number of questions and the minister went to some effort to answer those, but specifically the issue is that clause 41 looks quite benign in the reading but underneath all of that is the issue of Beerwah State Forest. While it is not specifically mentioned here, it has been a concern for all members of the opposition in discussing this bill. On the basis of the lack of clarity provided, we cannot support this clause.

Mr DICKSON: I will speak to the issue relating to the MLA. We have put out an expression of interest, as I stated earlier. I am trying to give some clarification to the member, but we cannot talk about those because they are commercial-in-confidence. We are still going through a process and as soon as that gets out into the public arena we will be able to give that to you immediately. I make the commitment to the member that as soon as I have it he will have it. But this is about getting people out of our national parks and out of our forests and putting them in an area that is already utilised by motorcycles on a regular day-to-day basis.

The member may have recently seen on the front page of the *Sunshine Coast Daily* that there are plans for commercial operators on private land abutting this property to build a wave world which will create a whole lot of jobs. This area that we are speaking about is very much a tourism type facility on the Sunshine Coast. There is Australia Zoo and this new wave world facility. The Sunshine Coast is very lacking in these types of facilities and lacking in employment. This is a great thing for the Sunshine Coast, but more importantly it is about getting motorcycles out of our forests and out of our national parks to a dedicated area.

The member may not be aware, but there is a facility called Quanda Park on the Sunshine Coast and roughly 600 motorcycle enthusiasts use that week in, week out and it will be closing on 1 January 2016. If we do not provide somewhere else for these people to go, I would put money on the table that they are going to be in our state forests and they are going to be in our national parks and they are going to be tearing them to pieces. So we are moving forward but doing it in a sensible, practical way to deliver an outcome just like the Wyaralong process that the council of mayors went through some years ago. It has delivered a very good outcome in that area and this would be a micro component in something like that facility. I cannot give the member any other information on that.

Ms TRAD: I rise to contribute to the discussion on this particular clause and support what my colleague the member for Rockhampton and the shadow minister has said in relation to this particular clause and how it applies to Beerwah State Forest. On a much bigger level, this amendment represents the unravelling of what has been known to be an historic South-East Queensland regional forestry agreement that was brokered and started under the former Borbidge-Sheldon government but was accelerated and implemented by the Beattie Labor government. This agreement sought to remove out of our state forests in the south-east corner unsustainable practices to ensure that state forests could end up as part of the national park estate. This amendment seeks to open up state forests that have been earmarked previously for addition to the national park estate into recreational business opportunities. We are very sympathetic about getting motorsports out of national parks—no-one is arguing against that—but what we are doing here is taking parts of state forests that have been earmarked for addition to the national park estate after an historic regional forestry agreement and opening them up to recreational business opportunities at the pleasure of the minister. Quite frankly, that the opposition cannot support.

Division: Question put—That clause 41 stand part of the bill.

AYES, 56:

LNP, 55—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Cox, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Flegg, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Johnson, Kaye, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seene, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Symes, Woodforth.

INDEPENDENTS, 1—Cunningham.

NOES, 11:

ALP, 9—Byrne, D'Ath, Lynham, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

PUP, 1—Douglas.

INDEPENDENTS, 1—Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 41, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 42 to 47, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): The House will now consider the postponed clause.

Clause 2—

Mr SEENEY (6.13 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, line 7, after '14(4)'—

insert—

, 36A

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (6.14 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (6.14 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.14 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 26 August 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.15 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Wensley, Hon. P

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.15 pm): I wish to place on record the gratitude of the opposition and, I believe, of every other member of this House and our thanks for the service of the Hon. Penelope Wensley, the former Governor of Queensland.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Ms Wensley led a distinguished career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prior to her appointment as Governor of Queensland in 2008. During her time with DFAT she served as Ambassador for the Environment, as well as Ambassador to India, France and the United Nations. This service and her impeccable diplomacy made her a natural fit to be Governor of Queensland, a role that she filled with vigour, dignity and grace.

Ms Wensley travelled the length and breadth of Queensland. She was passionate about the arts and she was passionate for all Queenslanders no matter where they lived. During the six years that Ms Wensley served as Governor, she was a source of strength and support for Queenslanders, particularly those affected by natural disasters. After the devastating floods of January 2011 and the

destruction of Cyclone Yasi in February of that year, Ms Wensley took it upon herself to travel widely and visit those affected. During that period, Ms Wensley met with people whose lives had been upended by the indiscriminate force of nature. Ms Wensley comforted people who were picking up the pieces and in her they could find some solace.

Ms Wensley's language skills and experience as a diplomat also came to the fore during this period. The Queensland disasters of 2011 rightly received global attention and Ms Wensley did a number of interviews with overseas news agencies to highlight to them the scale of the disasters. As she said in a speech commemorating the one-year anniversary of those floods—

The interviewers seemed stunned—almost numbed—by the thought that an area larger than France and Germany combined was affected. Just as all around me, outside and inside that church, people were stunned, bewildered and shocked by what was happening.

Ms Wensley helped the world to see the magnitude of the disaster and the depth of our state's sorrow, but she also allowed them to see the strength of our resolve and our determination to recover. Ms Wensley would repeat those efforts just a few years later, as Bundaberg and the Burnett region and other areas dealt with the aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

I would once again like to extend the opposition's sincere thanks and that of the other members of this House to the Hon. Penelope Wensley for her service as Governor of Queensland. I am confident that she will continue to make a significant contribution to public life in our state. We also wish her husband, Mr Stuart McCosker, and their family all the very best.

Ms Wensley often made beautiful speeches about the jacaranda trees. As she went past the first row, Ms Wensley then went and greeted every single staff member and thanked them personally for their service during her time as Governor. I place on record our sincere thanks.

Country Women's Association

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (6.18 pm): At this time of year the westerly winds that gust along George Street remind us that it is Ekka time again. Our thoughts go to strawberry sundaes, woodchopping, dodgem cars and the sounds and smell of the country. For me, one of the main attractions of the Ekka is the work of the wonderful women of the Country Women's Association—their beautiful craftwork and, of course, the fabulous cooking that they are renowned for. I am really looking forward to assisting on the QCWA refreshment stall at the Ekka this year.

Tonight, I would like to shine a spotlight on one of the many wonderful community groups in the electorate of Mount Ommaney, the Queensland Country Women's Association, Oxley Branch. Those of us who watched our grandmothers in the CWA lovingly bake sponges and bottle pickles might have thought, a little sadly, that these were dying arts and that the CWA was the remnant of a kinder, gentler time and that it might struggle to find a place in the 21st century. Nothing could be further from the truth. This is an organisation that is vibrant and flourishing, future focused and relevant to our modern-day community.

I am delighted to say that in the past year two new sub-branches have blossomed. One is a night-time get-together for younger members of the Oxley branch and there is a new sub-branch in the Centenary suburbs, which had its official inaugural night on 5 August. I also recently attended the 68th AGM of the Oxley branch of the CWA and was touched by the friendship and good old-fashioned hospitality of this group, not to mention the delicious afternoon tea that the CWA ladies are famous for. I would like to make special mention of Jean Harrop—also known as the 'scone queen'—Norma Lovelace and Noela Webb for their strong leadership and Mary Martin, who coordinates special parcels for DVConnect. These women really exemplify the creed of the CWA, which is:

Honour to God
Loyalty to the Throne
Service to the Country
Through Country Women
For Country Women
By Country Women

Not a bad set of ideals to live by. The opportunity to meet and work with people like these ladies is truly one of the great rewards of my job. The CWA choir is an outstanding group of talented ladies who perform at a variety of events, much to the delight of the audience. I especially enjoyed their performance of *South Pacific* last year.

In the electorate of Mount Ommaney, as well as DVConnect which does such important work, CWA supports many community events such as Australia Day at Oxley and the Children of Courage awards sponsored by the Oxley-Sherwood Lions Club. I congratulate the QCWA on its long history of community service and I look forward to seeing my colleagues at the CWA refreshment stall at the Ekka where I will be very happy to pour them a cup of tea to shake off those winter chills and support a wonderful cause.

Murrumba Electorate

 **Mr GULLEY** (Murrumba—LNP) (6.21 pm): I speak this evening representing the good people of Murrumba. Mr Deputy Speaker, 5 August was the 100th commemoration of Australia's involvement in World War I. I had the privilege of knowing my grandfather who served Australia in that war. FTD Gulley, or Don Gulley, enlisted in 1915, was wounded in action in the battlefields of France in 1915 and later, in 1918, was wounded in an air crash. Today his harness from that crash is on display at the Australian War Memorial. Recently I had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of the Deception Bay RSL at the Australian War Memorial at a very moving and sombre *Last Post* ceremony. We will remember them.

My community has some great leaders. I wish to thank the organisers of the Deception Bay Junior Rugby League Disabilities Day and wish to thank Sharon, Arthur, Alex and Jo. After starting with some 30 participants only seven years ago, this event now hosts over 200 participants. I wish to also thank the Broncos players who came out and ran many of the activities. My late brother-in-law had Down Syndrome and I was delighted to sponsor and support this event.

Murrumba is a place of growth. This can be quantified on the ECQ website showing that it has the third highest number of voters for any seat in Queensland. Educationally it has the second largest school in Queensland. On 23 July I welcomed the Premier and the Minister for Education to North Lakes State College to review the impressive music program and to announce extra funding for the Queensland Instrumental Program, one that I benefited from as a student in the state system. I think I surprised many students that day when I belted out a tune on one of the euphoniums. Murrumba is also a place of growth in jobs, with over 1,700 people now having been inducted for work at the MBRL construction site. Let us not forget about the new jobs at Cosco and Rothwell Woolworths just to name a few of the new enterprises. There is also an employment boom about to occur in the Narangba industrial estate with a number of industrial blocks recently purchased which had laid vacant and idle under ALP custodianship. Until now the only jobs on those blocks were people making chainmail fences and sign-writers making keep out signs. The great news is that those blocks, having been purchased over the last couple of months, will soon be a hive of activity creating new jobs for my residents under the supercharged economy led by the Newman government.

I represent Murrumba, the Aboriginal word for 'good place'. As members know, each morning I challenge myself to make Murrumba a great place. We live in a great state with great opportunities, but I get to live in a place named 'good place'.

Kokoda Challenge

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (6.24 pm): I would like to highlight the work of competitors and volunteers in the Kokoda Challenge which both started and finished at the Nerang Velodrome in my electorate. This year was the event's 10th anniversary. Because of bushfires at Bonogin, the starting line at Mudgeeraba had to be moved at the last minute the night before. They performed a massive logistical task and within two hours executive chairman Doug Henderson and his team had moved the course and distributed the information on the internet for all the competitors. There were 2,538 competitors. It is a limited number every year because there are restrictions in the forest. They set out on a 96-kilometre course through the Gold Coast Hinterland. Two thousand completed the course. The course is the same distance as the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. The event gets better and better each year, with 10,000 volunteers and competitors involved this year. I was honoured to participate in the presentations at Nerang and was impressed by the commitment of so many people. The goal is to finish in a team of four in honour of the spirit forged on the Kokoda Track in 1942. This year's winning team took 14 hours and 14 minutes. By the way, there was a student team that actually took two hours longer, which is the same time that the people who started the first time did it. It was an amazing effort.

In June I launched a public appeal for children's pyjamas on the Gold Coast in conjunction with the Pyjama Foundation that works with foster children. I am amazed at the generosity of so many Gold Coast people and community groups who arrived at my office each day with gifts of pyjamas. At one stage the floor of my office was covered with pyjamas of all colours and sizes, all brand new. The appeal closed on National Pyjama Day when more than 400 pairs of pyjamas had been donated to my appeal alone. I also hosted a morning tea with the Pyjama Foundation in my office when more bags of pyjamas were donated to this worthy appeal. There were numerous people there. I will repeat the appeal next year as I have done in the past because it certainly touched the hearts of many people all over the Gold Coast. I would like to thank them. This group primarily are volunteers. They have a Reading with Foster Children program. Foster children do not get a chance to be read to as other families normally do with their own children. It is a very worthwhile cause.

On Monday I attended the official opening of a First World War centenary display centre at Preece House in Nerang which will be a valuable learning tool for school students. An underground trench, complete with sound effects, has been recreated underneath Preece House in Bischof Pioneer Park and will be open to the public for the next four years on a part-time basis. Congratulations to the Nerang RSL sub-branch for developing the centre. The centre coordinator, Mark Swain, and all the team at the RSL are to be congratulated, as is the Albert Battery for their impressive display—I see that the member for Mermaid Beach knows them; they are the ones with the guns, member. I thank the school children at this week's opening for coming. I look forward to seeing displays of major campaigns and events each year of the war to be highlighted at the centre over the next four years. It was a great ceremonial occasion.

Ipswich West Electorate, Events

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (6.27 pm): There is always so much to talk about when it comes to the community's activities in Ipswich West—Australian for 'the best community in Queensland'. Recently I was joined by Assistant Minister for Emergency Services, Ted Malone MP, to hold a Rural Fire Services BBQ to update local brigades on the positive changes in the portfolio. My thanks to the Prenzlau Brigade led by Dave Wandel for hosting the event and the great men and women of the RFS who do great things every day to make our community safe.

On Sunday I had the honour of opening the St Joseph's School Fete at North Ipswich. This year marks the first in the school's second century and the fete was certainly another great achievement. I appreciate the work staff, parents and supporters give St Joseph's.

I also had the thrill of representing North Ipswich scouts in the Moreton Region Scout Association's annual soap box derby. There is nothing quite like hurtling down a hill in a billy cart without brakes. I am proud to say that I won my heat and got to see my wife Nicky screaming all the way down the hill in her cart.

Last month the great Ipswich Pigeon Specialist Club hosted the 31st Australian National Pigeon Association's National Show. It saw over 2,500 of Australia's best birds entered to be judged by international judges. It was a great success. My thanks to John Wiseman for making it possible.

I recently attended the St Edmond's College musical *West Side Story*. Headlining were St Eddy's Adam Spain Mostina and Keelan McCoy, as well as the fabulous St Mary's College ladies, lead actresses Jordan Twigg and, of course, the fabulous Georgia Spark who is certainly at home on the stage and has a huge career ahead of her. The cast and crew put on a tremendous show.

On Sunday my family and I joined the Grandchester Model Live Steam Association and the community to celebrate their 16th birthday. It is always a pleasure to join the association with President Dudley Panel and the wonderful Jake and Cath Gillam.

Sadly, last week Grandchester lost one of its favourite sons with the passing of Roley Gillam at the age of 93. He was a great community man and is sadly missed. Congratulations to my lovely Lowood Slimmers who held their massive walkathon on Sunday. We released pink balloons for the victims, survivors and supporters of breast cancer and one yellow balloon to honour the late great Big Bob Campbell.

I would like to welcome to the gallery my wife, Nicky, and our children Ben, Eloise and, of course, our lovely Charlotte whose birthday is tomorrow. Charlotte is joined by the fabulous Miss Kate Spain Mostina and the stunning Miss Summer O'Neil. They are all lovely St Mary's Ipswich girls. Happy Birthday, Charlotte!

On a serious note, this week marks the 69th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. No doubt that was a terrible decision, but it was one that had to be taken to stop a global aggressor. Certainly I hope that the world community has learned a lesson from that and that we never see such a tragedy again. Unfortunately, today we do see things of similar heartbreak and misery. Today, the national MH17 commemorations were held. My heart goes out to all those people.

Unemployment

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (6.30 pm): Today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics delivered the news that we did not want to hear but the news that this government's policies would always lead us to. Sadly, the official Australian Bureau of Statistics data for July showed seasonally adjusted unemployment in Queensland of 6.8 per cent, up from 6.3 per cent last month. The official numbers tell the real story and it is a very disturbing story.

In Queensland, unemployment is skyrocketing under the Newman government and it has no plans to arrest the climb. The 6.8 per cent recorded in July was the highest since June 2003. Not during the global financial crisis or in the aftermath of the devastating natural disasters did Queensland's unemployment rate reach those heights. On both a seasonally adjusted and trend basis, unemployment is higher than it has been for a decade.

This means that in July 12,600 jobs were lost. Of those job losses, 12,000 were full-time jobs. There are now 14,200 fewer full-time jobs than when the LNP was elected in March 2012. Despite the Treasurer's desperate attempts to spin the story for his own political benefit, the participation rate has also decreased to 66.2 per cent, which means more people are giving up looking for work. The unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent when the Newman government was elected. It promised to lower it to four per cent, yet in July it was 6.8 per cent.

You simply cannot expect households and businesses to spend and employers to employ if the state and federal governments continually spew forth their doom and gloom scenarios. You cannot attack confidence and then expect people to be optimistic about the future. You cannot cut nearly 20,000 government jobs, hammer businesses with record electricity prices, slash funding to community employers across the state and then expect jobs to be created.

Today we hear the Treasurer say, 'I have the answer to this jobs crisis: let me sell your assets and jobs will be created'. When Campbell Newman made his contract with Queenslanders and promised a four per cent unemployment rate, there was no mention of it being conditional on asset sales, not even in the fine print. The reality is that if you sell assets jobs will be lost from those businesses. If you sell assets the revenue will be lost from those businesses, which means jobs will have to be cut from other government areas. Even if you do invest some of those proceeds into new infrastructure, that is over a period of six years. Apparently, the Treasurer is promising 25,000 jobs over six years. Queensland lost 12,600 jobs in the last month alone. Not even this Treasurer could mouth those words with a straight face, pretending that was the answer to the unemployment crisis he and his boss have created.

With Tony Abbott and Campbell Newman in charge, Queenslanders do not have a federal or state government that is interested in creating jobs and protecting quality working conditions. Only Labor has put forward comprehensive jobs policies such as Jobs Queensland, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and our payroll tax rebate for employers of apprentices and trainees, just to name a few.

This week the LNP has been focussed on crime statistics, but has spent the past two years not focused on the unemployment figures. The Premier's four per cent jobs target is in tatters. The LNP is not missing it by a little bit; it is missing it by a country mile. Apparently, the four per cent stretch target is now reliant on privatisation. At the next election the choice will be clear: an LNP government that focuses on asset sales or a Labor government that focuses on jobs.

Thomlinson, Mr I

 **Mr SYMES** (Lytton—LNP) (6.33 pm): Tonight I rise on a sad but positive note. I rise to speak about the life of Ike Thomlinson from Wynnum, AKA Wynnum's Music Man. Dressed in his trademark purple ugg boots, rainbow jacket and sombrero, Ike was an icon for Wynnum. He passed away only a couple of weeks ago at the tender age of 89 years young. At 1 pm today, a funeral was held for Ike and, from all reports, up to 200 people came to his service. I had the pleasure of knowing Ike through

my capacity as a member of parliament. Every market day down at Wynnum CBD, Ike would be there playing music and producing the happy and positive vibe that, for many years, Wynnum so desperately needed, and we continue to support it with great initiatives.

I put on the record my thanks to his carer, Adele, who worked tirelessly with local Wynnum police officers, Constable Warriner and Constable Williamson, to establish a community funeral fund to help with Ike's ceremony today. I pass on my gratitude to George Hartnett Funerals of Wynnum and the Wynnum RSL, which assisted with the wake and the service today. Ike was a World War II veteran who fought on the battlefields of Normandy. It was reassuring that the RSL supported his day.

Last week at the markets, we had Dress Up Like Ike Day. People wore sombreros and colourful shirts in memory of a great legend in Wynnum. I say: rest in peace, old mate. It was always a pleasure to know you. When I doorknocked him, we did not talk about politics. We talked about music and the happy positive vibe that he brought to Wynnum and to the bayside. Once again, I thank the community for supporting him.

Nudgee Electorate, Events

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (6.36 pm): Last week I attended the 60th anniversary mass of St Flannan's at Taigum. May I congratulate the school principal, Paul Mitchell, his staff and students for a great morning. Certainly a lot of preparation had gone into the event and it was a pleasure to be a part of it. Whilst they did find still living in the area a lady who was in the very first class 60 years ago, they did not have to go far to find a teacher, as they still have one teacher who has been there the whole 60 years. That is quite amazing. Later that week, the St Flannan's grades 5 to 7 students participated in the St Vinnies sleep out. Congratulations to the students for sleeping out on the cold concrete and doing it tough, as many others have to do every single night. It was a pleasure to serve them breakfast the morning after.

Local business Hart Sport has officially opened its interactive sports section. It is a place where you can go and try before you buy. Greg Harten is the proud owner of Hart Sport, which keeps going from strength to strength. He now employs 70 staff. Greg says that one of the things about Hart Sport of which he is proudest is that they still manufacture some of their products at the warehouse at Zillmere and also at the local special school in Sandgate. Congratulations, Greg, on your continued success.

I wish local Nudgee lad and ex-Hervey Bay boy Jarrod Flethcher all the best for his title fight this Sunday in Brooklyn, USA. All the best, Jarrod. I cannot wait to hear about what I hope will be a great hard-fought win.

My Additive Alert nights continue to be a hit at all of my local kindies and day-care centres. In doing some follow-up recently, it was great to hear kindy directors tell me about the young children in their care and how their behaviours have changed by simply giving mums and dads information that makes a difference to their kids' lives. Just to think, in order to change a behaviour all we did was change the nasty additives and preservatives. I love to use the story of little Odette, who is our first success from our very first night. Her mum said—

I wanted to let you know personally that her behaviour since changing just some of her foods has changed dramatically. She is a completely different child. She is content, polite, happy and everything I knew that was hiding in there somewhere. She has even started eating more, which was becoming a struggle. I cannot believe the change in just changing a few things.

I look forward to rolling out more of those nights and seeing the benefits for our kids, our families and our day-care and kindy workers.

In conclusion, I have to say that there should be more love in the chamber. There is too much hate, especially from my right. Therefore, I will finish off with some good news that will make the families minister, Kevin Andrews, very pleased. Next week I will be moving from a de facto relationship to one of marriage. I will be marrying a woman who I now know is the love of my life. As in something from *Days of Our Lives*, I will be marrying her for the second time after being divorced and separated for the past 15 years. We are getting married on what would have been our 20th wedding anniversary. Ang, I look forward to our special day next week, to our take 2, to our family being back together and to you and I growing old and wrinkly together.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! The Chair congratulates you and your bride to be.

Gladstone Electorate, Relay for Life

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (6.39 pm): I am sure the House congratulates the member for Nudgee as well. The weekend before last we held the Relay for Life in Gladstone. It is a wonderful opportunity not only to support one of the biggest fundraisers in the electorate but also to celebrate the lives of the people whom we love who have been courageous through their cancer fight. Almost \$180,000 was raised before and over the weekend. This was the 11th Relay for Life.

Some 750 people participated in the walk. They walked, skipped and ran around Chanel College. The event goes overnight, as members would know. It can get quite chilly at Chanel College. Also in the mix was the auction at around 10 or 10.30. There were 60 teams registered. There is lot of fun and camaraderie with the Relay for Life event. I am sure members here have been to them. There are some really well thought out costumes and some great theming. A lot of fun is had by all.

The oldest participant at the event would have to be Mr Alan Symmons from the Toffee Apples team who is 87 years of age. He stayed there all night and walked around, including doing laps at 2.30 am. I congratulate the committee that organises the Relay for Life each year and all of those participants. I wish the recipients of the cancer fund success as they search for a cure.

One of the groups involved in the Relay for Life was the Prostate Cancer Support Group. Geoff Lester is the chair of the Prostate Cancer Support Group in Gladstone. I take this opportunity to say to all the men in this chamber, 'Have you had your PSA checked? Have you gone and had all of your check-ups. Be brave.' We have to have our pap smears and mammograms so all the fellas have to have their moments of discomfort.

It is really important. My husband is a survivor of prostate cancer. His doctor of many years had not obviously checked for it. John went to a new doctor who checked. He had a very aggressive cancer—nine on the Gleason scale, the top being 10. I would not have him here today without that doctor taking the initiative and saying, 'I am not happy with your readings.'

I say to all the fellas here who may be feeling well, 'There are no symptoms of prostate cancer. Go and have your prostate cancer check. It is well worth it.' We want to have the fellas around for a long time into the future, not only so that we can love them but also so we can argue with them. I want all of the fellas in the chamber to be able to tick the box and say, 'Prostate cancer check done for 2014.'

Ormeau Fair

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (6.42 pm): Firstly, I congratulate the member for Nudgee and wish him well for a great wedding and a happy marriage.

I rise tonight to inform the House of a wonderful event in the Albert electorate—the annual Ormeau Fair to be held this weekend. The locals love to call it the mini Ekka. It all started back in 2004 when the then President of Ormeau Lions Club, Norm Jessen, came up with the idea of hosting a local fair at Ormeau. Norm Jessen was a long-servicing president of the Ormeau Lions Club. He served as president from 2005 to 2012. Norm had a dream to fill Brien Harris Oval with a fair that would bring the community together. Since that time, the fair has continued to go from strength to strength.

This year's fair will not be any different to previous years. It is targeted at families and aims to have a nice family atmosphere. There will be about 150 stalls, dance companies, farm animals, the VIP dog show, pony rides, the Showman's Guild side show alley and the classic car show, which is a hit. More importantly, other community groups participate, such as the Helensvale Lions Club and the Beenleigh Rotary Club.

There will be firework displays. Local school students will go head to head with dance and music competitions. Last year, federal member Bert Van Manen, Deputy Mayor of the Gold Coast City Council, Councillor Donna Gate, and I had the very tough job of judging the dance competition. The talent in the local area is amazing.

The Ormeau Fair is a family event. It is free entry. All site fee profits go to the local Lions club to filter back into the community. These fairs would not be possible without a team of dedicated volunteers, people like current club president Margaret O'Neil, Peter Russell, Lyn Young, Carmel

Austin, Peter Young, Mary McGrath, Barry McGrath, Drina Meades, Cobi Lagas, Boyd Evans, Ron Weatherby, Pauline Weatherby, Ronda Shevill, Ken Freney, Alan Tuck and the wonderful Sam Campbell who have given so much time to help organise this event.

This year the fair will be fantastic. It is the eighth Ormeau Fair. I invite everybody in the House to come down.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.45 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, D'Ath, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Hopper, Johnson, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Lynham, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth